

These Minutes are subject to verification at the next meeting of the Parish Council

Bagnall Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 13th October 2009 Moorlands Village Hall, Bagnall

Present

Cllr Peter Lawley (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Batson
Cllr Ken Simpson

Cllr Peter Adams
Cllr Frank Hayes

In Attendance

Roger Miller (Minute Clerk)
3 members of the public

09.87 Apologies

Cllr Dave Pearson (holiday), Cllr Sybil Ralphs

09.88 Minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2009

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

09.89 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

08.120 – Playing Field

It was desirable to publicise the intentions of the Parish Council and seek public comment and also assistance in fund raising if its plans are adopted. Cllr Hayes expected to receive very soon from Ruth Reeves an outline of a revived local newsletter revival intended for publication at the end of October. He would ensure that appropriate publicity was included. Cllr Lawley would provide details of other village activities.

Others concerned with the playing field urged a much broader discussion of options than just how funds might be found for purchase and would like those concerns also reflected in the newsletter, on the village hall website or in any other way designed to encourage general participation.

09.56(iii) – Trees on the Green

Cllr Simpson reported that written consent had been obtained from SMDC for the proposed work to trees on the green. It was agreed that he obtain two more quotes from the list of qualified people provided.

09.73 – Wind Turbine

Councillors had raised this matter at the Moorlands Assembly and been advised that it was now out of the planning department's hands, consent having been given. It was decided to continue to use the press and other means of publicity (as had been done since SMDC's initial failure to respond to parish councillors' earlier enquiries) and encourage the general public also to write in the hope that the successful applicant might decide not to go ahead with the project. At the same time Cllr Batson would establish whether there might be any recourse to the Secretary of State.

09.81 Playing Fields Association

The Clerk reported that he could not detect sufficient benefits in membership of the National Playing Fields Association to justify an £80 membership fee. It was therefore resolved not to rejoin unless subsequent evidence emerged that it would be wise to do so.

09.83 Pavement

Cllr Jebb had written to say that she had arranged an inspection tour and pressed the County Council to attend promptly to repair of the footpath by the church together with remedying one or two other deficiencies noted on the same tour. The Clerk was asked to write to thank Cllr Jebb and ask that if possible other Councillors be told of any future inspections so that they could join in.

09.90 Finance

(i) Playground Survey

A bill for £94.95 from Playsafe, who had conducted a survey on behalf of RoSPA, was paid and their report passed to the chairman.

(ii) Lengthsman

Cllr Simpson had persuaded Jacksons to itemise what they had done to date this year and this month's bill, slightly lower at £326.26, was authorised for payment. Payment of the two earlier bills, for July and August, totalling £803.30 was also noted. One grass cut remains this year and leaf clearance when the leaves fall.

The Clerk had submitted the claim forms for the half year lengthsman activity to SMDC.

(iii) Budget

It was noted that the budget for next year on which a precept would be based was due in December and the Clerk would be away for the November meeting. He was asked to base a draft budget on this year's and circulate it with the minutes for discussion at the November meeting.

(iv) Banking

Banking arrangements had not been adjusted since the appointment of a new Clerk in May and that was now causing administrative difficulties. A fresh mandate was circulated.

09.91 Planning Applications

No new applications required consideration. It was noted that the agricultural livestock building at Manor House Farm had been set back by a technical issue and would require a fresh assertion that there was no objection. Cllrs Simpson and Pearson would deal with that.

09.92 Footpaths, Highways & Maintenance

09.25(i) – Footpath 28

Cllr Simpson reported that earlier efforts had been in vain and horse riders were still galloping along this footpath, which was likely to cause an accident. There was further discussion about what might be done and a chicane to slow riders down was suggested. This would require action by the County Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Jebb setting out the problem and seeking help to find a solution.

09.83(ii) Heavy Vehicles

Consideration since the September meeting of difficulties posed by heavy vehicles seeking to use inappropriate routes had given rise to no obvious solution but it was resolved that the Clerk raise with Cllr Jebb what the County Council might recommend and do about warning signs.

Clewlows Bank

A report had been received that a footpath from Clewlows Bank had been compromised by horse manure and additional fencing. Cllrs Batson and Simpson would investigate.

Historic Road

A member of the public was very concerned that earlier efforts by the Parish Council to preserve parts of the historic road to Abbey Hulton had not been successful. He strongly urged further work, especially in the light of the greater care for such things he believed existed in adjacent counties. It was suggested after some discussion that a petition might be

more appropriate and effective than additional representations from a Parish Council to which the County Council had already made its position clear.

09.93 Environment

Fly Tipping

A fresh incident, furniture by the ford, was noted. Cllr Simpson would arrange for removal.

09.94 Correspondence

- Notice of a reorganised Wetley Moor consultative panel, together with a request to appoint a representative to attend an inaugural meeting before Christmas. Cllr Adams would represent Bagnall.
- Notice from Staffordshire Moorlands Community & Voluntary Services of a *Leader* programme designed to provide funding for sustainable communities, heritage and environment up to 75% of a £3,000 project. The sort of things envisaged were provision or improvement of services, village renewal or development, conservation projects and training sessions. There were no immediate prospects of using this fund but it was to be considered if funding were in due course required.
- Notice of parish assembly on 3rd December at Moorlands House
- Letter from the new Chief Constable expressing thanks for parish councils' contributions to public safety and inviting their views.
- Notice of introduction by Staffs CC of neighbourhood highway teams. It is intended that a team visit each parish at least three times a year, after discussion about local priorities, to help with footpath and highways maintenance.
- Staffordshire Parish Councils Association publicity material
- SMDC event publicity leaflets
- Letter from Mr Hewson advocating reestablishment of the neighbourhood watch scheme, using the revived newsletter to encourage participation.

09.95 Other Business

At an immediately preceding briefing meeting, Mr Chadwick of Beat the Cold had asked for Parish Council support for their initiative. In particular, information about parish activity to print on the back of Beat the Cold material was requested. It was decided that the initiative would be supported and Cllr Adams would assemble parish material to be printed.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed(Chairman)

Date: