

Bagnall Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Tuesday 11 March 2008 Moorlands Village Hall, Bagnall

Present

Cllr David Pearson (Chair)
Cllr Frank Hayes
Cllr Peter Lawley

Cllr Peter Adams
Cllr Roy Hewson
Cllr Sybil Ralphs

In Attendance:

Cllr Christina Jebb
Denise Cooper (Minute Clerk)
5 Members of the public

08.19 Apologies

Cllr Ken Simpson

Other commitments

08.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 12 February 2008

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

08.21 Matters Arising not on agenda

There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

08.22 Finance issues

Invoice for £50.00 for Mrs Cooper's fees was submitted. Payment was agreed.

A quotation for the Lengthman's programme had been received, in the sum of £2,445 and this will be passed to Cllr Simpson for agreement.

Staffordshire County Council is adopting payment to all suppliers by BACS (Bank Automated Credit System). It was agreed to forward our bank details.

08.23 Planning Applications

Full permission for development has been received for

- White Gate, Clewloes Bank Bagnall
Two storey side/rear extension

Planning application has been received for

- Land off Clewloes Bank, Bagnall
Erection of stable block, creation of horse exercise area and turning facility

The Parish Council could not support this application. There is insufficient detail on materials, etc, inadequate acreage to accommodate the number of horses and concerns on the impact upon the public right of way were raised, particularly given the volatile nature of the applicant.

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Bagnall Heights

Cllr Pearson tabled a letter he had prepared, addressed to Mr Lomas at Bagnall Heights, detailing the steps that the Parish Council had taken in pursuing the construction of a footpath around Bagnall Heights. The letter was agreed.

Cllr Ralphs provided a brief history of the development, referring to a letter from Mr Derry dated 18 August 2006, a copy of which will be forwarded to the Bagnall Heights Residents' Association. She added that the installation of the footpath was currently being held up by a legal wrangle between solicitors around the maintenance agreement of the footpath.

Cllr Jebb added that the Staffordshire County Council is awaiting receipt of the agreement and cannot proceed until this agreement had been endorsed and only the District Council could expedite the matter. The latest information is that the Bagnall Heights' solicitors require some variation to the agreement that is not acceptable to the County Council. She has been in discussion with Mr Green and it would seem the only way forward is to issue an Enforcement Order. Cllr Ralphs stated that this could take approximately twelve months, and hoped that a resolution could be found without resorting to this measure.

Concerns were raised regarding the installation of a lay-by on School Road for use by the bus. It was felt by both Bagnall Heights' residents and Councillors that this could be used for 'other purposes' and was neither necessary nor included within the original planning conditions. Cllr Jebb will make enquiries and advise the Parish Council accordingly.

Following a suggestion by Cllr Ralphs, Cllr Jebb agreed to extend an invitation to Mr Derry to attend the next meeting. Cllr Ralphs will ensure that Mr Green attends.

There was consensus amongst Councillors that the development was very welcome within the parish, it was a shame it has been tainted by the delays in the erection of a footpath.

The meeting was opened to the Public

Residents from Bagnall Heights concurred with the issues raised by Councillors and expressed their frustration at the delays. This frustration had culminated in contact with the local media.

08.24 Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance issues

07.48(ii) – Bin by the Ford

The draft map will be brought to the next meeting for agreement. Once endorsed it will be presented to Mr Drage for installation.

06.49(ii) – Well on Thorney Edge Lane

Cllr Hewson had obtained information on the expenditure involved in using the Small Claims Court. However, until the work has been undertaken and an invoice received we have no recourse to this facility. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Pearson would apply for a grant towards the cost of the remedial work. Once the work had been undertaken and we were successful in obtaining recompense from the vehicle owner, the monies would be returned to the grant fund.

07.77(i) – Bagnall Road – Local Action Group

The Parish Council advised Cllr Jebb that there was some confusion on the boundaries between the Local Area Group and Parish Council responsibilities, which had resulted in some duplication. It had come to light that some issues concerning Bagnall parish had been discussed, and actions agreed, without the courtesy of involving the Parish Council. An invitation to attend a meeting of the Local Area Group had been received with only one day's notice, but at a point in the discussions when it was not possible to influence decisions. Cllr Jebb

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apologised for the Parish Council's lack of involvement, this was due to an administrative oversight in inviting them from the inception of the group. Cllrs raised concern at the confidentiality of discussions at the meeting and the fact that some Local Area Groups were Politically motivated. Cllr Ralphs advised that the District Council was also concerned and a review is currently taking place to determine the part these forums play within communities.

07.95(i) – Pot Hole road repairs

Cllr Simpson has reported these to the Highways Department, together with a few other highways related issues, and we are awaiting the results of their investigations.

07.113(i) – Concrete posts around the Horse Chestnut green

In view of the problem in matching the posts to existing, it was suggested that the posts on the side opposite the former Post Office be removed and redistribute on the remaining sides. A formal agreement will be made at the next meeting.

08.24(i) – Seats within the village

It was agreed that Cllrs Lawley and Pearson will investigate the condition of the seats and put in place remedial work to ensure they are suitable for use.

08.25 Environmental Issues

There is an abundance of rubbish being dumped within the parish. Cllrs Hayes and Hewson have reported this to the Highways Department and arranged for it to be cleared.

Cllr Simpson has requested the Highways Department remove leaves in the road.

Cllr Adams stated that despite providing Mr Drage with feedback on his Bagnall Conservation document, this had not been incorporated. After discussion it was agreed to invite Mr Drage to a future meeting to discuss this further.

08.26 Correspondence

- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Review of polling places
- Staffordshire County Council – Change of focus for Staffordshire's recycling centres
- Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – SPCA membership. Declined
- Staffordshire County Council – Requirements for the installation of seasonal attachments to street light equipment
- Staffordshire County Council – Rights of Way: Improvement Plan for Staffordshire. Cllr Adams agreed to review and feedback
- Enjoy England – Celebrate St George's Day. This information had arrived too late, but would be retained for next year
- Letter of resignation from Cllr Hewson, effective from the May meeting. Cllr Pearson thanked Cllr Hewson for his invaluable contribution to the community and his presence on the Parish Council would be missed
- Community Council of Staffordshire - Newsletter

08.27 Any Other Business

- There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed(Chairman)

Date: 8 April 2008

DB

13 March 2008