

Bagnall Parish Council: Chairman's Annual Report May 2026

Bagnall Parish Council is made up of the following:

The Clerk – Jane Chadwick - is a new member having been appointed during the year

Tel: email: clerk@bagnallparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillors – The councillors over the last year have been:

Andrew Batson – The Cottages. Chairman (502488)

Les Knowles- Rock Cottage (503137)

Sybil Ralphs*. Tuscany House (504364)

Penny Dabell - Holly Grove Farm

Steve Horton- Eaves Lane

Councillors Weston and Krawiecki left the Council during the year. Tim Harper was co-opted as a new parish councillor leaving a vacancy open.

The main topic for the Parish Council during the year continues to be the Governments Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation plans. A considerable amount of time has been given to the topic by Councillors Knowles and Ralphs which culminated in a public meeting held in October. The Parish Councils concerns were supported by the large number of parishioners who attended the meeting. The Parish Council are concerned inter alia regarding :-

The City of Stoke on Trent's poor financial position. The City is arguably bankrupt and has recently needed a steady flow of loans to balance the books. Stoke on Trent sees itself as the dominant "partner" recommending a mayoral led authority. The City is clearly viewing the Moorlands open spaces and greenbelt as areas for development. It is a fact that the City has a higher crime rate than the Moorlands. We are concerned that local representation does not appear to be factored in to the proposals under review.

Carrying forward from previous years the threat to the local countryside from both battery and solar installations located towards the east of the Parish continues to be of concern. Whilst several battery installations have gained planning permission from the local

authority only one has commenced with a limited development pending agreement of outstanding conditions. As a Parish Council we have been active in submitting comments and representations where we are able to with limited success. The Parish Council have made freedom of information requests to three fire authorities where battery sites have experienced fires and it is hoped to use the information gleaned in our future statements.

Parish Council Meetings and Main Agenda Items:

Planning: Through the year the Parish Council is consulted on planning applications and is invited to comment. The Parish Council have no power over the decisions reached by the Planning Department at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, but any comments that are made in the Parish are taken into consideration, along with letters received from members of the public. The Parish Council is only classed as one voice. It is worth repeating that if a member of the public is concerned about any planning application they need to make their feelings known to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department. The Parish Council has made regular representations regarding developments that have taken place without approval however we are of the opinion that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council have difficulty in progressing effective enforcement actions.

Highways matters: Reports of various problems on the roads have been made throughout the year to both Staffordshire County Council whenever they have been noticed. Parishioners have frequently raised vehicle speeding through the village as a concern and this has been relayed to the County Councillor who is arranging a survey in the near future. A number of gulleys have been repaired in the village by the Highways team during the year. The Parish Council have received plans of highway drainage gullies in the Parish. Liaison is ongoing with the County Councillor for the locality to establish a program of regular maintenance. As previously highlighted Parishioners should be aware that both the County and District Councils operate an online reporting system for Highways matters in addition to telephone contact.

The parish is currently suffering the effects of more road closures with the consequence that unsuitable lanes are being used as unofficial diversion routes. The Parish Council were not made aware of the road closure prior to authorisation being granted by the highways authority.

The Village Field: The Parish has a wonderful sports field with new swings in the children's play area. The sports field requires appropriate maintenance and the contract is with RGS Services to undertake this work. Following a recommendation made by ROSPA in their inspection report the swings have been refurbished during the year.

Mowing/ Environment: RGS Services provided grass mowing services during the year and had responsibility for maintaining the village greens. The Parish has continued to be affected by occasional Fly Tipping. Efforts do continue to identify the 'culprits'.

Finally, a big thank you again to all the organisations and individuals who help to make village life more enjoyable and community orientated. Please remember that the people who make things happen in the village are all volunteers and need your continued support!

Andrew Batson, Chairman Bagnall Parish Council (2025- 2026)

