

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

June 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)

Apologies

No apologies received.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes for June, having been distributed to Councillors via email and displayed on our website, will be verified at the next adjourned meeting if deemed to be a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Personal / Pecuniary Interest

Cllrs Peter Lawley and Les Knowles declared an interest in correspondence received seeking permission to use the playing field for Pilates and therefore took no part on decisions reached. Cllr Pearson declared an interest in issues associated with Footpath 28.

Adjournment of meeting for public comments and concerns

As actual meetings have been suspended due to the Coronavirus / Corvid-19 there are no Parishioners' concerns.

District Councillor Reports (as at 15 June 2020)

- A phased approach to the opening of Children's Centres is being undertaken.
- Visitor numbers are still high at our country parks and priority is focused on opening the toilet facilities wherever practical and safe to do so.
- Plans are now in place to begin the phased re-opening of libraries.
- A number of Black Lives Matter protests have taken place across Staffordshire; all have been peaceful to date and Staffordshire Police continue to work with organisers to ensure this continues and that people practise social distancing where possible.
- Regional and mobile Covid-19 testing centres are now operational and provide good coverage across the region.

20.14 Coronavirus (Covid-19) – Update

A number of companies resumed business under strict conditions from 1 June 2020, with some others following on 15 June 2020. Following a further review local authorities have been given permission to open playing fields under strict guidelines. After full discussion the Parish Council has decided to delay opening the swings to preserve the health and safety of parishioners until the situation around their opening is clearer. Therefore, the swings will remain padlocked until further notice.

Until notified by the Government, or there is an urgent need to arrange a virtual meeting, the Parish Council has decided to continue its delegation of powers for the transaction of core business to the Clerk, with Parish Councillors being consulted via email for their views before proceeding.

20.15 Finances

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

New Issues

20.15.01 – Financial Audit

The Parish Council's accounts have now been audited by our internal auditor. Details have been published on the Parish Council's web site and the accounting books will be available for inspection by interested parties by appointment between 1 September 2020 and 12 October 2020.

20.15.02 – Invoices / Receipts

The Parish Council was in receipt of the following payment:

- SMDC – Precept (first instalment) - £4,300
- HMRC – VAT Repayment - £560.92
- Milton Utd FC – Playing field hire - £40.00
- Sporting Biddulph – Playing field hire - £10.00

The following invoices were received and payment agreed:

- Denise Cooper – Remuneration (June) - £152.50
- Jackson's Nurseries (UK) Ltd – Greens Maintenance - £300.00
- Julia Podmore – Internal audit - £250.00

20.15.03 – Quarter 1 Financial Statement

The Clerk forwarded to Cllrs the Financial Statement for quarter 1. The current balance stands at £14,396.70. The playing field has been hired out to two local teams for under-7's football practice bringing in a small income – both teams are adhering to social distancing guidelines. Two further organisations have expressed an interest and permission to use the field has been granted with effect from July 2020.

20.16 Planning

SMDC Planning Decisions

- SMD/2020/0015 – Stafford Arms, The Green , Bagnall
Proposed glazed pavilion with retractable roof over existing outdoor area
- SMD/2020/0016 – Stafford arms, The Green, Bagnall
Listed building consent for proposed glazed pavilion with retractable roof over existing outdoor area.

The above applications have been withdrawn.

- SMD/2020/088 – Martin’s Hill Nursery, Luzlow Lane, Bagnall
Change of use from horticultural/retail to suis generis natural burial ground and pet crematorium. Including demolition of existing building and erection of new single storey building.

Bagnall Parish Council objected to this application. SMDC Refused permission.

Whilst a cemetery and burial ground does come within the categories of appropriate development within the Green Belt the formalised design and layout of the development and appearance of the proposal in this semi-remote rural location is considered at odds with the undeveloped semi-natural appearance of this location.

New Applications

- SMD/2020/0248 – Houghwood Bottom Farm, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook
Erection of orangery
- DET/2020/0022 – Grange Farm, Tompkin Road, Stanley
Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to one dwelling house (barn conversion)

Bagnall Parish Council had no objections to the above applications.

- SMD/2020/0274 – Boundary House, Clewloes Bank, Bagnall
Proposed new access off Clewloes Bank (vehicular and pedestrian)

Although the Parish council has no objections to the above application, there are some concerns around lines of sight entering the driveway when approaching from uphill as vehicles will have to cross the carriageway, given the fatal accident on this bend.

- APP/B3438/D/20/3253924 – Holly Dene, School Road, Bagnall
Proposed two storey side extension with extension over existing garage

The above application went to Public Appeal against SMDC’s decision on 15 June 2020. As this is a Public Appeal the Parish Council’s previous comments stand and cannot be added to or amended.

20.17 Footpaths and Highways

Matters arising from previous minutes

20.11.01 – Footpaths

Footpath 24 – The Parish Council is in liaison with the appropriate authorities regarding the slight re-routing of this footpath. A site visit was held with County Councillor Flunder on 22 June 2020. It has been agreed that he will liaise with staff at the County Council with a view to seeking an early response to the query the Parish Council has previously raised regarding gate detail to be included in the Planning Application. (New pedestrian access to a Public Highway.)

Footpath 7 – The Canal and Riverside Trust has agreed that an access gate be installed on the reservoir track and suitable signage positioned to advise the route of footpath 7.

Footpath 5 – The broken stile has been notified to the Rights-of-Way Officers.

Footpath 26 (N) – An area of saturated ground has been identified. Councillor Flunder has agreed to view this and to speak to staff at the County Council with a view to arranging a meeting of the Footpath Officer, representatives of their maintenance team and Parish

Council representatives to determine an appropriate repair.

Footpaths 12 and 25 – The area of brambles, near Bank Farm boundary stile has been notified to the Rights of Way Officers. Due to the impact on County resources of the current pandemic no substantive response to the query raised regarding ownership has been received to date. SMDC are also unable to assist at the present time. Several Councillors have been approached by members of the public regarding the blocked path (part of footpath 25). It is proposed to ask the Clerk to obtain ownership details from the Land Registry to enable this matter to be progressed.

Action: Clerk

20.11.02 – Gully maintenance

Following heavy rain the gully by St Chad's Cottage is again discharging water across the road as a result of a blockage. This has been reported to the Highways Department, who have responded that the gullies are cleared on a regular basis and they currently see no issues. Cllr Batson has requested from Cllr Flunder a copy of the maintenance records for Bagnall and the schedule for future gully clearance to be forwarded to the Clerk. A link to the overlap map for all known gullies within Staffordshire was also requested. Cllr Flunder is actively seeking to procure this information.

New Issues

20.17.01 – Footpath 33 – A missing stile along this footpath has been reported to the Rights of Way Officer, although it is understood that this stile is the responsibility of Newhouse Farm.

20.17.02 – Stanley Pool

The increased use of Footpaths 7 and 14 has highlighted that there is not a circular route around Stanley Pool. The Parish Council is exploring the possibility of extending the current paths in liaison with the Canal and Riverside Trust and Endon with Stanley Parish Council. A positive response has been received from Endon and Stanley Parish Council who have requested further information. It is proposed to hold an exploratory meeting with the interested parties and the Canal and River Trust representatives when this can be arranged.

20.17.03 – Dog Fouling

Reports of people either not collecting dog mess or collecting and throwing poo bags into the undergrowth alongside public footpaths have been received. Dog mess can spread some very nasty infections to humans, wildlife and farm stock and the Parish Council would like to remind everyone that it a requirement to remove dog fouling and dispose of it responsibly, failure to do so could result in a fine.

20.17.04 – Footpath 28

The Parish Council has been made aware of a damaged tree limb over the footpath. The landowner had been alerted and urgent action had been undertaken involving Steve Massey and Paul Rochford which entailed the temporary closure of the path to protect public safety. The works were undertaken quickly and safely.

20.18 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 that require some attention/removal. Quotations from tree surgeons to undertake the works have been requested and once received a decision will be made. Steve Massey has been notified of our intentions as the area is within the

conservation zone.

Action: Clerk

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

19.74.04 – Website

The deadline to comply with guidelines is 23 September 2020 and Cllr Knowles is in the process of submitting a report for debate by Councillors in the next couple of weeks.

Action: Cllr Knowles

19.79.02 – Phone Kiosk, Rose and Crown PH

A response from the landowner is still awaited, this is being chased by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

New Issues

20.18.01 – Use of Playing Fields

A request has been received to hold Pilates sessions on the playing field on a Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings. This has been granted. The Parish Council has also received requests for the use of the field for Under 7's and Under 11's football training, this has been agreed and will take place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Saturday and Sunday mornings. Participants have been requested to be mindful when parking in the village as the Village Hall car park is still closed.

20.18.02 – Fly Tipping

The Parish Council has been made of some drug paraphernalia left on the road side on Bagnall Road. This has been reported to SMDC for clearance as a priority.

Action: Clerk

20.19 Correspondence

- Oban Developments Ltd – Expression of interest in the purchase of the playing field for development purposes. This offer was declined.
- Rebound Rubber – Recycling Project. Promotional information.
- Hector Van Duesbury – Promotional software aimed at Open Spaces Officers employed by larger Town/District Councils.

Date of Next Meeting

Notices of any forthcoming meetings, as and when they are convened, will be displayed on the website.

Signed
(Chairman)

Dated: