

## **BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Bagnall Parish Council is made up of the following people:

Denise Cooper (Clerk)

Tel: 07530 585558 Email: [Bagnallpc@gmail.com](mailto:Bagnallpc@gmail.com)

Councillors were elected in 2019 and over the last year were made up of:

Cllr Andrew Batson (Chairman)

Cllr David Pearson (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Sally Brown

Cllr Les Knowles

Cllr Peter Lawley

Cllr Roger Jackson

Cllr Sybil Ralphs (Leader, District Councillor)

Cllr Sally Brown retired from the Parish Council in December 2020.

Due to Covid related restrictions the Parish Council meetings held over the last year have been online using the Zoom application. The principal items addressed over the last year include:

#### ***Footpaths***

- There has been a significant increase in footfall along the many footpaths in the Parish as a result of the exercise restrictions related to Covid-19 lockdowns.
- A regular issue raised during the year has been the use of footpath 28 by motorcycles.
- During the year, the Parish Council has been notified of applications by a Bridleways group to redesignate Footpaths 28 and part of Footpath 12 to a bridleway. The Parish Council advertised the applications within the local community with the result that the public did not support the proposed change and we submitted our response accordingly.
- The Parish Council was successful in arranging a safer access point to Oaks Barn field, located by the bus shelter, with an agreed permissible link to Footpath 24. During the year, the Parish Council installed two new timber gates onto this footpath.
- Several stiles have been repaired over the year by Staffordshire County Council.

#### ***Planning***

- The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications within the Parish and invited to comment. We have no power over the decisions reached by the Planning Department at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, but our comments are taken into consideration, along with comments received from the public. The Parish Council is only classed as one voice; it is worth

repeating that if a member of the public is concerned about any planning application, they need to make their feelings known directly to the District Council.

- The Parish Council was joined by the Principal Planning Officer from SMDC in November 2020, who gave a presentation regarding the present position with the Local Plan and then provided an explanation of the planning process.

### ***Highways***

- Reports of various problems on the roads have been made throughout the year to Staffordshire County Council and whenever they have been noticed.
- Several potholes have been repaired in the village, although it is noted there are still more to do.
- In addition, the Parish Council has received a list of highway drainage gullies in the Parish. Liaison is ongoing with the County Councillor for the locality to establish a programme of regular maintenance.
- As previously highlighted, parishioners should be aware that the County and Council operates online reporting systems for highways matters.

### ***Playing Field***

- The Parish has a wonderful sports field with new swings in the children's play area.
- The Parish Council has let the field to various clubs over the year, which has generated a small income.
- The sports field requires maintenance, and this is undertaken by Coopers Pitch Care.
- Following an inspection by SMDC's Arborist, several trees at the bottom of the field were identified as requiring removal and these were subsequently felled.
- Drainage issues have been observed at the top of the field which requires the installation of a French drain; the Parish Council is currently awaiting a start date for the remedial works.
- Initial consultation has taken place with residents near to the playing field with a view to installing additional play equipment in the children's play area soon.

### ***The Greens / Environment***

- The village greens have been maintained by Jacksons Nurseries Ltd.
- With an increased footfall in the locality during the year, this has resulted in an increase in dog fouling. Residents should be aware the village is covered by a Public Space Protection Order (Dog Fouling and Nuisance) 2020.
- During the year SMDC's arborist identified that the Sycamore tree on the Buttercross green was dangerous which resulted in the felling of the tree.
- The Parish has continued to be affected by occasional Fly Tipping. Every effort to identify the culprits has been, and will continue to be, taken.
- The kiosk adjacent to the Rose and Crown was scheduled by BT to be removed. Following an agreement, the Parish Council has taken over the ownership of this. Future usage of the kiosk is under review.
- The purchase of Christmas lights for the village was enabled following a successful application to Cllr Sybil Ralphs' Staffordshire Moorlands Community Fund.

- A further application to Cllr Sybil Ralphs' Staffordshire Moorlands Community Fund has been successful and the monies received will be used towards the replacement of the depth gauge by the Ford.

Finally, a big thank you again to all organisations and individuals who helped to make village life more enjoyable and community orientated. Please remember that the people who make things happen in the village are all volunteers and we need your continued support!

Andrew Batson  
Chairman  
Bagnall Parish Council (2020-2021)