

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Meeting

**Tuesday 10th March 2026 commencing at
7:00pm**

held at Stafford Arms, Bagnall, ST9 9JR.

Minutes

Councillors in attendance - Andrew Batson (Chairman), Steve Horton, Les Knowles, Sybil Ralphs, Penny Dabell

Residents in attendance – 4

| | Public Participation | Action Required by |
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| 10.03.212 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A parishioner expressed concerns about the overgrown hedge on Clewlovs Bank, which is currently obstructing the visibility of the 30mph speed limit sign. The Clerk reported that, following the meeting on 10th February, Councillor Egginton recognised this as an issue for the County Council and agreed to inspect the area and provide a report. The Clerk further indicated that she had followed up with Councillor Egginton but has yet to receive a response; she will continue to seek an update.• Similar concerns have been raised regarding overgrown hedges at Hospital Bank, and Councillor Egginton has been notified accordingly. A parishioner has kindly volunteered to trim the hedges at Hospital Bank during the weekend, as they are a regular user of the field. Appreciation was extended for this offer. | Clerk to chase Cllr Egginton. |
| 10.03.213 | Apologies | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received from Cllr Egginton - report received.• No apologies or report received Cllr Edwards | |
| 10.03.214 | Declarations of interest and dispensation | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Ralphs declared an interest in planning application SMD/2025/0521. Reason given resides, close to location. | |

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| 10.03.215 | To consider and approve minutes from the last meeting | |
| | Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 th February 2026, signed and approved. | |
| 10.03.216 | Matters Arising | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buttercross – Proposed fencing around the Buttercross. Councillor Horton has distributed photographs and cost estimates to all councillors. Councillor Horton recommends galvanized fencing with powder coating as the most suitable option. Councillor Batson noted that adding soldier detail is unnecessary, as it may be mistaken for a War Memorial. Once a detailed quotation for works and costs is received from the supplier, the Clerk will apply for planning permission and contact Moorlands Partnership regarding a Heritage grant. • Hedge Obstruction at Clewloes Bank – This matter was addressed earlier during Public Participation. • Playground Inspection Results: Councillor Batson will provide the dimensions of the football nets by email to Councillor Horton. The Clerk presented quote details from Street Cleaning Services for smaller required jobs. The Clerk will apply for funding from the County and District Councillor Community Fund. Councillor Ralphs suggested seeking funds from Moorlands Partnership, which the Clerk will investigate. All councillors agreed to proceed with the quoted work for the playground. • GOV.UK Emails and Website: All councillors have received new GOV.UK email addresses and passwords. All are required to log into their accounts before 1st April 2026. The Clerk is setting up Councillor Knowles with administrative rights to the new website and continues to create content. The Clerk will produce a post for Grapevine to keep residents informed. Councillor Ralphs requested reposting the LGR consultation on Grapevine. Councillor Dabell will establish a Facebook page for Bagnall Parish Council, with the Clerk providing photographs for the page. • Highway Routine Maintenance: Hospital Corner gully has been repaired. Councillor Egginton reported discussions with Highways regarding Luzlow Lane; Councillor Batson will maintain communication. Councillor Egginton also spoke to Dave Rushton about two gulleys at the top of Clewloes Bank and is awaiting an update. Councillor Egginton is exploring the possibility of implementing a 20mph speed limit outside the Travelers Rest Stanley. Councillor Dabell holds contact details for the Severn Trent project manager and will forward them to Councillor Batson. | <p>Cllr Horton to get a detailed quote and send to Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk to apply for planning permission and Heritage grant once quote received.</p> <p>Cllr Batson to provide measurements.</p> <p>Clerk to apply for grant from Councillors Community Fund & Investigate Moorlands Partnerships</p> <p>All Cllrs to log into new email accounts.</p> <p>Clerk to create post for Grapevine.</p> <p>Cllr Dabell to create Facebook page.</p> <p>Cllr Dabell to send contact details to Cllr Batson</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Egginton provided no further information on grit bins. Councillor Horton will send the Clerk details of areas requiring grit bins. • Flooding at Greenway Cottage: Previously discussed. • Springsbank: Work has been completed at the quarry. A parishioner has requested removal of the Holly trees. It was decided that no further actions will be taken during bird nesting season; this will be reassessed at the right time. • Bench by Bagnall Ford: An email was received from a resident of Bagnall Heights concerning the poor condition of the bench located at Bagnall Ford. Councillor Dabell will photograph the bench and provide a report. Councillor Horton will supply a quotation for wood needed to repair the bench. • Climate Change: Councillor Batson was unable to attend the meeting. • Elections: No updates. | <p>Cllr Horton to send grit bin requirements to Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr Dabell to provide photographs.</p> <p>Cllr Hoton to provide quote.</p> |
| 10.03.217 | To receive a report from police | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two police officers attended the meeting and reported that there were no significant incidents to note. They stated that anti-social behaviour had not occurred recently, and traffic issues remained minimal aside from routine road traffic accidents typically attributed to narrow roads, icy conditions, and adverse weather. • Councillor Batson raised concerns regarding the ongoing works by Severn Trent resulting in the closure of Luzlow Lane, especially considering previous challenges with traffic diversions. Councillor Batson requested that the police communicate these concerns to Staffordshire County Council; however, the police clarified that as this is a highways matter, their role is limited to enforcing regulations in place. Councillor Batson emphasized the impact on residents, while Councillor Dabell recounted difficulties experienced during prior closures. The police suggested contacting the County Council about placing signage advising drivers not to rely on satellite navigation but to follow official diversions. Councillor Knowles recommended corresponding with both District and County Councillors, and the police requested the Parish make initial contact with these bodies before reverting to police if needed. Councillor Batson has previously sent several emails regarding these matters and will provide follow-up. | <p>Cllr Batson to follow this up with County and District Cllrs and Severn Trent.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The police reported that those responsible for recent organized vehicle thefts have been prosecuted and are currently incarcerated. In response to an inquiry regarding stolen horse trailers, the police indicated they were unaware of the specific incidents but noted that such property would be recovered and returned if found in good condition. For reporting any further areas of concern, please refer to the link provided below. https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/ro/report/ | |
| 10.03.218 | To receive a report from SMDC District Cllr, County Cllr (if available) | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Edwards provided no report. Cllr Egginton provided a report to the Chairman regarding Highways which was discussed earlier. | |
| 10.03.219 | Account/Finance: To Consider/Approve | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February payments list was approved. Loan interest was discussed. Clerk to provide loan paperwork to all Cllrs. Audit – Julie Podmore to complete audit. Clerk to prepare paperwork. | Clerk to request loan info. |
| 10.03.220 | Planning Reports | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMD/2025/0521 – Councillor Batson expressed concerns regarding the volume of vehicles, as well as issues related to foot traffic, lighting, and noise. Councillor Horton also raised concerns about lighting. Councillor Ralphs declared an interest due to her residence near the venue. The Clerk will submit a formal objection. DET/2026/0008 – The traffic report was reviewed with no objections raised. The Clerk will comment on the application to clarify that it concerns one dwelling, not five. SMD/2026/0090 – The Stafford Arms has requested building consent for new windows. Councillors have requested clarification regarding leaded windows, which are not detailed in the elevation plan. Clewlows Bank building work – The Clerk will follow up on the previously sent email. Dog Exercise Paddock – The Clerk will follow up via email. Councillor Horton reported receipt of additional dog training equipment and another delivery of aggregate. The Clerk will continue to follow up. BESS Site – No updates currently. Councillor Knowles discussed the bus shelter on Bagnall Road, noting that it is currently unused. As this | <p>Clerk to send objection.</p> <p>Clerk to comment on application.</p> <p>Clerk to comment on application.</p> <p>Clerk to follow up.</p> <p>Clerk to follow up.</p> |

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| | <p>is a Parish Council asset, it will be considered at the next meeting. Councillor Edwards will contribute to the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Knowles noted that the speed limit sign and the Bagnall sign have been knocked down. The Clerk will contact Highways, and Councillor Dabell will provide photographs for reference. | <p>Clerk to add to agenda for next meeting. Cllr Dabell to send photographs to Clerk.</p> |
| 10.03.221 | Footpaths | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manor Farm gate was discussed. | |
| 10.03.222 | Highways | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed earlier. | |
| 10.03.223 | Devolution | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Ralphs provided an update regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), addressing the raised question of a potential North-South division. Councillors Ralphs, Knowles, and Batson have devoted considerable time investigating this matter. The prevailing sentiment in Staffordshire Moorlands is opposition to change, with primary concerns focused on finance and land. It was emphasised that Staffordshire Moorlands would be adversely affected should such changes proceed. Residents who oppose these proposals are urged to submit their comments to the government. • The Labour leader of Staffordshire Moorlands Council has indicated a preference for a north-south split accompanied by boundary adjustments. Labour representatives have disputed the financial and land issues, suggesting that boundary revisions may improve the financial standing of the northern area. Their proposals are expected to address transport challenges, although they oppose re-establishing the railway and note limited bus services. Additional land for industry and housing may become available if the plan advances; however, this could threaten green belt and open spaces. The local plan extends from Bagnall to Baddeley Edge. • Mike Glehill rejected any implication that reserves would be used to aid financially troubled Stoke-on-Trent. Concerns were raised that combined reserves under the proposed model would be pooled and divided, potentially benefiting Stoke at the expense of Staffordshire Moorlands. There is apprehension that the area could become an extension of Stoke, and residents | |

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| | <p>should be informed about the significant impact this may have. Councillor Ralphs voiced concern over the lack of representation at assemblies and insufficient action, urging more community engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident observed that without these changes, the region may struggle to attract manufacturing and professionals. Councillor Ralphs responded that only appropriate housing is necessary. Councillor Horton highlighted a shortage of information and transparency surrounding the process. Councillor Knowles expressed agreement with prior remarks and stated that Mike Gledhill's statements to the BBC were inaccurate. Boundary changes are not documented or included in consultations. The Sentinel reported that Stoke faced a budget overspend and increased council tax by 4.99%, the maximum allowed without a ballot, while requesting £10.5 million in additional support. Stone has declined involvement with Stoke, citing concern that funds could be diverted under the new arrangement. • Councillor Knowles requested correspondence be sent to the Reform Party to clarify their position regarding these matters. He referenced the LGR consultation meeting held at Bagnall Village Hall on October 25. • Cllr Knowles informed all that SPCA gave a presentation at the Parish Assembly and suggested that Parish Councils make a neighbourhood plan of what residents want in the community. | |
| 10.03.224 | Defib | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to re-send email to Cllr Batson regarding training for defib checks. He will contact Parishioner. | Clerk to provide information to Cllr Batson. |
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