

Bagnall (Moorlands) Village Hall
School Road, Bagnall, Stoke-On-Trent, ST9 9JP
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Dear Bagnall Parish Council

We are writing in response to your Standing Agenda Item Minutes 21.44.01 – date unknown.

- The trustees of Bagnall (Moorlands) Village Hall are NOT reluctant to push forward with the idea of the Parish Council becoming Custodian Trustee and the Parish Council representative has been kept fully informed of the ongoing work and issues in this area. Jayne Krawiecka has invested a considerable amount of time in liaising with The Charities Commission in this regard and it is they that have refused to allow such an arrangement to go ahead. You mention solicitor's costs incurred by the Parish Council and we would advise you that we have incurred costs of £850 for work undertaken to date by Jim Hickey on behalf of the Village Hall – had the previous committee scoped the viability of what was proposed with the Charities Commission before undertaking any legal work we could all have been spared these unnecessary costs. The trustees have now completed the work which was initially identified as being necessary some years ago and four of the trustees have applied for voluntary first registration of the property at the Land Registry. Once we were aware that we were not going to proceed with the original suggestion we respectfully requested that the Parish Council consider providing a Village Hall Committee in the unlikely event that one cannot be sourced from the local community, but this was declined.
- An Income & Expenditure Statement has been produced for the last financial year as required by the Charities Commission and has been available via them since November last year. We are arranging to provide you with a copy.
- We are not aware that any previous committee has been answerable to the Parish Council and feel insulted that our ability and commitment to properly manage the village hall is being so challenged. We have NEVER been busier with regular hirers and function bookings and are daily in the position of having to turn people away. We have undertaken extensive renovation and repair already this financial year and have plans for much more. As we have a VERY healthy bank balance, we do not currently feel the need to set aside any contingency funding, but should the situation change, and it is monitored on a monthly basis, we will of course do so. Rest assured; we have an active committee with extensive business acumen who are doing great things to keep this valuable community asset in good shape.
- As a full member of the Village Hall Committee please feel free to organize events for the benefit of the community whenever you are able.
- Whilst writing we would like to mention that we were disappointed with the decision to hold the Jubilee Ball away from the Village Hall, particularly as we had been asked to reserve the four Bank Holiday days in our diary and have turned away other bookings.

Yours sincerely

Bagnall (Moorlands) Village Hall Committee