

**Bagnall Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 8th November 2011
Moorlands Village Hall, Bagnall**

Present

Cllr Andrew Batson, Cllr Peter Lawley Cllr David Pearson, Cllr Sybil Ralphs, Cllr Ken Simpson.

In attendance: Roger Miller (Clerk) and one member of the public.

11.91 Apologies Cllr Mark Butler, Cllr Frank Hayes

11.92 Minutes

Minutes of the 11th October meeting were approved.

11.93 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

06.49 Thorney Edge Well

Repayment from Aviva was still awaited. The Clerk had been told that on examination of the repair bill Aviva required a detailed breakdown of costs within the £575 total, which he was trying to obtain from Mr Weston who had made the repairs. It was also noted that the repaired well was not draining appropriately. While getting details of earlier work the Clerk would also discuss possible causes and remedies.

11.94 Finance

Payments

Payment was approved of £229.18 for the eleventh grass cut of the year.

11.95 Planning

(i) Applications

An application had been received for demolition of St Chad's church hall, The Green and erection of a house on the site. Cllr Simpson declared a prejudicial interest as applicant and withdrawal from any discussion. Cllr Batson declared an interest as a near neighbour to the scheme on which he therefore felt it inappropriate for him to express an opinion. To achieve an appropriate decision making group in these circumstances it was resolved to delay until Cllrs Lawley and Pearson could consult Cllrs Butler and Hayes. A response would then be sent to SMDC as soon as possible.

11.68 Stafford Arms

The Clerk had not yet been able to obtain a copy of the listed building appraisal that would have been prepared for alterations proposed to the Stafford Arms nor the relevant passage in an earlier conservation report prepared on the village. Cllr Hayes had kindly lent copies of material, including an inspector's report, from some years ago when other questions of historic significance had arisen.

11.96 Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance

10.64 Strimmer

Funds for a strimmer, applied for in July 2010, were still expected shortly.

11.06 Gritting

The agreed additional grit bin had still to arrive

11.06 Footpath 28

It was reported that a contractor had inspected footpath 28 and established that four sections had blocked culverts and ditches as well as requiring surfacing work. He was seeking county approval to begin work based on these findings.

11.26 Community Paths Initiative

A grant of £109 had been received in response to a project application that included waymarking and a walk leaflet. The new circular walk thus created was to be named the Queen's Jubilee Walk and an inaugural walk organised during the diamond jubilee weekend in 2012.

11.70 Damaged Ditch

The Clerk had still to secure clearance help from Staffs Highways for a blocked and overflowing ditch by Litherland Wood.

11.78 Seepages

Hazardous potholes caused by an earlier seepage on Clewllows Bank had been repaired. Investigation by Severn Trent of the seepage by the cottages had not traced a source and it remained a possible health hazard as well as potentially a source of icing later in the winter. Cllr Ralphs undertook to help resolve this matter.

11.87 Footpath 25

Cllr Pearson declared an interest since part of this path is on his land. Two principal difficulties in reinstating this path were identified. Both were serious. A stream had undercut part of the way and left too little room between it and adjacent land and a section that had always been marshy had become impossibly so, with no apparent prospect of drainage. An inspection to review present condition and possible remedies was indicated. Councillors would agree amongst themselves when this should take place. Meanwhile it was appropriate to ask the county footpath officer to consider removal of fingerposts that at present encourage walkers to embark on a path that does not exist.

11.87 Community Salt

It was noted that Staffs Highways had altered arrangements to make road salt available to use on public pathways in case of winter icing. It would now be delivered on a date to be notified. Cllr Lawley offered to receive and store it.

11.87 Footpath Record

The Clerk had requested a current schedule and map but the responsible officer was at present on leave.

11.90 Springs Bank Trees

Low branches over the road had still to be dealt with.

11.97 Environment

11.16 Notice Board

Cllr Pearson reported that the backboard had been restored to the Rose & Crown notice board. Door repair had been put in hand.

11.79 Playing Field

Cllrs Butler & Lawley had not yet been able to investigate the playing field drains. Cllr Simpson's enquiries about cutting methods and results were not yet complete.

11.81 Queen's Jubilee

It was confirmed that BPAG as organisers of jubilee celebrations would have to make separate insurance arrangements. A leaflet received from Unity about insurance arrangements recommended by the national Pageantmaster would be passed on.

BPAG had enquired about the state of the beacon. The basket was reported to be serviceable but the fitness of the pole gave rise to some discussion. It would be inspected and any necessary work or replacement recommended to the next meeting of the Parish Council

11. 98 Correspondence

Staffs County Council - invitation to comment on health service delivery

Boundary Commission – final recommendations for Staffordshire. It was noted that a comment on these might be appropriate.

SMDC Community Conversations – to publicise a public consultation meeting on 15th November at Endon Methodist Church

Mr R Lee – application to address the Parish Council about a community minibus scheme. The clerk was to get more details.

Churnet Valley Riders – request for help in encouraging provision of off road horse riding routes

Community Fund – announcement of new grant opportunities – passed to BPAG

Staffs Police – to announce introduction of 101 as a universal non emergency contact number.

Victim Support – asking for funding

11.99 Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....