

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

Bagnall Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 15th December 2009 Moorlands Village Hall, Bagnall

Present

Cllr Andrew Batson
Cllr Dave Pearson

Cllr Frank Hayes

In Attendance Roger Miller (Clerk)

09.105 Apologies

Cllr Peter Adams, Cllr Peter Lawley, Cllr Ken Simpson, Cllr Sybil Ralphs
Cllr Lawley had been ill and the Council wished him a speedy and complete recovery.

09.106 Minutes

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

09.107 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

08.120 Playing Field

Parishoners' views in response to an article in the parish newsletter were still being collected so full discussion of this item was postponed until January. Meanwhile the Clerk was asked to acknowledge a letter received from the chairman of the village hall committee. It was evident that SMDC was keen to know how the Parish Council intended to proceed but that an intention, as distinct from a firm aspiration, could not be stated until it was clearer where funding for a purchase might come from. A number of fund raising possibilities were discussed and the Clerk was asked to look into the availability of mortgages in such cases. It had for some time been evident that a charity would be necessary if playing field finance were to have any chance of benefiting from grants from charitable trusts or similar funds and the Clerk was asked to look at establishing one, with a view to subsequent applications.

09.56 Trees on the Green

Three quotations had been received. It appeared that the lowest should be accepted but a decision was deferred to allow for all Councillors to review the options.

09.66 Survey

It was reported that surveys had been returned to four collection points in the village and Ruth Reeves was collating responses.

09.73 Wind Turbine

Further representations about the proposed wind turbine had been made in the Leek Post & Times and elsewhere and parishoners' views, called for in the newsletter, were awaited.

09.108 Finance

(i) Payments

The Clerk was to discuss a lengthsman invoice with Cllr Simpson.

The Clerk's payment for the quarter to October of £240 plus £25.55 of expenses was approved for payment.

(ii) Budget

It was evident that to balance the budget in the coming year some increase in precept must be requested. A decision was deferred until the January meeting in order that all Councillors might share in it. Since that left just a few days to the submission deadline, the Clerk would tell SMDC what was intended.

09.109 Planning Applications

SLW/09/00973 Detached Dwelling, Hedge Croft Farm: no objection

SLW/09/00987 Agricultural Shed, Manor Farm: no objection

RDUNCA/09/01134 Stables adjacent to Inglewood, Bagnall Road

This proposal, to build stables on part of a field, revived a long felt concern about piecemeal change of use and development that would, if continued, inevitably lead to a change in the character of Bagnall which is at present rural and in part a conservation area. Other worrying instances had recently been noted, concrete fencing round a ménage in another field, drainage discharge onto a footpath and small sheds in the middle of hitherto open fields. Although individual cases might not be disastrous, all should be viewed together. Since the Parish Council did not know how best this might be done, the Clerk was asked to request a visit by a planner from SMDC to allow a walk round and discussion. Meanwhile, there was some evidence that work had already begun on the Bagnall Road stables although the planning consultation period still had some time to run.

09.110 Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance

(i) Memorial

Cllr Pearson had looked at the posts surrounding the White memorial that had been erected by public subscription. The Clerk was asked if possible to find the record of the original establishment of this memorial. One post had broken off and the others had become so rotten that they, together with the chains, had been removed for safe keeping. Cllr Pearson offered to donate bases into which new, tanellised, posts could be inserted and the original chains reattached if the Parish Council would buy the posts at a probable price of about £40. Cllr Pearson was thanked for his generous offer and it was agreed that the posts be bought.

(ii) Bus Shelter

It was reported that Cllr Jebb had arranged for the unpaid maintenance team to paint the bus shelter with preservative kindly donated by Cllr Pearson.

09.111 Environment

(i) 09.95 Beat The Cold

It was reported that Beat the Cold had produced leaflets and card thermometers and they had been distributed.

(ii) Tree Pruning

It was reported that a member of the public had sought permission to prune trees he thought perhaps dangerous. Since this was a matter for SMDC the Clerk was to check that the request had been forwarded to Mr Massey as intended.

09.112 Correspondence

SMDC had invited comment on its corporate plan

Community Entertainment had written to offer a performance of *Happy Jack* by John Godber at a price of £195. It was possible that such a performance next year could be part of a fund raising programme for the playing field and the offer merited further consideration.

Rural Services Network had sent a survey.

SMDC had sent advice of a new service *Parish Online Maps* that allowed parish councils to generate maps and aerial photographs from the web. The possibility was welcomed in principle and the Clerk asked to establish the price that Bagnall would be charged. Preliminary advice was that at a basic fee of £10 per 1000 population it should be affordable.

Staffordshire Women's Aid had written to say that gifts of furniture, equipment or money would be welcome for a new refuge in Staffordshire Moorlands.

Staffordshire Moorlands had sent an addendum to the Local Development Plan dealing with housing in Leek, Cheadle and Biddulph.

09.113 Other Business

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....