



BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Meeting

Tuesday 9th September 2025 commencing at 7:00pm

held at Stafford Arms, Bagnall, ST9 9JR.

Minutes

Councillors in attendance - Andrew Batson, Les Knowles, Sybil Ralphs
Andrew Krawiecki

Residents in attendance - Seven

	Public Participation	Action Required by
26/09/121	• Parishioner asked for progress update on evidence sent in to Clerk regarding Cllr Porter conducting work for Cllr Edwards. Cllr Batson explained that this was going to be discussed in the confidential section at the end of the meeting and that the Parish Council is aware of it. • Cllr Batson gave a brief explanation of how Parish, District and County Councils carry out responsibilities. • Cllr Ralphs explained the election process. • Cllr Batson used the road sweeping issues in the Parish as an example of reporting through District Councillors who then report to County Council etc. • Parishioner explained he was advised to email Road Safety about speeding issues in the area. He did this and received no response. Parishioner sated he would follow this up again. • Clerk to send email to County Council regarding speeding concerns. Cllr Batson to discuss with Clerk. Cllr Knowles stated he discussed speeding issues with Cllr Flunder some time ago and no further action was taken. • Parishioner asked for update about Mayfield. Information received is that Planning dept have passed to Environmental Health because of health and safety concerns. A request was raised for vegetation to be cut back. This has now been completed. The house has been boarded up. The owners have stated the house will be put up for sale by auction.	Clerk, send email to CC following discussion with Cllr Batson.

	Parishioner stated that they had attended a planning committee meeting about BESS sites. Lots of ongoing issues that are very worrying.	
25/09/122	Apologies	
	Cllr Horton, Cllr Weston, Cllr Dabell	
25/09/123	Declarations of interest and dispensation	
	None reported.	
25/09/124	To consider and approve minutes from the last meeting	
	Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th July signed and approved.	
25/09/125	Matters Arising	
	- Replacement of concrete posts- Butter Cross – Update at the next meeting. - Installation of new plaque at Butter Cross – Clerk has been in discussion with conservation and informed all that a grant may be possible for this. Cllr Knowles explained that funds had been received from the District Cllr previously for this to be split between the plaque and defib. He explained further repair work to Butter Cross is required. Clerk to obtain further information from Cllrs and then report back to Conservation. - Hedge Road obstruction, Clewloes Bank - Cllr Batson to chase up. - Result of playground inspection – Cllr Krawiecki discussed his experience and explained that a risk assessment is required to assess hazards etc. He will continue to inspect. The work recommended from the inspection needs to be completed. Clerk explained that reasonable checks must be conducted and documented. Cllr Krawiecki will produce a risk assessment detailing hazards etc. and share with all Cllrs. Cllr Krawiecki agreed to contact Rospa to obtain a quote for the work to be conducted. Clerk suggested a sign could be displayed with Parish Council details to raise any concerns with equipment, area etc. Cllr Knowles suggested a sign to state ‘use equipment at own risk’ consensus was that this would not be suitable due to public liability. Clerk to create wording for sign and to obtain quote. - GOV.UK email, website, and Parish Online website – Cllr Knowles does not think website is used often but thinks we should get count information if possible and find out what Parishioners use it for. Cllr Knowles suggested that a Facebook page would be a good idea. GOV.UK	Clerk to email Cllr's for further information required for conservation. Cllr Batson to follow up. Cllr Krawiecki to produce risk assessment. Cllr Krawiecki to contact Rospa for quote. To send wording for sign to Cllr's and obtain quote.

	individual emails must be set up. Clerk discussed quotes received from Parish Online and Easywebsites. Cllr Batson asked Cllr Knowles to consider the way forward in the next 4 weeks. - Update from Town and Parish Councils Working Group meeting – Cllr Knowles informed all that 3 Cllrs had attended various presentations on proposed devolution plans. Recommendations SMDC has put forward out of four is a North and South Staffordshire plan. Cllr Knowles explained the different areas and population sizes. Cllr Knowles is part of the Town and Parish Council working group, the purpose of this is to help Town and Parish Councils to work together better. The last meeting attended was primarily about Devolution. Cllr Knowles questioned Stoke on Trent's debt and explained that they had received a loan not a grant. Stoke on Trent City Council is 9.3 million overspent this quarter. Concerns locally about SMDC providing more housing, Chief Exec for SMDC Andrew Stokes states this is not an issue as they are going to be looking at the A50 corridor for most of the housing requirements. Cllr Knowles also states the council tax bands were a concern and was told they will be harmonised. This was confusing, concerns were that Staffordshire Moorland residents would be paying more. Cllr Knowles asked about Greenbelt and BESS sites being Greybelt, he was told that this was incorrect. He stated his concerns about Greenbelt in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Cllr Knowles asked about a resident's survey, he was told that this would be online, he suggested this was done as hard copies and again was told it was not possible. Cllr Knowles also explained how the merger with Stoke-on-Trent would work with numbers of Councillors. From the Parish Council's susceptible, we would be concerned about our assets for e.g. Bagnall playing field could become an asset of Stoke on Trent. A job for Parish Council is to preserve our assets. Cllr Batson mentioned a report from BBC stating that the costs would be huge to complete devolution. Cllr Knowles discussed a question and answers document received, see below.  LGR Impact on PC - Copy.pdf - Devolution - Cllrs Ralphs congratulated Cllr Knowles for information given about devolution. Cllrs Ralphs discussed where Devolution came from in depth and the reasons behind it. She believes that this is all about control and will result in large Unitary Authorities with	Cllr Knowles to consider options for GOV.UK email address and website.
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	Cllrs being responsible for up to five hundred people. She believes that Parish and Town Council will go. The cost to divide the authorities will cost millions. Cllr Ralphs mentioned with the current changes in government she feels that there may be changes to come in relation to Devolution. Cllr Ralphs discussed information seen in the newspaper about crime rates in Stoke on Trent being the most dangerous place to live in the Midlands. Cllr Ralphs discussed the debt in Stoke on Trent in depth and how well budgets were managed in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Cllr Ralphs hope that people will come together and say no to Devolution. • Use of Parish land for advertising – Cllr Knowles reminded all about the long-standing agreement that no one can use the village green for the purpose of advertising. A request had been received to use the village green. For a request to be granted a decision would need to be agreed by the Parish Council to allow this to happen going forward. Cllr Knowles is concerned and does not want the flood gates to be opened. Cllr Ralphs explained the reasons behind the decision originally. Cllr Knowles stated that a robust structure must be put in place and agrees that the Parish Council should support local Bagnall Community Groups. Cllr Krawiecki explained the reasons for the request and the importance of advertising to raise funds. Any future applications for advertising must go through the Clerk. Clerk to discuss with conservation. Cllr Krawiecki states that this is an exception purely for the benefit of the community and will pass the information to the Village Hall committee. • Highway Routine maintenance/weedkilling and sweeping – Cllr Batson has chased with Cllr Edwards twice. Email received awaiting response from Cllr Edwards. Cllr Batson is very frustrated and does not think it is his responsibility to chase this. Cllr Batson is working on this and will be raising a complaint. • Cllr Knowles discussed gritting. Cllr Batson informed Cllr Knowles that gritting is a Staffordshire County Council's responsibility. • Cllr Ralphs offered to order grit for Jack Haye Lane.	
25/09/126	To receive a report from police	
	• Police did not attend, no report received.	
25/09/127	To receive a report from SMDC District Cllr, County Cllr	

	(if available)	
	- No attendance or report received from SMDC District Cllr Edwards. - Apologies received for County Cllr Egginton through Parishioner. Cllr Batson explained that apologies must go through the Clerk in future.	
25/09/128	Account/Finance: To Consider/Approve	
	Cllr Batson approved and signed off August invoices.	
25/09/129	Planning Reports	
	- Gate access at Jacksons Nursery – No further action. - Croney Bank – Site visit imminent. - BESS sites – No significant movements on the sites in Bagnall - Three planning reports received since last meeting- no objections raised.	
25/09/130	Footpaths	
	- Tompkin – still waiting for Cheddleton Working party to come back to us. - FP6 – Still with Northen Footpaths. - Two new gates delivered to replace two damaged styles. - Cllr Knowles asked about gate at FP20. Cllr Batson states that this will have to be funded by the Parish Council.	
25/09/131	Highways	
	Discussed in Matters Arising.	
29/09/132	Devolution	
	- Cllrs Ralphs updated on Devolution under matters arising. - Cllr Batson wanted to make us aware of the Stoke-on-Trent five-year plan, this went over for consultation on the 8th of September. Cllr Ralphs suggested putting the plan on the website.	
25/09/133	Defib	
	- Cllr Knowles clarified points from the previous meeting. - No further funds will be provided, as confirmed by the Ombudsman. - Defib taken from village Hall. Cllr Knowles was told by AED that this was re-usable, however there would	

	need to a cabinet and electricity supply. Additional free cabinet could not be obtained. • Procuring a further defib for a certain lane. Should the Parish Council proceed with this action, it would be necessary to implement similar measures on numerous additional lanes. This is not possible. • Cllr Knowles asked Cllr Krawecki about guardians. Nothing was agreed about who the guardians are. • Clerk to write to AED to I ask who the guardians are for both machines. Councillors should not be responsible for Defibs.	Clerk to write to AED