

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

17 November 2022

Moorlands Village Hall
School Road
Bagnall

Present:

Cllr Les Knowles (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Batson

Cllr Roger Jackson
Cllr Peter Lawley

In attendance:

Denise Cooper (Clerk/RFO); 11 members of the public

	Presentation by Cllr Joe Porter, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity
	<p>Cllr Porter thanked the Parish Council for inviting him and gave a whistle stop overview of the work currently being undertaken by SMDC. The key points are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Policy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Climate Change Strategy – being implemented. Net zero target set for 2030. Initially targeting areas that can easily be changed before moving onto those they have little control over. Keele University has been commissioned to undertake an analysis○ Green Infrastructure Strategy – being implemented. Setting up wildlife paths wherever possible in association with the Wildlife Trust○ Local Plan for Nature – coming○ EV Strategy – coming○ Procurement Strategy – carbon emissions of suppliers○ Treasury Management Strategy – green investments○ Carbon literacy training for all Heads of Service and Climate Change Champions across the organization – first in Staffordshire to achieve this○ Hybrid working policy has significantly reduced carbon emissions from staff travel○ Planning decisions always consider impact on climate change and biodiversity○ Biodiversity Net Gain being implemented in time for autumn 2023▪ Property and buildings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Leisure centres all have LED lighting installed○ Phased approach to rolling out LED lighting at Moorlands House○ Outdoor LED lights for streetlights happening imminently

- £2m public sector decarbonization fund applied for to fund solar panels, heat pumps and updated boiler system at leisure centres
- £40m Levelling Up bids will include implementation of zero carbon buildings
- EV charging point site options report coming to the next Service Delivery meeting so we can vote on the best approach. SMDC is behind in this because of the challenges of being a rural area. Initially these will be in town car parks

▪ **Waste and recycling:**

- All council fleet are using biofuel mix which saves 98% on carbon emissions compared to before.
- High recycling rates are reducing carbon emissions across the district
- Use of own produced compost rather than bought in compost saves on carbon emissions and money
- Tried electric waste fleet, but technology not sufficient for rural areas yet due to the technicalities of rural travel – they are unable to negotiate some of the steep inclines
- Education programme for local school children on waste, recycling and climate change

▪ **Green spaces and communities**

- Climate change community fund to fund community projects that benefit nature and climate change – grants of £500 are available to community groups for environmental projects
- Transferring countryside sites to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to manage the sites better for nature and climate
- 23 community orchards planted and 27 more due to be planted
- Plans for native tree planting underway
- Wilder River Churnet Project of £176k from government to improve 8 sites for water quality, natural flood management, nature recovery and climate resilience
- AES using pollinator friendly planting schemes across the district and no pesticides used
- Peat free compost policy across the council operations

▪ **Partnerships**

- Staffordshire Moorlands Green Network set up by SMDC to bring community groups together – evening event on 30 November at 6pm in Churnet Room, SMDC
- Beat The Cold – energy saving to help combat fuel poverty
- Staffordshire Greener Homes – to encourage home insulations
- Membership of UK100 Countryside Climate Network – lobbying national government
- Staffordshire Sustainability Board – working with neighbouring authorities to share powers and resources
- Climate Matters Staffordshire – lobbying national government
- Work with Moorlands Climate Action – energy saving, nature and youth engagement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with Keele University and the Carbon Literacy Trust – carbon literacy training for all our staff and councillors ○ National Farmers Union (NFU) – engaging with Churnet Valley Farmers and other farming groups on rural solutions to climate change. <p><i>There followed a question and answers session:</i></p> <p>A few questions were raised relating to planning, Cllr Porter agreed to pass on comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a principal policy overseeing solar panel installations: <i>Cllr Porter stated that there was no overarching policy, each application is reviewed on its own merit.</i> ○ Concerns were raised that large swathes of agricultural land would be allocation to solar panel/wind turbine installations against production of food. The public would prefer the preservation of green belt and prime agricultural land. <i>Cllr Porter stated that SMDC has banned onshore wind installations</i> ○ Consideration needed to be given to features of these installations other than landscape and wildlife, such as noise and sun reflection ○ Policy should be established that brown field sites are sourced wherever possible. ○ It appears companies are being established purely for the installation of solar panels/battery storage facilities. On investigation they are sub-companies of several sub-companies before they reach the parent company. Money seems to be on paper only, with loans waterfalling down in the form of loans. Following installation, the company on the application will dissolve once profits are no longer being received, failing to restore the land. ○ A 40-year license for these companies is unacceptable ○ Planning legislation needs to be established stating that all new builds should have solar panels on the roof and have a high standard of insulation ○ Nuclear power needed to be given a higher priority: <i>Cllr Porter stated that a trick had been missed in the past, if there had been more investment in this power source the UK would be in a more energy sustainable position.</i>
	<p>Apologies</p>
	<p>Cllr Sybil Ralphs – S.85 Exemption Cllr Anthony Drakeley – Business commitments</p>
	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p>
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed to be a true and accurate record.</p>

	Declaration of Personal / Pecuniary Interest
	<p>Personal/pecuniary interests were expressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr Knowles – Footpath 28 <p>Cllrs took part in discussions, where appropriate, to ensure fullness of information but did not participate on any decisions made.</p>
	Adjournment of meeting for public comments and concerns
	<p>County Councillor Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no County Councillor report. <p>Parishioners' Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parishioners stated that they are looking to meet with Karen Bradley MP regarding their concerns of speeding along Stanley Road. In relation to setting up a speed watch, there are difficulties because the road does not have pavements; they are working with the PCSO to overcome this. Cllrs agreed to include Stanley Road within the next speed survey carried out within the village. ▪ The hazards caused by the parking on Clewlovs Bank was raised, Cllrs noted the comments, but stated that this was not illegal. ▪ The speed limit over the James Brindley bridge near the golf club is to be investigated further by Cllrs. ▪ A resident requested a tree overhanging Footpath 28 to be removed. Cllr Knowles advised that this tree had a TPO and permission from SMDC needed to be sought.
22.39	Planning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SMDC Planning Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SMD/2022/0548 – Redlands, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook Proposed demolition of existing car port and garage, single storey rear extension <i>Bagnall PC had no objections – SMDC approved.</i> ○ NMA/2022/0022 – Holly Dene, School Road, Bagnall Nonmaterial amendment relating to APP/B3438/D/20/3253924 <i>Bagnall PC was not consulted.</i> ▪ New Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SMD/2022/0521 – Jesmondene, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook Demolition of existing garage and utility rooms. Replacement wider single storey side and rear extension. ○ HNT/2022/0034 – Lark Rise, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook Demolition of existing garage, construct single storey rear extension. Submitted under permitted development.

Bagnall PC had no objections to the above applications.

22.40 Finances

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- None

New Issues

22.40.01 – Salary Increase

The Clerk advised that NALC had agreed a flat rate pay offer of £1,925 on each salary scale point with effect from 1 April 2022. This means that the Clerk has backpay owing of £140.00. Payment was agreed.

22.40.02 – Village Hall bookings

Cllrs agreed payment for the use of the main hall in principle but would prefer a flat rate of £20.00 per meeting. The Clerk will advise the Committee.

Action – The Clerk

22.40.03 – Seats

Our groundsman has suggested that in the spring he is commissioned to repair/stain the seats in the parish. Cllrs agreed to this but would also include the oak signposts in the village and request an estimate of costs before work is undertaken.

22.40.04 – Kiosk

The Parish Council has received a quotation from WPD/National Grid for the reconnection of electricity to the kiosk. Following discussion on alternative options, Cllrs agreed to accept the quotation.

22.40.05 – Financial Forward Plan 2023

The Clerk presented a paper detailing the known financial commitments for 2023 and a suggested uplift in our precept. Discussion took place on the various elements and an uplift of 6% or £1.92 across Band D council tax was agreed, increasing our Precept by £600 per annum.

22.04.05 – Bank Transfer

After discussions, Cllrs agreed to transfer our funds to a different bank and asked the Clerk to action as soon as possible.

22.40.04 – Invoices and Receipts

- *Receipts*
 - None

- *Invoices*
 - S & W Groundworks – cutting playing field/greens - £831.20
 - S & W Groundworks – reseeding around goals - £150.00
 - SLCC – Purchase of Charles Arnold Baker 13th Edition book - £141.80

22.41	General Maintenance and Other Issues
	<p><i>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</i> 21.29.05 – Telephone Kiosk outside Rose and Crown Cllrs are still awaiting the costed schedule of works from Cllr Drakeley; this has been outstanding since April 2022. <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Drakeley</p> 22.25.01 – Playing Field – Swings – Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The surface in front of the gate is uneven – <i>Cllr Jackson will undertake some minor works to improve the conditions.</i> ▪ The paintwork on the goal posts is in poor condition – <i>Cllr Batson will undertake appropriate repairs.</i> ▪ The grass before the goal mouths is worn – <i>The groundsman has now re-seeded the area.</i> 22.24.03 – Playing Field Equipment Cllrs felt that in view of the envisaged costs of providing new equipment, this project would be put on hold until after the elections in May 2023 to avoid burdening the new council with a project they may not wish to take forward. <i>New Issues</i> None</p>
	Footpaths and Highways
	<p><i>Matters arising from previous minutes</i> 21.51.02 – Blocked Gulley – Stanley Road Work to repair this will be undertaken as part of the resurfacing works on Clewlovs Bank. 22.09.02 – Footpath 28 SCC has agreed to a site visit to review the most appropriate place to put interventions to stop motorcycles using this footpath. 22.09.04 – Road Signs The repositioning of signs on Jack Hayes Lane, has still to be undertaken. 22.37.01 – James Brindley Bridge Although SCC is arranging for new stones to replace the damaged ones, they seem reluctant to pursue the culprit even though there is CCTV evidence to support this. Cllrs felt this was an unacceptable position. 22.26.02 – Gully Plans Cllr Jackson advised that he had tried to equate the plans provided by SCC with the gullies in one area of the village. Unfortunately, some gullies had been tarmaced over, but the remainder he has found and confirmed that these had not been cleaned in many years. Cllr Batson stated that he had</p>

	<p>requested a schedule of actual works undertaken by contractors, but this had come in a format that was incomprehensible.</p> <p>New Issues</p> <p>22.42.01 – Road resurfacing – Update Cllrs have been working directly with the resurfacing contractors to try to mitigate the inconvenience being caused by the resurfacing works as Highways is reluctant to engage with us on this matter.</p> <p>Work on Luzlow Road has been brought forward and the road will be closed from 28 November 2022 to 1 December 2022. Resurfacing works on other roads in the village has been scheduled for the early part of 2023.</p> <p>22.42.02 – Tompkin Road, Stanley – Road Closure The road is closed from 12 December 2022 until 14 December 2022 for resurfacing works.</p>
22.43	Correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
	Date of Next Meeting
	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 12 January 2023, 7.00pm in the main hall.</p> <p>There will be no meeting in December 2022.</p>

Meeting concluded at 9.20pm

Signed

(Chairman)

Dated: 12 January 2023