

# BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 18 February 2020

Bagnall Village Hall  
School Road  
Bagnall  
Staffordshire Moorlands

### Present:

Cllr Andrew Batson (Chair)  
Cllr Sally Brown  
Cllr David Pearson  
Cllr Roger Jackson

Cllr Les Knowles  
Cllr Peter Lawley  
Cllr Sybil Relphs

### In attendance:

Denise Cooper (Clerk)  
Cllr Keith Flunder

### Apologies

No apologies received.

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been distributed previously, were accepted as true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chair.

### Declaration of Personal / Pecuniary Interest

Pecuniary/personal interests were declared by Cllrs Knowles and Pearson in discussions around Footpath 28 and 32.

Cllr Knowles declared a pecuniary/personal interest in discussions about the village hall.

### 19.69 Adjournment of meeting for public comments and concerns

#### ▪ *Parishioners Concerns*

A member of the public asked for a clear definition of a footpath as there is some ambiguity amongst residents. For information this is:

#### Footpaths

- This public right of way is meant for pedestrians only. You are allowed to walk your dog as long as it is under your close control. When walking a dog, you must ensure that it keeps to the public footpath and does not trespass into nearby properties. Prams, pushchair or wheelchairs can also be used on a footpath.
- Footpaths on edge of a field must not be ploughed. Footpaths can be ploughed, if they cross fields. However, a minimum width of 1 metre must be made available within 14 days of ploughing. Landowners must also ensure that they restore footpaths after ploughing.

- If you are walking a dog, you must make sure that it does not stray off legal lines of a public footpath as this may constitute an act of trespass. Also ensure that you clean up your dog mess, if your dog fouls up on a footpath.

However, in Bagnall horses have been ridden on the footpaths in a sensible manner (not galloped or trotted) and Cllr Ralphs did not see any reason to change the status quo; the horse fraternity needed to self-regulate.

An application to upgrade Footpath 32 to a bridleway was submitted in 2005, and this currently sits (with a large number of other applications) with the legal department of Staffordshire County Council. Members of the horse fraternity felt that there was a need to ascertain when this application would be looked at to remove the ambiguity that current rests around the footpaths.

In the interim it was agreed to position more signs along the footpath to highlight the sensible use by horse riders.

**ACTION: CLLR PEARSON**

- **District Councillor Report**

- Cllr Flunder advised that Staffordshire County Council had increased the Council Tax by 3.99%. Therefore there were no plans to cut any services.
- The Community Fund will continue, with a leaning towards environmental projects. The next round commences in April 2020.
- The consultation around Leek Hospital has meant that some beds have been reallocated – 77 to Hayward Hospital, 55 to a number of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ rated nursing homes. The hospital has been designated as a recuperation hospital with stays of around one week (maximum six weeks).
- Cllr Flunder is meeting with highways in mid-March 2020 and any projects / issues need to be communicated to him prior to this meeting.
- In relation to bus route 44, he has been in communication with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and he is hopeful that the money allocated by government will be utilised by them to re-instate this service. He will keep us informed.
- Cllr Ralphs stated that the Council Tax increase for the Staffordshire Moorlands was 1.9%.
- Cllr Ralphs advised that a new Places Director had been appointed, Neal Rogers. Part of his remit includes planning matters. She suggested that sometime in the future representatives of the Parish Council meet with him and Ben Hayward, Head of Planning, to highlight our concerns.

Cllr Ralphs asked Cllr Flunder how often gullies and culverts were being cleared by the County Council. Cllr Flunder replied that this was determined by their location, but frequency was between one to three years. There is a map on the County’s website which identifies gullies and shows the frequency they have been allocated. If there are gullies within the parish that have not been identified these should be notified to Highways as quickly as possible. In relation to ditches at the side of roads, Cllr Flunder stated that these were the responsibility of adjoining landowners to clear. Cllr Ralphs advised that a number of parish councils are banding together to complain about the clearing of gullies and asked that Bagnall Parish Council joined them at the next Parish Assembly.

Residents raised the number of pot holes within the parish. Cllr Flunder stated that each individual pothole needed to be reported (ideally with a photograph) to the Highways department, using the link

**19.70 Village Hall – Transfer of custodianship**

Les Knowles has met with solicitors and the process of registering the hall with the land registry is now underway. It is anticipated that this process will take three months. Once this has been completed the Village Hall Committee can then liaise with the Charities Commission to change the Constitution. The model agreement will be guided by the solicitors.

**19.71 Finances**

***Matters Arising from Previous Minutes***

There were no matters arising.

***New Issues***

**19.71.01 – Lengthman’s Agreement**

The Clerk advised that there is still £200 within this fund to be claimed by the end of March 2020. After discussion it was agreed to utilise the monies to fund the cutting back of vegetation on Footpaths 28 and 32 and to replace a number of the fencing posts/railings on the village green.

***Action: Cllrs Knowles & Batson***

**19.71.2 – Invoices / Receipts**

There were no receipts and the following invoices were received and payment agreed:

- Denise Cooper – Remuneration - £150.00
- SMDC – Loan Interest - £377.29
- SMDC – Election costs - £2,011.56

**19.72 Planning**

**SMDC Planning Decisions**

- There were no planning decisions made since the last meeting.

**New Applications**

- There were no planning applications received since the last meeting.

**19.73 Footpaths and Highways**

***Matters arising from previous minutes***

**19.36.02 – Footpath 24**

Cllr Knowles stated that the rerouting of this footpath now lies with the Rights of Way Officer. The Parish Council was advised that the land had very recently been sold.

**19.47.02 – Bus Route 44**

Dealt with under District Councillor’s update.

**19.57.02 – Overgrown plot adjacent to Fulwood, School Road**

The landowner has agreed to maintain the plot.

***New Issues***

**19.73.01 – Blocked Gulley**

The gulley behind Wren Cottage has become blocked. This has been reported to Highways.

## 19.74 General Maintenance and Other Issues

### *Matters arising from previous minutes*

#### **19.28.01 – Deteriorating Tree adjacent to playing field**

The Cherry Tree identified by Mr Mountford and Steve Massey from SMDC is still awaiting removal. In the interim Cllr Lawley has removed a diseased tree and Cllr Jackson agreed to look at the remaining trees to identify any that require removal and to ascertain if any require removal by a tree surgeon.

**Action: Cllr Jackson**

#### **19.63.01 VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

As requested, the Clerk has written to the Stafford Arms, who confirm that they are planning activities to celebrate this occasion. The Clerk was requested to contact the Rose and Crown public house to ascertain if they are undertaking any celebratory activities. Once all the diseased trees had been removed from the playing field, the Parish Council will make a decision as to whether to plan another in commemoration of this event.

**Action: The Clerk**

#### **19.67.02 –Litter**

A litter-pick has been arranged by Cllr Sally Brown and Vicki Vincent for Sunday 15 March 2020 starting at 10am.

### *New Issues*

#### **19.74.01 – Community Orchard**

Cllr Knowles had been contacted by a resident who wished to propose a Community Orchard (made up of a variety of fruit trees). The resident was asked to provide a full proposal to the Parish Council – to-date nothing has been received.

#### **19.74.02 – Notice Board**

The Clerk advised that she is still awaiting the cork backing to the notice board on the village green. Cllr Brown will chase up.

**Action: Cllr Brown**

#### **19.74.03 – Village Fete**

A request has been received from the Village Hall Committee to use the playing field for the village fete on 27 June 2020. This was agreed.

#### **19.74.04 – Website**

The Clerk advised that there is now a requirement for all local government websites to be WCAG 2.1 AA rated compliant by September 2020. Unfortunately, our site is not. She has made initial enquiries of website providers and quotations have been received in the region of £700 plus VAT to make our site compliant. Cllr Knowles agreed to look into this further and advise the Parish Council.

**Action: Cllr Knowles**

## 19.75 Correspondence

- AMV Playgrounds.co.uk – Promotional Information
- SMDC – Corporate Peer Challenge – *copy sent to Cllrs for information, a representative of the Parish Council will attend the event in April.*
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service – Safety Plan 2020-2024 Consultation. The Consultation is open between 17 February 2020 and 22 March 2020. Details on their

website – [www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk)

- SMDC – Chairman’s Charity Ball. *An invitation to attend the ball on Saturday 28 March 2020 at Alton Towers has been extended. The cost is £45.00 per person.*

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 17 March 2020, 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed  
(Chairman)  
Dated: 17 March 2020