



BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

60 John Street
Biddulph
Staffordshire Moorlands
ST8 6AT
e: bagnallpc@gmail.com

Your ref:
Our ref: LK/dc
Date: 16 March 2022

Ms Claire Marchant
Committee Chair
Bagnall (Moorland) Village Hall
School Road
Bagnall
Stoke-on-Trent
ST9 9JP

Dear Ms Marchant

Custodian Trusteeship

The Parish Council acknowledges receipt of your email dated 15 March 2022 and the attachment which clarifies the situation from your perspective.

Last year the Parish Council had been asked to become Custodian Trustee of the village hall. With this in mind, and in line with good business practice, the Parish Council sought assurances that the organisation we were contemplating entering into partnership with, no matter the context, had a sound business and financial footing. This was the basis for us asking for certain information.

Whilst the Parish Council had been informed that the Charities Commission were reluctant to progress this process – a strange response given the number of parish councils who currently hold this position – we were not advised that the Village Hall Committee had ceased to explore this option. Your suggestion that the Parish Council take up management of the village hall should the committee no longer be able to do this is not an option given the legal framework that the Parish Council must work within unless they are Custodian Trustees.

We can only apologise if our reasons for requesting the information was not conveyed to you clearly. The Parish Council has, and has never had, any intentions of becoming involved in the day-to-day management of the village hall. Our foremost concerns have been for the safeguarding of this valuable asset for current and future generations of the Parish of Bagnall; an asset that we feel could be in jeopardy should future Village Hall Committee's not be as diligent as yourselves as the Parish Council would be unable to raise sufficient funding to safeguard the venue and it may well be disposed of as development land.

(2)

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However, we accept and respect your decision to operate as a separate entity.

In relation to the booking of the hall over the Jubilee weekend, this was a tentative enquiry around availability rather than a definite booking. However, if the hall is available on the evening of Thursday 2 June 2022 the Parish Council would like to book it to enable us to offer refreshments to those members of the public who attend the lighting of the beacon and would like to work with you to bring about a successful evening celebration. Could you please confirm the availability of the hall?

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me 07530 585558 or via the email at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Denise Cooper
Clerk
Bagnall Parish Council