

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2005

Editor: Frank Hayes

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Bagnall Parish Council Members

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
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Frank Hayes	503905
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Peter Lawley	504752
David Pearson <i>(Vice Chairman)</i>	-
Sybil Ralphs	504364
Ken Simpson <i>(Chairman)</i>	503972

Parish Clerk

Denise Cooper 504583

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Chairman's Message

In May 2005 I was appointed Chairman of the Parish Council with David Pearson being elected as Vice Chairman.

We welcome, at long last, the development of the former hospital site and hope for a speedy completion and wish every success for all concerned.

In August there was some confusion between Royal Mail and its contractors, concerning the post box being sealed before a replacement had been installed. However, the problem was quickly rectified and we now have a new post box which is in keeping with the character of the village.

We regret that the public pavements in the parish are in a very poor state of repair. There have been written complaints, both from parishioners and ourselves, to the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council. Unfortunately, in most cases, little or no repairs have been carried out. As your Parish Council we will continue to strive to resolve this issue and would urge anyone who has concerns to write to the Parish Clerk.

During 2003 the Parish Council entered into negotiations with Staffordshire County Council regarding the renewal of the lease on the playing fields adjacent to the Village Hall. This resulted in a 25-year lease, with an option to purchase, being signed in June 2004. Once the lease had been formalised, the Parish Council submitted a bid to Staffordshire County Council and were successful in securing £925 to re-instate the swings, which for health and safety reasons had been dismantled, together with the laying of bark underneath the swings and improvements to the football nets / area. It was decided to start work in September 2005. The volunteers braved a very wet day and must be congratulated for all their hard work. Our thanks go to Mr John Lockett of J and K Oils Ltd for the loan of the machinery and Messrs Mark Butler and Paul Jones who with Councillors Dave Pearson and Peter Lawley provided the labour. The Parish Council is actively seeking means of securing the purchase of the playing fields to protect them for future generations.

As your Parish Council we are proud of our hilltop village and will always endeavour to represent the village and its parishioners to the best of our ability.

You are always welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings.

Ken Simpson

Playing Fields

Work to reinstate the swings on the village playing fields commenced during September 2005. The project has been jointly funded by the Parish Council and Staffordshire County Council and is being overseen by Councillors David Pearson and Peter Lawley. Phase one has seen the erection of an enclosure to surround the swing area; work will commence shortly to fill this compound with play bark to protect children using the swings. The site should be fully operational early in the New Year. The Parish Council would formally like to record its thanks to Mr Mark Butler and Mr Paul Jones without whose considerable efforts the work could not have been completed. Sincere thanks are also due to Mr John Lockett of Lyme Tree Farm who provided the machinery to do the ground works at no cost to the Parish.

Bagnall Village Books

The Bagnall Village Chestnut Queen, Miss Kirsty Batson, has informed the Editor that she still has a small supply of her excellent Cook Book for sale. If you are interested please give Kirsty a ring on 01782 502488.

Another superb book on Bagnall by local resident Mrs Anne Lewis, is available from the Local Bookshop in Milton or by ringing Anne on 01782 302759

Neighbourhood Watch

As many residents of Bagnall will know, the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was established in 1990. In view of changes in the Policing of this area and the new initiatives available to village communities, the Parish Council has decided to review the present arrangements.

There is no doubt that an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is a deterrent to crime and, additionally, for house owners, insurers usually offer a discount for membership of the scheme.

The Parish Council wishes to encourage a greater interest in security generally by all our residents and would like to arrange a public meeting later this year to which a Police Officer specialising in Neighbourhood Watch matters would be invited. We hope there would be sufficient support to make this worthwhile.

One interesting development is that the Police have introduced a system called Neighbourhood Watchout, which provides

for registered co-ordinators to receive free "Watchout" messages over the telephone of crime happenings reported in the area. This facilitates the dissemination of urgent information rapidly. The Parish Council is represented on both the Leek and Endon Neighbourhood Forums.

The Parish Council is committed to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for three very good reasons:

- i. It helps to cut crime;
- ii. It helps and reassures those who may fear crime happening to them;
- iii. It encourages neighbourliness and a closer community.

We look forward to your support.

Highlands Hospital, Bagnall

At long last the site has been cleared and building work commenced. We hope it is not too long before we see it beautified and occupied by our new found residents. .

Highways, Footpaths and Maintenance

Your Council is dismayed that despite repeated representations to the appropriate authorities, no remedial work has been carried out to pavements and roadways for some considerable time. Further representations are currently being made and will be vigorously pursued until action is forthcoming.

Council Tax Revaluation

Parishioners will no doubt applaud the Government's U-turn on their proposal to revalue properties in the Moorlands Area in 2007. We trust that common sense will prevail and that a more justifiable system may be introduced which is fairer to all concerned.

St Chad's, Bagnall

Thanks to everyone who supported the Bagnall church on Gift Day. The £1,617 raised will go towards the annual £18,000 Parish Share which the congregation has to raise, along with other expenses, to keep the village church open. We hope to continue opening the church on Wednesdays between 10.45 and 12.15 for quiet thought and prayer, feel free to drop in for a few minutes. The Christmas Fayre will be held in the Moorlands village Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 19 November. Proceeds go towards paying church expenses and parish share. Further details of events including the Christmas service will be delivered to everyone shortly.

Our charity giving has included £200 raised my Muriel Finney's tea party; £211 raised at the harvest lunch towards a Romanian orphanage; and donations towards work at Cicely Haughton School.