

# BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 8 September 2015

Moorlands Village Hall  
School Road  
Bagnall  
Staffordshire Moorlands

**Present:**

Cllr Peter Lawley (Chairman)  
Cllr David Pearson

Cllr Sybil Ralphs  
Cllr Ken Simpson

**In attendance:**

Denise Cooper (Clerk)

**Apologies**

Cllr Mark Butler  
Cllr Andrew Batson  
Cllr Frank Hayes

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

Cllr Peter Lawley expressed an interest in relation to any discussions around Local Forward Plan.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Peter Lawley stated that he had been made aware of comments regarding his interests in relation to the Local Plan and whether or not his position as Chair of the Parish Council put him at an advantage. He asked the Cllrs present if they wished him to relinquish his post as Chairman.

Cllrs felt that the process in relation to the Local Plan had been transparent and that Cllr Lawley had not taken part in any discussions or influenced decisions in any way. Unanimously Cllrs stated that they were in support of him remaining as Chairman.

15.45 **Matters Arising**

**Local Plan**

Cllr Dave Pearson lead on discussions as Cllr Lawley withdrew.

Following the last meeting, the Parish Council sent a letter to reiterate its view as stated in our original letter sent in August 2014. Copies of both letters are available

on the Parish Council's website.

A separate meeting was called by residents who had been made aware that alongside the three legitimate sites within the consultation documentation, some additional sites had been put forward which were not part of the consultation. Cllr Sybil Ralphs confirmed that this was the case, but emphasised that all the sites would be considered by SMDC and the preferred sites would form part of a second consultation exercise next year upon which the Parish Council would be able to express its views. No sites would by-pass this second consultation. SMDC recognised that not all the land owners of the sites would wish to sell their land, and an approach would be made to them prior to the consultation next year if their land was one of the preferred sites.

#### **Contamination of fields off Old Mill Lane**

SMDC has inspected the ménage development and deemed the material used to in-fill as suitable. However, the fields are still being flooded and Mr Simpson, rather than the ménage owners, has been asked to install drainage. Mr Simpson has photographic evidence of the materials used and will present this at the meeting with SMDC to discuss the situation.

#### **14.13.4 – Quarry adjoining Pointon's Land**

The Parish Council was not aware of the progress that Cllr Andrew Batson had made in securing the assistance of National England with this case. However, they felt that this issue should be prioritised. Cllr Sybil Ralphs will seek legal advice from SMDC around our position; in the meantime the Clerk was asked to write to Pointon's again to re-affirm our position.

15.46

### **Finances**

#### **15.37.1 – Invoices**

The following invoices were received and payment agreed.

- Clerk's Salary - £112.00
- Jackson's Nurseries - £743.94
- Parish OnLine – annual fees - £33.60

The Clerk has ascertained the process for the Playing Field loan repayments. Interest is accrued daily on the outstanding amount, so assuming there are no principal repayments of the initial £20,000 by 12 February 2016, the interest due will be £700.00 and an invoice will be issued to the Parish Council nearer this date.

Capital prepayments can be made throughout the life of the loan. Formal notice of the intention of any prepayments should be provided, and prepayment shall be in an amount of not less than £1,000.

Cllr Pearson stated that as the rent on the playing fields had been £750 over 99 years, the payment of £700 was a saving of £50 per year. He felt that the Parish Council had effected a considerable saving by purchasing the playing fields, but felt that capital prepayment should be made on a regular basis to further reduce the interest amount. Cllrs agreed a repayment of £5,000 and this will be actioned a little later in the year.

15.47

## Planning

- SMD/2015/0026 – Bagnall Grange Farm, Tompkin Road, Stanley  
Conversion of a two-storey brick and stone building with a plain tile roof to form two dwellings
- SMD/2015/0027 – Bagnall Grange Farm, Tompkin Road, Stanley  
Conversion of barn to form a single dwelling

These two applications were supported.

- SMD/2015/0457 – Greensleeves, The Green, Bagnall  
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension

This application was supported.

- SMD/2015/0838 – Endon Riding Stables, Stanley Moss Lane, Stockton Brook  
Outline permission with some matters reserved (except access) for part demolition of existing building provision of up to 10 no. dwelling houses with ancillary facilities and associated infrastructure

Although the plans for this development had not been received by the Parish Council for their consultation, following the meeting a copy was secured. The Parish Council had no objections in principle to the development of the brown fields element, ie within the original building curtilage, but concerns remain around traffic flow on narrow roads and particularly around this junction where visibility is severely impaired. There are also concerns around the parking available for three of the units. Our comments were submitted to SMDC prior to the Planning Committee meeting.

Although the Officers' recommendation was to refuse permission, the SMDC Planning Committee voted 6 for and 6 against; the Chairman made a casting vote in favour of the application. However, due to a planning anomaly the application will have to be put before the Planning Committee again on 17 September 2015.

15.48

## Footpaths

### 15.30.01 – Footpath 32

The Clerk has written to Paul Rochfort and been advised that the Rangers will inspect the footpath. However, the County Council has a backlog of path problems awaiting inspection owing to a temporary reduction in staffing. At present, resources are being prioritised in favour of public safety issues and promoted routes. He is endeavouring to resolve issues as quickly as possible, but they may take a little longer than normal.

### 15.04.02 – Footpath 28

The Clerk has written to Paul Rochfort and been advised that a job sheet for the County Works to undertake clearance of the footpath has been put in place.

### 14.101.2 – Dogs in Rural Areas

Cllr Simpson's quotation was accepted and once the wording has been obtained from the National Farmers' Association he will progress the work.

15.49 **Highways**

**15.34 – Winter maintenance**

Cllr Ralphs advised that she has arranged for the grit bins to be filled and an additional amount will be delivered to Manor House Farm for storage. She stated that due to financial cuts, the winter maintenance programme may be reduced and it was therefore important that the village had sufficient supply to ensure roads were gritted.

15.50 **Maintenance**

**15.23.01 – Western Power**

Western Power has not commenced tree work within the Parish.

**15.23.03 – Playing Fields**

Following a site visit, an area of flooding has been found that presents a health and safety issue. Cllr Ralphs will chase the contractors to ensure this is dealt with as quickly as possible.

It has also been suggested that the position of the swings is moved slightly; Cllrs had no objections to this happening. An appropriate surface will be put in place in this area.

There have been some rumours spread around the village that the land is being cleared for a building and will be the new Stoke on Trent Sports Academy. Cllrs wish to re-assure residents that there will not be any buildings on the field.

Cllr Lawley has not been able to access the field to remove the concrete fence posts on the perimeter of the playing fields.

15.51 **Environment**

No issues were raised.

15.52 **Correspondence**

- SMDC
  - Various agenda / minutes of meetings
  - Register to Vote Posters – for display in notice boards
- David Clowes – Playing field access. Cllrs stated that there had been some confusion as there had not been an intention to install an access gate into his fields.

15.53 **Any Other Business**

**15.44 – Solar Farms**

The Parish Council has made Endon With Stanley Parish aware that they will support their views once they had voted on an official application.

**15.17.01 – Defibrillator / maintenance of the Phone Box**

Although Cllrs felt it important to provide this facility, full research needed to be undertaken. Therefore it was essential that Cllr Andrew Batson established a sub-committee as a priority and presented his report to the Council shortly thereafter.

Cllr Lawley will liaise with Cllr Batson around this.

Cllr Lawley has made enquiries with SMDC regarding the phone boxes being listed and whether or not we could utilise them for a defibrillator. A response is still awaited.

Cllrs were made aware that West Midlands Air Ambulance was making available defibrillators at a cost of £1,500.00. Further information will be obtained and included within discussions.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13 October 2015, 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed .....(Chairman)

Dated: 13 October 2015