

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL



Annual Council Meeting

Tuesday 5th May 2026 commencing at 6:30 pm

held at Stafford Arms, Bagnall, ST9 9JR.

Minutes

Councillors in attendance - Andrew Batson (Chairman), Steve Horton, Les Knowles, Cllr Egginton

Residents in attendance – 5

	Election of Chairman for 26-27	Action Required by
AMC.26.083	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Clerk invited nominations for the office of Chair.• Councillor Knowles nominated Councillor Batson.• The Clerk sought a seconder for the nomination.• Councillor Horton seconded the nomination.• The Clerk confirmed that the nomination had been duly made and seconded.• The Clerk asked the nominee to confirm that he was willing to stand.• Councillor Batson confirmed that he was willing to stand.• The Clerk declared Councillor Batson duly elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.• The Clerk invited the newly elected Chair to take the Chair.	.
AMC.26.084	Election of Vice Chairman for 26-27	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The election of a Vice-Chair was not concluded. The appointment of a Vice-Chair is not a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 1972.	
AMC.26.085	Declarations of Acceptance of Office	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Clerk presented the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which Councillor Batson duly signed.	
AMC.26.086	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	

AMC.26.087	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th April 2026	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were agreed and signed. 	
AMC.26.088	Public Participation Session	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A parishioner enquired whether a weight restriction could be introduced on Blue Bridge. Councillor Batson advised that the appropriate route for pursuing this matter would be via Luzlow Lane, although he was not aware whether this constituted an official diversion route and noted that any restriction is not enforced in practice. Councillor Batson further reported that weight restrictions at Blue Bridge have been raised on a number of occasions previously with Councillor Flunder and Councillor Egginton. Councillor Horton advised that a public consultation would be required before a weight restriction could be implemented unless the bridge were deemed unsafe. Councillor Knowles proposed that the Council re-investigate the matter and contact the Highways Authority; Councillor Batson agreed. Councillor Batson requested a site visit to Blue Bridge and to the bridge adjacent to Greenway Hall Golf Club, to be attended with Councillor Egginton. Councillor Beardmore (Cheddleton Parish Council) also confirmed that she would attend. 	Meeting to be arranged between Cllrs.
AMC.26.089	Parish Matters	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Egginton – Raised the issue of fly-tipping and advised that this was occurring as household waste sites were turning residents away. Cllr Batson advised that this matter falls within the remit of the District Councillor. Cllr Egginton reported that he was seeking the installation of CCTV. Councillor Egginton further reported that the gully by the ford remains incomplete; whilst it has been cleaned, it requires excavation and the installation of a new chamber. He advised that there are a number of gully-related issues across the parish and that he is working closely with the Highways Authority to resolve them. Councillor Batson commented that gullies are not being inspected frequently. Councillor Egginton advised that a new reporting system has been introduced, which should lead to improvements. Councillor Batson raised concerns regarding the visibility splay at the bottom of Clewlovs Bank, which is affected by overgrown laurels. Cllr Knowles referred to the original planning application, which may contain relevant references to visibility requirements. Councillor 	

	<p>Egginton agreed to speak with Dave Rushton and to visit the residents where the hedges are situated. Councillor Batson requested that, should it be considered acceptable for the vegetation to remain, the rationale for that view be clearly justified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Egginton advised that his Community Fund is due to open shortly. He confirmed that he would double the amount promised due to the Parish Council not receiving any funding last year. He apologised for this. The application process is expected to be issued on 17 May 2026. • Councillor Egginton advised that he is campaigning for opposition to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and invited those present to access and support the campaign online. He further advised that Government funding would not be provided for LGR and that costs would fall to County Councils, noting that the Council has budgeted £15.7 million for LGR. Cllr Knowles referred to two public meetings that have been held and asked whether Reform could confirm whether it is in favour of, or opposed to, LGR; the Parish Council noted that Reform's position is currently unclear. Councillor Egginton reported that Cllr Flunder had stated that progress on LGR was significantly behind schedule and that he would be surprised if it were to proceed. Councillor Knowles asked whether there were plans to establish teams with responsibility for different departments; Councillor Egginton confirmed that there are no such plans at present. • Councillor Egginton informed the meeting that speed indicator devices are to be placed on Clewlovs Bank. • Councillor Edwards – Was not in attendance and no report or apologies were received. • Police – Sent apologies and requested that any issues be reported to them. Councillor Horton advised that there have been issues involving motorbikes and confirmed that these have been reported to the Police. • For the reporting of any further matters of concern, please use the link provided below. https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/ro/report/ • Chairman's Report (late addition) – To be published on the website. • Clerk's Report – The Clerk provided a brief overview of the report and advised that it will be published on the website once available. 	<p>Cllr Egginton to speak to Dave Rushton</p> <p>Clerk to complete application.</p>
--	---	---

AMC.26.090	Financial and Governance Matters	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following receipts for April 2026 were signed and agreed. • Loan agreement balance – £5065.75. • Clerks Pay • RGS Services, grass cutting – £930.00. • Street Cleaning UK LTD - £900.00 • Ink Cartridges - £27.42 • Printer Paper - £6.99 • Julia Podmore was appointed to conduct the Audit for 25-26. • The Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed. <p>The following reports will be approved and signed in the June meeting following the audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive The Annual bank reconciliation. • To receive the Annual Internal Audit Report and agree any actions. • To approve and sign The Annual Governance Statement • To approve and sign The Accounting Statement • To approve the commencement date for the exercise of public rights 	
AMC.26.091	Date and times of ordinary meetings	
	<p>The dates and times of ordinary meetings for 2026-2027 to be held at Stafford Arms Bagnall 7:00pm were agreed. See below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th June 2026 • 14th July 2026 • August 2026 - No meeting • 8th September 2026 • 13th October 2026 • 10th November 2026 • December 2026 - No meeting • 12th January 2027 • 9th February 2027 • 9th March 2027 • 13th April 2027- additional item <p>Date and time of the next Annual Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th May 2027 6:30 pm – Stafford Arms Bagnall 	

AMC.26.092	Additional Item - Councillor Responsibilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Batson – Highways, Footpaths, BESS • Councillor Knowles – LGR & Planning • Councillor Horton – Planning • Councillor Harper – Funding & Grants • Councillor Ralphs – TBC. 	
AMC.26.093	Matters Arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buttercross – Councillor Horton had previously obtained a quotation of £3,500.00 plus VAT for the installation of protective railings around the Buttercross. The Clerk advised all Councillors of the information received from SMDC regarding potential planning requirements prior to installation and any associated grant application. Councillor Horton agreed to email the Clerk to discuss the next steps. The Clerk will contact SMDC Planning to confirm the requirements. It was further suggested that the Clerk contact SMDC Health & Safety to discuss any relevant risks. • Playground – The outstanding maintenance works have been completed. Councillor Horton will arrange for the replacement of the football nets. • Highways – This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting. • Footpaths – Councillor Batson is to provide Staffordshire County Council with the requested information in relation to Footpath No. 2. • Connect Fibre – placing of poles, Springsbank Quarry – Councillor Batson will draft a letter and forward it to the Clerk for issue. • Bench at Bagnall Ford – Councillor Horton is to repair the bench. The Clerk will contact the parishioner who reported the issue to confirm the location, as it was understood that repairs may already have been conducted. • Defibrillator – The Clerk advised Councillor Batson that the next training session for Guardians is scheduled for August 2026. The Clerk has contacted the Village Hall to request that they assume responsibility as Guardians for the Village Hall defibrillator. The Village Hall has agreed to consider the request and will report back. • Greenway Hall Golf Club – Following complaints from residents regarding noise disturbance arising from grounds maintenance, the Clerk has emailed and telephoned Greenway Hall Golf Club to discuss a potential resolution. No response has been received to date. 	<p>Cllr Horton to consult with Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk to contact SMDC.</p> <p>Cllr Horton to replace nets.</p> <p>Cllr Batson to send info the SMDC.</p> <p>Cllr Batson to draft letter.</p> <p>Clerk to contact parishioner.</p>

AMC.26.094	To consider and determine responses to planning applications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMD/2023/0065 – Planning breach: dog exercise paddock. Enforcement requested that all equipment be removed by the end of April 2026; however, the equipment has not been removed. The Clerk has requested an update from Enforcement. • SMD/2025/0197 – Planning appeal. Councillor Knowles and Councillor Horton are to provide the Clerk with comments for submission. • SMD/2026/0204 – 1 Clewloes Bank. No objection was raised. • SMD/2025/0521 – Padel courts, Greenway Hall. Councillor Batson is to provide the Clerk with information relating to the footpath and highways matters. Cllr Horton to provide the Clerk with information discussed in relation to lighting. • BESS – The most recent BESS application was withdrawn prior to Committee. Councillor Batson is to submit a response prior to the next Committee date. • Councillor Knowles expressed concern regarding SMDC Planning and suggested that the Parish Council adopt a more direct approach. 	<p>Cllr Horton to draft comments for Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr Batson and Cllr Horton to provide comments for Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr Batson to submit response.</p>
AMC.26.095	Devolution	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Knowles reported that he has been promised a meeting with Cllr Flunder. Further updates will be provided at the June meeting. 	