

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

19 October 2021

Moorlands Village Hall
School Road
Bagnall

Present:

Cllr Les Knowles (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Batson
Cllr Anthony Drakeley
Cllr Roger Jackson

Cllr Peter Lawley
Cllr Dave Pearson

In attendance:

Denise Cooper (Clerk/RFO); Cllr Sybil Ralphs (via Zoom); Cllr Keith Flunder (County Council); 2 residents; PCSO

	Apologies
	There were no apologies.
	Minutes of the Previous Meeting
	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record.
	Declaration of Personal / Pecuniary Interest
	Cllr Jackson expresses a personal/pecuniary interest in the road closures through the village, Cllr Knowles on village hall discussions, and Cllrs Knowles and Pearson on any discussions relating to Footpaths 12 and 28.
	Adjournment of meeting for public comments and concerns
	Parishioners' Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No concerns were raised by parishioners. County Councillor Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Incidents of Covid-19 are on the increase in Staffordshire Moorlands. Door-to-door testing is therefore in place and trailers to give booster jabs are being utilised; the nearest to Bagnall is at Biddulph.▪ The reestablishment of road markings around The Greens has been undertaken. Parish Councillors agreed they look a lot better than they have for a long time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Health Committee is looking at all health services across the region, with particular focus on mental health facilities. ▪ The Prosperous Committee will be looking at urban bus provision during December and January and are currently reviewing the footpath and cycle networks across the County. ▪ Steps to bring back as many community groups as is possible is underway, these include youth clubs, disabled people's clubs. Funding is available via online application to assist this process until the end of October 2021. ▪ A full review of school transport is in progress. ▪ Activities during school half-term holiday is now programmed. ▪ Approximately 230 immigrants have been housed in Newcastle-under-Lyme, together with one family in the Moorlands. ▪ In relation to the road works, Cllr Flunder passed a copy of an email he had received from the Head of Highways and asked that this feeds into discussions at the end of the meeting. He gave confirmation that SCC would rectify any damage to the roads.
21.32	Finances
	<p><i>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None <p>New Issues</p> <p>21.232.01 – Quarter 2 Financial Report A copy of the Financial Report has been circulated to Cllrs. The balance as at the end of September 2021 stood at £18,483.38. The current outstanding projects are the update of the website and kiosk/defibrillator outside the Rose and Crown, both of which form part of this agenda.</p> <p>21.32.02 – Capital Repayment At the last meeting Cllr Pearson proposed the use of the monies set aside for the depth gauge at the ford be put towards a capital repayment of £500 against our loan. This was agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: The Clerk</p> <p>21.32.03 – Review of tender for The Greens In view of the high standard of workmanship, the contract for the greens has been extended for a further two years. There is a small uplift of £75 per cut, and this has been agreed. The contract is from April to September each year.</p> <p>21.32.04 – Review of tenders for playing field A revised specification has been developed and the current greens contractor has been given first refusal. A quotation has been provided of £240 per cut. The contract is annual with scheduled two weekly cuts between April-September and additional cuts as conditions require. The Parish Council has accepted this.</p>

21.32.05 – Forward Financial Plan

The Clerk asked Cllrs to put forward projects that needed to be included within the budget for 2022-23. Cllrs asked that a sum to cover the installation of a French drain on the playing field be included, together with provision of trip rail replacement on The Greens should this be needed following further discussion.

Action: The Clerk

21.32.07 – Bank Account

The Clerk has received information from their bankers that a monthly charge will be applicable on the account. Cllrs felt this was an inappropriate usage of public monies. The Clerk advised that NatWest provided a Communities Account with no charges and Cllrs instructed the Clerk to move the account.

21.32.06 – Invoices and Receipts

There were no receipts. The following invoices were received, and payment agreed:

- S & W Grounds Maintenance – Greens maintenance (Sept) - £300.00
- RoSPA – Play equipment inspection - £82.50
- SLCC – FILCA training course - £144.00
- Poppy Shop – Remembrance Wreath - £26.98

21.33 Planning

▪ **SMDC Planning Decisions**

- SMD/2021/0475 – Moorland House, Clewloes Bank, Bagnall
Proposed side extension to form utility room and rear extension to form sun room

Bagnall PC had no objections. SMDC approved

- SMD/2021/0496 - Land at Greenfields, Thorney Edge Road, Bagnall
Proposed development: solar farm of approximately 1.5MW with energy storage capacity of up to 57MW on 4.25 hectares of land at Greenfields Farm, ST9 9LA

Bagnall PC objected. SMDC approved – an EIA was not required

- HNT/2021/0023 – Rock Cottage, Bagnall Road, Bagnall
Proposed single storey side / rear extension measuring 5.40m beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling, 3.80m maximum height and 2.46m to height of eaves

Bagnall PC not consulted. SMDC refused – the width of the building, when included with existing extension would be greater than half the width of the original dwelling footfall.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SMD/2021/0454 – Land Off Clewlovs Bank, Clewlovs Bank, Bagnall Outline application with details of access (all other matters reserved) for an erection of up to 4 single-storey dwelling houses with associated access, landscaping and servicing <i>Bagnall PC objected. SMDC refused – the application represented harmful and inappropriate development in green belt, adversely affecting the openness and encroached into the countryside affecting the rural aspect of the area. Reports submitted lacked clarity on the impact on biodiversity and ecology of the area.</i> ○ SMD/2020/0462 – Meadow View, Clewlovs Bank, Bagnall Proposed demolition of existing annexe and construction of new single storey one bedroom bungalow <i>Bagnall PC had no objections. SMDC approved</i> ▪ New Applications ○ SMD/2021/0571 – Old Mill House, Stanley Moss Lane, Stockton Brook Single storey extension <i>Bagnall PC had no objections</i> ○ DET/2021/0033 - Greenways Hall Farm, Greenways Road, Stockton Brook An application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwelling houses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. <i>Bagnall PC objected – The development is for only a partial conversion, what is happening to the remainder of the barn is not clear. There was also an application under DET/2019/0010 for a new barn, which is yet to be built. The Parish Council was concerned the applicant wished to replace a perfectly good barn with a steel one, utilising the stone one for residential use. Planners were asked to scrutinise the application fully before deciding.</i>
21.34	General Maintenance and Other Issues
	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>20.54.01 – Playing Field – Additional Equipment A committee, lead by Vicki Vincent, has been established to look at means of raising the substantial funding required to take forward this project.</p> <p>21.29.04 – Website Upgrade Cllr Knowles advised whilst he had found a website provider, he did not feel it appropriate to undertake changes during a period when communication with the community was vital. The upgrade is on hold.</p>

21.29.05 – Telephone Kiosk outside Rose and Crown

Cllr Jackson has liaised with local electrician who have confirmed that due to the delays in us adopting the kiosk caused by Marston's the electricity supply was cut. The Clerk was requested to liaise with Marston's to ascertain their amenability to the suggestion of us entering a contract to tap into the public house's supply.

The initial idea had been to utilise the kiosk to house a defibrillator in this part of the Parish. However, Cllrs felt that whilst this was still the ideal, the defibrillator could be put onto the outside wall of the public house. The Clerk was asked to explore this option with Marston's. Should this option be viewed favourably, Cllrs felt that the kiosk could be put to another use and suggestions from the community would be sought at that time.

Action: The Clerk

21.29.06 – Solar Panels / Battery Storage

A paper had been circulated to Cllrs, who felt that this expressed the views of the Parish Council very succinctly. However, the views of the community are also required and the best means of facilitating this are being explored.

Alongside this the views of other parish councils in Staffordshire Moorlands would also be valuable. The Clerk has written to SMDC to request a special Parish Assembly to discuss this topic, Cllr Ralphs agreed to chase up.

Action: Cllr Ralphs

New Issues

21.34.01 – Village Hall – Standing Agenda Item

- Peter Lawley stated that the Charities Commission was querying why the village hall wanted to appoint the Parish Council as Guardian Trustees. They have requested full discussion around this with the village hall chair.
- Roof repairs have now been completed, together with some minor remedial work to windows. The grounds around the building have been tidied up and a request to reinstate the goal posts was made. The far side of the hedge on the boundary of the playing field requires cutting back, but access is causing an issue.
- Several long-term bookings have now been made, and the hall is hosting the Church's Christmas Fete in December 2021.
- A copy of the accounts is posted on the Charities Commission's website. Cllrs stated that this only showed the start and finish balances, and as a standing member of the Committee were entitled to a copy of the full balance sheet which they had received in previous years.

Cllr Pearson stressed the importance of passing the Guardian Trusteeship to the Parish Council to ensure the asset stayed within the community rather than pass onto the Charities Commission for disposal as they saw fit should the Village Hall Committee fold. However, to enable the Parish Council to pursue this a full business case needed to be made available. Cllr Lawley replied that the Village Hall Committee is meeting shortly to fully discuss the issue, following which a meeting could be arranged between the village hall and Parish Council chairs to agree a way forward.

21.34.02 – Playing Field Inspection

A copy of the report has been circulated to Cllrs. In short, the swings are in good condition, but weeds around the play area need removal; some minor repairs are required to the fencing around the play area; removal or replacement of permanent goal posts; minor repairs required to portable goals to remove rust. All issues are low risk.

The weeds have now been dealt with. An assessment of the railings and portable goal posts will be undertaken to ascertain the best means of effecting repairs by Cllrs Pearson and Jackson. Cllr Lawley agreed to reinstate the permanent goal posts and nets. Work to be undertaken when the weather is conducive.

Action: Cllrs Pearson, Jackson & Lawley

21.34.03 – Christmas Tree Lights

Cllr Jackson has suggested that the Christmas tree is at its optimum height, and steps to stop further growth will be undertaken in the Spring.

A few options were discussed around the best way of lighting the tree over the Christmas period. It was agreed to approach Western Power to ascertain if they would be willing to install a secure electricity conduit as a gesture of good will.

Action: Cllr Jackson

21.34.04 – Hedges

The Clerk advised that she had written to landowners of properties in the vicinity of Clewlovs Bank/Stanley Moor Road to cut back hedges to improve sight lines and use of pavements.

The Clerk has also written to the landowner of the hedge on Springs Bank and received confirmation that this work is now in hand.

21.34.05 – Replacement trees on the playing field

The Clerk raised the issue that over the past two years several diseased trees had been removed from the playing field and suggested that the time was now right for some native replacements to be planted. Cllr Batson agreed to approach residents on the boundary of the playing field to ascertain their views.

Action: Cllr Batson

21.35 Footpaths and Highways

Matters arising from previous minutes

21.21.01 – Road Works

The Parish Council is actively working behind the scenes to come to a satisfactory outcome in relation to these works, despite opposition from the County Council, and is also seeking priority remedial works to the lanes through the parish to be undertaken.

	<p>New Issues</p> <p>21.35.01 – S.53 Applications</p> <p>The Clerk had chased up responses to the S.53 applications on Footpaths 12, 28 and 32. SCC had replied that due to resource issues they did not foresee a response soon. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Flunder to push for an answer as a priority.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: The Clerk</p> <p>21.35.02 – Parish Assembly</p> <p>In March 2020 the Parish Assembly passed a motion of No Confidence in Staffordshire County Council’s Highways Department. Although a letter was sent, no response was forthcoming until October 2021. The view of the Parish Assembly members is that the response is totally unsatisfactory and does not answer any of the points raised.</p> <p>Cllr Ralphs added that the transfer of several of the services provided by SCC to SMDC is actively being looked at to address some of the issues raised by the Parish Assembly.</p>
21.36	Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moorlands Climate Action – Notification of the annual Foxlow Apple Fest on 16 October 2021 ▪ SMDC – Consultation on SMDC’s Statement of Principles on The Gambling Act 2005. Deadline for responses is 4 November 2021 ▪ Keep Britain Tidy – Notification of the availability of posters relating to Dog Poo ▪ Town and Country Planning Association – Introduction to the service ▪ Resident’s letter regarding the hedge on Springs Bank ▪ Email from resident regarding the Road Works / use of Springs Bank ▪ Email from resident regarding speeds down Luzlow Lane/Bagnall Road following completion of the road works
	Date of Next Meeting
	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 16 November 2021, 7.00pm

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Dated: 16 November 2021