

These Minutes are draft and subject to approval at the next meeting.

**Bagnall Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 14th July 2009
Moorlands Village Hall, Bagnall**

Present

Cllr Peter Lawley (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Batson
Cllr Dave Pearson

Cllr Peter Adams
Cllr Frank Hayes
Cllr Ken Simpson

In Attendance

Roger Miller (Minute Clerk)
Ruth Reeves, SMDC
2 members of the public

09.60 Apologies

Cllr Sybil Ralphs – holiday

09.61 Minutes of meeting held on 9th June 2009

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

09.62 Matters Arising

08.44 - Bus Shelter

In the absence of Cllr Ralphs, possible assumption of bus shelter management by Staffordshire Moorlands Council was deferred.

09.32 Insurance

Cllr Lawley had obtained a quote from RoSPA to inspect the playground equipment. It was resolved unanimously that the Secretary accept their price of £63 plus vat and complete the necessary paperwork to get the job done.

It was agreed that insured values would be reviewed when the time came to renew parish insurances.

Cllr Batson had established that a claim could not be made for any of the bus shelter costs

09.56(ii) Posts

Cllr Pearson undertook to explore further the matter of the broken post by the memorial cross. Cllr Batson had undertaken an informal inspection of all the posts round the green. Unsurprisingly after well over 20 years they were showing signs of deterioration. There was no apparent urgent need for remedial action but review should remain an agenda item.

09.56(iii) Trees on the Green

Cllr Simpson reported a tree surgeon's view that the trees on the green although old were generally sound. A branch that had given rise to the initial disquiet would be better pruned than altogether removed. Cllr Pearson would establish whether the SMDC tree officer had arranged a formal inspection.

09.63 Finance

(i) Lengthsman

Invoices had been received from Jackson Nurseries for work undertaken during the three months April to June. It was unanimously resolved that they be paid, but that Jacksons be asked to itemise their activity on remaining invoices for the year.

(ii) Clerk

The Clerk submitted an invoice for £313.65 to cover three months work and expenses together with the subscription to the Society of Clerks, which was approved for payment.

(iii) An invitation to subscribe to the Community Council of Staffordshire was declined.

09.64 Planning Applications

There were no planning matters for consideration

09.65 Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance

(i) Ford

A combination of matters justified bringing the ford at the foot of Springs Bank back on the agenda. A long promised drain had not been installed, vegetation growth had become excessive and damage, apparently arising from some heavy vehicle turning, had been noted. Councillors would discuss options informally amongst themselves and with other interested parties.

09.66 Environment

(i) Survey

SMDC had offered to try to increase the Parish Council's knowledge of public opinion about Bagnall by conducting a survey and the offer had been accepted. A limited test of opinion had been made by presenting questionnaires to Bagnall residents visiting the recent Chestnut Fete and to residents of Bagnall Heights. Ruth Reeves, Locality Partnership Officer, presented the key results. Whilst it would be wrong to draw detailed conclusions from a small sample it had emerged strongly from young and old, men and women respondents that they thought conserving village heritage, a clean and tidy village and more activities for local people were top priorities. Significant interest was also expressed in specific matters such as playing fields and public transport.

A possible method of building on this initial survey, responding to a call for more information that had emerged from it and perhaps stimulating more participation would be to reintroduce a parish newsletter. Publication of a predecessor had ceased some years ago, apparently partly because parishioners deemed it too expensive for its worth and partly because of delivery difficulties outside the village. It was thought appropriate to explore whether, in the public interest, these difficulties could be overcome and something issued perhaps quarterly. It appeared that launch costs and substantial help with editing a first edition would be available from SMDC. Several councillors agreed to continue informal discussions with Ruth Reeves about practicality, substance and sustainability of a newsletter.

(ii) Field 1685

A complaint was presented by members of the public that field No 1685 on the road from Bagnall Heights towards Werrington was beginning to be used inappropriately. A caravan had arrived. It was resolved that the Secretary ask the SMDC enforcement officer to inspect.

(iii) Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Pearson noted that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme had effectively ceased to operate. He wondered whether revival might be practicable and useful. Mr Rickard at

SMDC might be willing to come to present the latest version. It was agreed that this be added to the list of survey topics to be considered.

09.67 Correspondence

- *Beat the Cold* had yet to respond to an invitation to address the Parish Council and the Secretary would contact them again
- Suspension of meetings of the Wetley Moor joint committee pending reorganisation was noted
- Invitations had been received to Cheddleton Parish Council civic service on 26th July. No councillor was free to attend and the Clerk would reply accordingly.
- Minutes of the Parish Assembly and a next meeting date of 10th September were noted.
- A schedule of Staffs Parish Council training sessions included one in November on budgets and precepts that it might be appropriate for the Clerk who had not been through the process before to attend.
- The creation of a Moorlands Multi Agency Problem Solving Group, to deal with matters that existing agencies and hotlines did not, was noted.

09.68 Other Business

There were no other matters

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed(Chairman)

Date: