

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

March 2020

In compliance with a Government directive as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic the meeting scheduled for 17 March 2020 was cancelled.

However, 'core business' was discussed between Councillors via email. The outcome of these electronic discussions is detailed below.

These minutes will be ratified at the next convened Parish Council meeting.

Present:

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

Cllr Les Knowles
Cllr Peter Lawley
Cllr Sybil Ralphs

In attendance:

Denise Cooper (Clerk)

Apologies

No apologies received.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Declaration of Personal / Pecuniary Interest

There were no pecuniary/personal interests declared.

19.76 Adjournment of meeting for public comments and concerns

As previous meetings had been suspended due to the Coronavirus / Covid-19 Pandemic there are no Parishioners' concerns reported.

Via email Cllr Flunder provided the following update:

- Additional funding through the community fund process will be announced very shortly.
- Highways are working on emergency repairs only. Work, such as new signage, etc, has been postponed.
- All buildings in Stafford have been shut and staff will be working from home.
- All recycling centres are now closed.
- The Clerks at Brown Edge and Endon with Stanley Parish Councils are establishing a 'phone buddy' network. Please contact either Cllr Flunder or the Clerk at Brown Edge for further information.

19.77 Finances

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

19.71.01 – Lengthman’s Agreement

At the February meeting 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. A request for funding has been submitted.

New Issues

19.77.01 – Year End audit

The lady who undertook the independent audit of the Parish Council’s year-end finances has advised that she is no longer able to undertake this work. A decision was taken by Councillors for the Clerk to secure the services of another accountant. This she has done. However, following this decision the Clerk has received communication from MAZARS, the external auditors instructed by the Audit Commission to oversee the process, that they are awaiting government guidance in relation to timescales for this work in view of the Corvid-19 Pandemic. The Clerk will keep the Parish Council informed of the situation.

Action: The Clerk

19.77.02 – Quarter 4 Financial Report

The Clerk presented the Quarter 4 Financial Report for consideration by Councillors. This was accepted.

19.77.03 – Invoices / Receipts

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

- Denise Cooper – Remuneration (March) - £150.00
- Denise Cooper – Reimbursement for purchase of external hard drive to store Parish Council electronic documents on - £59.60

19.77 Planning

SMDC Planning Decisions

- SMD/2020/0019 – New House Farm, Luzlow Road, Bagnall
Proposed replacement domestic garage
Bagnall Parish Council had no Objections. SMDC Approved.
- SMD/2020/0023 – Thorney Edge, Thorney Edge Road, Bagnall
Demolition of existing single storey dwelling and replacement with new two storey dwelling
Bagnall Parish Council had no Objections. Application invalid and therefore withdrawn.
- SMD/2019/0756 – Holly Dene, School Road, Bagnall
Proposed two-storey side extension with extension over existing garage
Bagnall Parish Council had no objections, but made some observations. SMDC Refused Permission

New Applications

- SMD/2020/0023 – Thorney Edge, Thorney Edge Road, Bagnall
Demolition of existing single storey dwelling and replacement with new two storey dwelling
Bagnall Parish Council had no objections to the above application.

19.78 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.

19.47.02 – Bus Route 44

Cllr Flunder is still in negotiations with Stoke-on-Trent City Council regarding this service and will advise in due course the outcome.

New Issues

There were no new issues.

19.79 General Maintenance and Other Issues

Matters arising from previous minutes

19.28.01 – Deteriorating Tree adjacent to playing field

Cllr Jackson has identified three trees along the boundary with the playing field and Mr Mountford's property. Quotations from a tree surgeon to undertake the works will be requested once the Corvid-19 Pandemic lock down has been lifted.

Action: Clerk

19.63.01 VE Day 75th Anniversary

Due to the Coronavirus / Corvid-19 pandemic these events had been cancelled.

19.74.01 – Community Orchard

No information has been received regarding this proposal.

19.74.02 – Notice Board

The Clerk advised that she is still awaiting the cork backing to the notice board on the village green, without which it is difficult to display notices. Cllr Brown to chase up.

Action: Cllr Brown

19.74.04 – Website

This issue will be discussed once Parish Council meetings recommence.

New Issues

19.79.01 – Village Hall Committee

A request has been received from the Village Hall Committee for a representative of the Parish Council to attend their meetings. This post will be re-allocated once meetings recommence.

19.79.02 – Phone Kiosk, Rose and Crown PH

The Parish Council has received notification, via SMDC, that it is BT's intention to disconnect and remove this phone ox. The Parish Council is keen to retain this and convert to another use, and is in the process of obtaining the landowners permission to do so. The kiosk will be adopted under the "Adopt a phone box for £1" scheme if permission is received. BT has been notified of our intentions.

19.79.03 – Playing Field – Swings

In line with Government guidelines the swings have been secured during the current situation and the playing field is now closed until further notice.

19.79.04 – Playing Field - Maintenance

The Clerk has been advised by the contractor that he has not undertaken any maintenance on the field since October due to the wet and stormy weather; he advised that he has visited on a monthly basis to keep a watchful eye on things. Following his visit in early March he has a few concerns regarding the state of the field:

- The pitch itself has not grown at all. He had expected it to have grown in line with the outfield, particularly as we have had a relatively mild winter so he suspects something is quite wrong. He will put down a weed and feed mix to see if this improves the situation and awaits our further instructions.
- There is an area of moss in one corner of the field. He did suggest in October the installation of a French drain to be put in to collect the water coming down off the bank and prevent it pooling in this corner. However, this was not undertaken and there is no other remedy other than to remove the moss (which will leave bare soil) and re-seed. He awaits further instructions regarding this.

Now that the weather is getting a bit better and the ground is drying out, he will look at fixing the goal posts.

Cllrs Jackson and Lawley agreed to inspect the playing field to confirm the contractor's comments, report back to the Parish Council and in the interim will monitor the situation.

Action: Cllrs Jackson & Lawley

19.80 Correspondence

- **SCC – Schedule of verge cutting and weed control.** *From April 2020, SCC will undertake a minimum of six grass cuts on highway verges pre-season and will continue to work with councils and community groups who wish to undertake additional cuts in their locality. Routine week spraying will take place once per season in both urban and rural areas where a kerb exists (along the top of kerb and channel) and, additionally, at the back of footway against a hard edge such as a wall or fence in urban locations (not rural). Due to regulations associated with the toxicity of weed spraying chemicals, the solution used is only effective on growing plants and spraying is only undertaken where weeds are present. Specific treatment of injurious weeds, such as Japanese Knotweed, will continue to take place as necessary.*
- **Royal British Legion** – *notification that they have part funded the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall, Nr Loughborough which is now open. Donations towards this and the other facilities for veterans they support will be gratefully received.*
- **SCC – Permit Scheme Order 2020** – *with effect from 1 April 2020 SCC will commence to operate a permit scheme on all publicly maintained roads within its authority boundary. A copy of the order and documentation can be downloaded from www.staffordshire.gov.uk*
- **Oben Development** – *Letter making enquiries regarding the development of land behind Moorlands Hall, ST9 9LP. This offer was declined.*
- **Resident's enquiry regarding the precept** – *The resident was directed to*

our website where a summary of expenditure is given. The accounts for 2019/20 will be available to be viewed in full during a 10-day period (usually during June) when they have been audited. Notification of this period will be given in the notice boards and on the website.

- **Community Foundation for Staffordshire** – Notification that grants are available for organisations and individuals affected by the pandemic. Full details on their website.
- **SMDC – Werrington Wellbeing Grant** – consultation runs until 6 April 2020, details on their website
<https://democracy.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=301&MId=1629&Ver=4>
- **SMDC - Community Right To Bid - Nomination of a Community Asset (Royal Oak, 68 High Street, Cheadle, ST10 1AN)** – Consultation open until 6 April, details on their website
<https://democracy.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=301&MId=1635&Ver=4>

Date of Next Meeting

Future meetings of the Parish Council are suspended until further notice.

Signed
(Chairman)

Dated: