

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 23 April 2019 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village
Hall at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Councillor: Mrs L Jones (Chairman)
Councillors: M Snelson, W J Snelson, Mrs. J Humphries and Mrs. I Rees
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
5 Members of the public

1641. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of County Councillor Mrs V Wilson, Cllr Mrs J Stanton and Cllr R Lewis.

1642. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

1643. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 20 March 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1644. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Cllr. M Snelson has attended the site and taken 10 metre measurements from the junction with Brantley Crescent. There aren't many feasible options due to a large number of other trees, telegraph wires etc. Cllr. M Snelson had taken a photo of the proposed site which was shown to those present. A discussion followed. It was agreed that Cllr. M Snelson would meet with Ms Haughtey and agree the final position. Cllr. M Snelson has sourced a tree ready for planting. Once planted he will take a photograph.

b. Affordable Housing

The Clerk had corresponded with Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) who had attempted to visit the new owner of the land, however, no one was in. It was agreed that she would be better to call than write as currently planned, as such a contact number was passed to the Clerk.

c. Defibrillator

Cllr. M Snelson confirmed that the agreed position for the sign was on private land. Since the last meeting, a third party had agreed to provide a post and erect the sign if the Parish Council acquired the sign. It was agreed that a sign in the format of that provided by Highways via Cllr. Mrs Wilson would be used. The possibility of 2 signs was discussed to ensure the position of the defibrillator was clear. A discussion followed with respect to the need for planning permission – the Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

d. EE rural cell trial

No further update expected until May / June 2019.

e. Bobbington Bash

In Cllr Mrs Stanton's absence it was agreed to adjourn this to the next meeting.

1645. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. SSRP Grant application

The closing date has been extended to the 14 May 2019, however, this is still prior to the next meeting.

The proposed application was discussed. At least 4 quotations have now been received but all are slightly different e.g. battery, solar power, non-data and data. The Clerk has started to draft the wording but requested assistance as to what would be included in the application i.e. number of devices, mounting kits, data recording or not etc. At the last meeting it was suggested the grant could also fund permanent signs for Gospel Ash Road, however, the proposed CSW volunteers from Halfpenny Green had not completed the training, as such, it was agreed that the application should just be for the Speed Indicator Devices / Vehicle Activated signs.

It was agreed that based on research and neighbouring parishes the equipment should be rotated around the Parish. It was suggested that only one device be purchased but with 4 mounting kits (Church, school, Halfpenny Green and Gospel Ash Road). It was also agreed that a data logger had advantages and would enable an evaluation to take place. Similarly, the solar powered device / a combination of solar power/battery should be considered.

b. 77 and 79 Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Mrs Wilson had agreed to take this to Staffordshire Highways on our behalf. No update has been received to date and, therefore, it was agreed to adjourn this to the next meeting.

c. Pledges for £20k

Further to discussions at previous meetings, Cllr. Mrs Wilson had asked whether the Parish Council would be able to offer any funding by way of match funding given the gully cleanser was anticipated to cost £750 per day. Having sought comments from the Councillors, the Clerk had responded to state that with a small precept and an election to fund, it was unlikely we would be in a position to contribute. Cllr. Mrs Wilson had responded stating she completely understood and sympathised with the predicament under which we find ourselves. She will do her best to see that this work is done irrespective of the situation. She has a meeting with Highways again in May, where hopefully she will receive an update.

1646. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Corbett School

Cllr W Snelson reported that at the recent Governors' meeting it was announced that Mrs M Southall would be retiring at Christmas 2019. She has been the Headteacher for a considerable number of years and will have worked at the school for 42 years this Summer. It was agreed she has done a brilliant job. The post will be advertised in due course, a selection committee has been appointed and are currently taking advice and receiving training.

Village Hall

Cllr. Lewis had submitted a report. There is little to report other than the committee hope to secure a grant for the flat roof repair.

Church of the Holy Cross

Cllr. Mrs Humphries reported that the Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held in the church at 12:30pm, (after morning service) on Sunday 28 April 2019. Any Parishioner is welcome to attend.

Cllr. Mrs Humphries offered to send monthly reports to the Clerk following the elections.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Mr Hadgett has now completed his training. He undertook his first session with the help of Cllr. Mrs Wilson. One vehicle was found to be doing 45mph. The volunteers from Halfpenny Green did not complete the training. As such, further volunteers are needed.

The Clerk had forwarded an email from CSW with respect to annual statistics for CSW Staffordshire. The Chair briefly discussed these.

Police Crime Report

No official report had been received.

1647. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

One couple wished to ask the Council's view on the proposed developments at the Airport, there were no other questions.

1648. FINANCE

a. Internal Auditor

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had contacted the Clerk with the name of a potential auditor, who was willing to complete the internal audit. No other names had been submitted although the Clerk had a reserve if required. It was understood his qualifications were in line with the previous auditor. The Clerk agreed to make some final checks on the requirements and liaise with Cllr. Mrs Stanton.

b. Cheques

There were no cheques to be approved. The Clerk warned that mandates would need to be changed following the election, and therefore, there may be delays in raising cheques over the coming weeks.

1649. PLANNING MATTERS

a. Received:

b. Responded to:

- i. PA 19/00145/FUL16 Brantley Crescent Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5DB, New detached three bedroom dwelling house with integral garage – No Objections

c. Outcomes:

d. Enforcement matters:

1650. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that whilst she wasn't able to attend the last meeting of the Consultative Committee, Cllr. Mrs Wilson had attended. She had subsequently provided notes to Cllr. Mrs. Rees for the purpose of this meeting.

MCR were supposed to be attendance, however, withdrew prior to the meeting. Brian Rawlings ("BR") the Airport Manager had stated he was not employed by MCR. When questioned he confirmed he was paid by MCR, however, he works under the Civil Aviation Authority and, therefore, is required to act in the interests of the Airport. There was general concern that MCR would have been aware of the finances when they acquired the airport, if they are genuine in their comments and committed to the airfield, they should be demonstrating their good intentions by improving the runway or developing the hangars. There was talk of a Community hub building. One District Councillor did observe the need for housing in South Staffordshire. Cllr. Mrs Wilson had requested an interim meeting prior to the scheduled meeting in June.

A discussion followed during which members of the public were permitted to ask questions / raise concerns.

1651. **ELECTIONS**

Elections are due to be held next week. There are 8 applicants and 7 available positions. There will not be a District Council election as this was an uncontested election with Cllr. Mrs Wilson being the only nomination. It was agreed that reserves have been built up over the last couple of years in case of an election. The expected costs were discussed.

The Chair and all present thanked both Cllr. W Snelson and Cllr. Mrs Humphries for their services to the Parish Council. Together they have served in excess of 100 years as Councillor / Clerk. Their knowledge will be greatly missed, however, we hope they will still attend meetings in the future as a member of the public.

1652. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Email from a parishioner in respect to issues with the Churchyard. Two concerns were apparently raised with a Church Warden in July 2018, however, nothing has been done with either. The letter was read and pictures attached reviewed following which a discussion took place.

Cllr. Mrs Humphries was aware of the issues. She understood that the Vicar intended to speak with the Parishioner, however, it seems this has not yet been done. She agreed to take it back to the Parochial Church Council. As the Parish Council are aware Steve Does, South Staffordshire District Council, has surveyed the tree and reported back to the Parochial Church Council with recommendations. It was suggested that perhaps the gardener may be able to assist. Cllr Mrs Humphries agreed to report back to the Council with respect to progress / actions to be taken.

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Street Scene update 26/3/2019

SSC – Published statement of persons nominated and notice of an uncontested election.

SSC – Elections newsletter 6, 7, 8, 9

Chairman's Initials

Date:

SSC – Council News round-up issues

SSC – Summer School holiday provisions – it was decided not to pursue this

Cllr Wilson – Pledges for funding for £20k scheme

VAST 28/3/2019

CSW Intro and training – Wombourne Police station 3/4/219

Volunteer for Ironman 70.3 Staffordshire 2019

1653. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk reminded all officers to submit their annual reports prior to the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 15 May 2019

Meeting Closed