

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Mr Mason advised of the site meetings held and the endless discussions and he blamed the Developers and their legal team for the delay – delay in submitting the amendments; the specification of works; appointing an approved contractor; the signing of the Section 111 Agreement and the Bond. He explained about the Safety Audit and the fact that although it was a standard agreement the Solicitors did not want to enter into a Section 111 Agreement. They had raised queries about the fees for the Safety Audit, the 12-month maintenance agreement; the insurance for the works; the bus stop; and the adoption of the footway, and these queries were holding up the signing of the Section 111 Agreement – pushing for amendments which will not be accepted. Mr Mason re-iterated the need for the developers to sign the agreements.

Mr Vincent explained that the speed of traffic on Bagnall Road and the bus stop were a major concern and they were only trying to get a safe footway for the residents. He explained that Mr Jefferies only worked two days a week and Mr Wrench's absence had been the cause of some delay, but only by one month.

Mr Green advised that Enforcement is not a quick process and if this cause of action is deemed necessary getting the necessary information may involve residents. A resident expressed concern about Enforcement taking a long time – they had already waited eighteen months for the footway and all they had were promises.

Mr Vincent gave his assurance that the funding was in place, they were led by their team. There had been a delay in signing the Section 111 Agreement, but they had costs and an insurable interest to consider, but the agreement was now ready to sign. Mr Mason advised of the costs. A resident advised that they had heard it so many times before and he asked, on behalf of the elderly and the infirm, for a conclusion.

Cllr Adams raised the question: what actually is going to be done? Mr Mason gave an account of the works – there would be no lay-by, the new footway would be kerbed with beanie blocks for drainage purposes and there would be improvements by the bus stop. Cllr Ralphs asked if consideration could also be given to improving the junction. Visibility was restricted because of the height of the wall, but if the trees could be reduced in height it would help to improve the visibility. Mr Mason advised that this could not be done as part of the development. Mr Green suggested the need for it to be looked at.

A resident questioned if the new footway would create further problems. The footway positioned 1.3 metres from the wall may force drivers over thus causing further problems at the junction. It was suggested that the white lining at School Road needed to be looked at and if the grass verge was removed it would make it safer. It was suggested that the Parish Council needed to write to Mr Greatbach, Staffordshire County Council to ask for improvements at the junction. Cllr Hayes advised that Mr Greatbach was aware of the problems. It was generally agreed that a 40mph speed limit on Bagnall Road would also help.

A resident asked for a timescale for the works. Mr Vincent gave his assurance that he would speak with Staffordshire County Council the following day in order to progress the matter. The paperwork could be signed within two weeks.

The Chairman thanked the Officers and the residents for their attendance.

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08.32 Finance issues

The following invoice was issued and authorised for payment –

- Allianz Insurance plc – Local Council Insurance Policy £414.80

Following discussions it was agreed that a copy of the schedule should be issued to members a for their perusal and the Clerk to advise of the increase from the previous year.

08.33 Planning Applications

Planning Applications had been received for

- Manor House Farm, The Village Bagnall
Porch
- Stanley Villa B, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook
Single storey rear extension and detached garage.

Cllr Lawley declared an interest and withdrew from the discussions concerning the first application. The Parish Council supported both the above applications.

08.34 Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance issues

07.95(i) – Pot Hole road repairs

Cllr Simpson advised that he had spoken with Mr Pickering and had been assured that the works would be carried out on Monday. Cllr Hewson stated that he would take up the issue of erosions in the vicinity of Bank House with the appropriate authority.

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

It was reported that Mr P Weston was prepared to make the posts, however, he had noticed a similar post on a Wain's vehicle and he was making the necessary enquiries. Cllr Adams reports that if Mr Weston is unable to locate this type of post he may have one or maybe two that could be used. The resident who caused the damage was eager to get the matter sorted therefore it was agreed that the works should be carried out as soon as possible.

08.24(i) – Seats within the village

Cllr Lawley reported finding a broken seat. It was agreed to carry out the necessary repair work.

08.34(i) – Footpath 26

Cllr Simpson reported that horses had chewed the sign and the fence. Cllr Simpson was asked to make a list and to take Arne Swithenbank on a tour to look at all the problems.

08.34(ii) – Footpath 28

Cllr Simpson reported that a tree had come down and was causing an obstruction on the footpath. Cllr Ralphs advised that she would arrange for Arne Swithenbank to meet with Cllr Simpson to discuss the problems.

08.34(iii) – Stile by The Ford

Cllr Simpson reported a stile blocked up by the Ford, the sign was missing and the stile had been taken out. Cllr Hayes advised that the stile had been replaced with one that had been made. Cllr Simpson suggested that the stile was not negotiable.

08.34(iv) – Playing Fields Damage

Cllr Pearson reported that damage had been caused to the swings, the stile and the kick boards and all needed urgent works. Members agreed to look at the damage and carry out the necessary repairs, in order to make the items safe. It was also agreed to alert the police to the damage caused.

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08.35 Environmental Issues

08.25 – Cllr Hays reported that the rubbish had all been removed.

Cllr Adams reported that because of its condition the tree on Thorney Edge Lane would have to be felled.

Cllr Adams referred to the correspondence forwarded to Mr Drage and advised that he was still awaiting a response. Cllr Ralphs reported that Mr Drage was on annual leave, however, she too was anxious to walk the villae and if agreed she would follow the matter up. The Parish Council agreed.

08.36 Correspondence

- Standards Board – Town and Parish Standard, Newsletter
- Time2Time – Newsletter

08.37 Any Other Business

- Cllr Adams asked if the Playing Field could be on the Agenda as a regular item until the matter has been resolved. The matter needed debating, the land needed protecting in perpetuity and the Council needed to examine and discuss the lease and agree a way forward. Cllr Hayes advised that he would not be able to attend the May meeting therefore he would like the matter discussed at the June Meeting. Following discussions it was agreed to include the item on the agenda for the June meeting.
- Cllr Lawley reported that a litter pick was being arranged. Cllr Ralphs advised of the works carried out under the Community Pride initiative and they had resources and could provide gadgets and a team. This would be investigated in time for the Fete. Cllr Pearson declared an interest.
- Cllr Hayes referred to a disturbing article printed in a national newspaper concerning a proposed increase in Council Tax based on whether you have a nice view or have had essential or cosmetic improvements, etc. If correct it would affect those living in the rural areas and he had written to Cllr Ralphs requesting she investigate and bring back the answers to the questions raised. He asked the Parish Council to endorse his actions. The Parish Council agreed. Cllr Ralphs agreed to investigate and report back. A copy of the letter was issued for the Clerk's records.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed(Chairman)

Date:

JP
16 April 2008