

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 21 February 2018 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village
Hall at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Councillor: Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)
District Cllr: R McCardle
Councillors: M Snelson (left at approx. 7:50), Mrs. J Humphries, W J Snelson, Mrs. I Rees and Cllr. Mrs. J Stanton.
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
PCSO Gill Murphy
2 Members of the public

1479. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr. R Lewis and County Cllr. Ms. V Wilson.

1480. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

1481. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 17 January 2018, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1482. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Ms Haughtey had passed her letter to South Staffordshire Housing Association, requesting assistance in funding the removal of the tree, to the Clerk for onward submission. The Clerk had drafted a letter of support, which was approved by all at the meeting, and will now submit both letters to the Housing Association.

Cllr Stanton confirmed she had researched crowdfunding and believed that some funding could be raised this way. It was confirmed the expected cost was £1,100. Cllr. Stanton will speak to Ms Haughtey directly, as it has previously been agreed that she will co-ordinate the funding activities, with support from the Parish Council.

The Clerk had looked into S137 donations. S137 permits councils to incur expenditure for purposes for which they do not have a specific power. The appropriate sum is currently £7.57 per electorate. Based on information provided by South Staffordshire Council at a recent course the electorate is 425. Current expenditure plus expected expenditure before the 31 March 2018 is £565 and therefore, it is possible that a donation could be made under this section during the current financial year.

b. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Staffordshire Housing Association) has instructed their architect to approach the Planning department with sketch layouts. In the meantime, she will instruct a topographical survey to accurately inform the design. They are keeping Simon Proctor informed on progress.

c. Defibrillator

It has been agreed that The Red Lion will decide on where the defibrillator will be sited. They are also arranging for an electrician to fit it.

The training session is scheduled for the 3 March 2018 at the Village Hall. The Airport have their own defibrillator and trained staff. It is anticipated that 3 Councillors, 2 members of staff from the school, 5 from the pub and 2 parishioners / people employed within the parish will be trained.

d. EE rural cell trial

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that new software has been deployed in the existing trial locations. This is going through a four-week trial period. Once given the green light, they will be in a position to build the site at the Red Lion. It is hoped this may be the end of March.

e. Noticeboard

Cllr. Mrs. Humphries reported that although Mr Fowler had started the noticeboards, his health is preventing him from completing them. He agreed they should be sourced elsewhere.

A discussion followed as to the type of board required. The Clerk agreed to make further enquiries for discussion at the next meeting.

f. Tree between Glebelands and Brantley Lane

Cllr. M Snelson had contacted the owners of the property concerned. They confirmed they had made contact with the County Council and they would help to determine who owned the tree. Cllr. Snelson agreed to follow this up, as ownership has previously been uncertain.

g. Pear Tree in church car park

Cllr. Humphries reported that Steve Dores, Arborist from South Staffordshire Council, had inspected the pear tree. There is dense Ivy growing on most of the trunk of the tree, however, the health of the crown is good. It has been suggested that the tree be reduced by a third and the ivy removed. Quotes are now needed for the work to be undertaken. Cllr. M Snelson agreed to assist with this aspect.

h. Lighting at Oak House – Former Royal Oak

A parishioner had contacted the Clerk with concerns about bright, high lights on the above building. The email suggested that following a recent incident at the airfield where a plane overshot the Airport and crashed through hedges many of the local residents were concerned about the lights. When asked the parishioner had confirmed he had not spoken to the Airfield with respect to his concerns.

The Clerk had liaised with Councillors, the general consensus being that the Airfield managers would have contacted the owners if the lights were an issue. It had been agreed that the matter would be mentioned at the consultative committee meeting.

i. South Staffordshire Council consultations

- i. Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- ii. Design guide and sustainable development supplementary planning documents

Both consultations had been circulated by email. It was agreed that no comments were to be made.

1483. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. Request from Cllr Mrs Wilson for details of outstanding highway matters pre-2016 to date

Cllr Mrs Wilson had requested details of outstanding Highway issues. The Clerk listed several she was aware of and asked Councillors to mention anything missed. The following list was prepared:

Floods on Whittimere Lane - it was agreed (2015/16) that new drainage is required however, remedial action is still to be undertaken.

The central reservation outside the Post Office - in need of resurfacing - this has broken up over the years as lorries have parked on there – raised in 2011 (had been raised previously) chased in 2015, 2016 and 2017 as still not actioned

Red tarmac patch by the Red Lion pub – raised numerous times – has been patched when potholes occurred, however, originally told that such surfaces were being reviewed across the country and they were unable to do anything till concluded.

Footpaths in Brantley Crescent – raised in 2017 – told insufficient resources and it will be listed for action.

Culvert down from White Cross crossroads – this has been repaired twice, the last occasion being the end of last year – however, it is already starting to fall way and the depression recurring.

Gospel Ash Road junction with Watery Lane - repeat potholes - they may fill them in, but soon after they are back and cause people to swerve on a narrow stretch of road.

More recently White Cross crossroads (see below)

b. Email received re Tom Lane and B4176 junction

A parishioner had emailed the Clerk with respect to the junction of Tom Lane and the B4176, with concerns as to the Give Way sign being knocked down and suggesting it needed to be replaced with a stop sign. The Clerk was also copied into correspondence with Staffordshire Highways. A discussion followed as similar discussions have been raised previously and reviewed by Highways in the last few years. It was agreed that generally, subject to trees being cut back, visibility is not poor. It was, however, concluded that this junction is outside of the Parish.

c. Email received re junction of Crab Lane and Six Ashes Road / Emails received re potholes Crab Lane

White Cross crossroads (Crab Lane/Six Ashes Road junction) – the surface of the road has broken up and will need resurfacing as opposed to “patching”. This has been reported to the Clerk by a Parishioner and also a parent of the school. It has been reported via the pothole web facility. Others have also been encouraged to report it. Nothing has yet been heard. Cllr. Mrs. Wilson has been informed. Mark Keeling at Staffordshire Highways is currently on leave – however, this will be reported to him also.

It was noted that a lot of parents use this junction as a turning circle for parking outside the school, which is not helping the road surface.

1484. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

A concert will be held in Church on 14 March 2018 at 7:15pm – Supper with the 3 organists.

Corbett School

Cllr. W Snelson reported that the school has a new website, he praised the quality and suggested all Councillors take a look.

Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)

Volunteers have been out once since the last meeting. One speeding vehicle was identified out of 58 passing through, a speed of 41mph was recorded.

A meeting of the volunteers has been held and a timetable planned to the end of March, this is mostly weekends and a few early mornings, due to the availability of volunteers (a number have withdrawn). One of the volunteers present reported that Mrs Southall has sent a letter to all parents informing them of the Community Speed Watch, which may generate some volunteers.

Permanent signage is now available. CSW volunteers across the County have voted on and agreed a sign for all to use. The volunteers in the Parish are keen to have these signs to help reduce speeding. The Councillors were also in favour and it was agreed we should acquire some signs. To ensure the temporary signs are not needed these will need to be on all routes into the village where adjoining traffic could drive into a CSW area. It was therefore, agreed that 4 signs would be needed at a cost of £140 per VAT each. This hasn't been budgeted for, however, has been discussed and hoped for since the CSW started. Cllr. Mrs Rees proposed the signs be acquired, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanton.

Velo

Jude Taylor had confirmed that “CSM have cancelled the event for 2018 and are proposing a spring 2019 event with a new route. At this time Staffordshire County Council have not committed to any involvement in this new event.”

Police Crime report

There have been a number of attempted break-ins. A male and female were attempting to open doors of properties and vehicles. The investigation is ongoing, it is understood 6 burglary attempts were made in the village.

As a result of forensics arrests have been made in respect of an incident last year on Highgate Common.

Cllr. W Snelson asked for advice on numbers to call if vehicles were seen to be acting suspiciously. The PCSO advised 101 unless something was untoward or a crime was being committed in which case 999 should be dialled.

There have been a number of car-jacking incidents in the local area. It is believed that the cars have been targeted for criminals to swap vehicles as none are high performance vehicles – however, successful operations have taken place and several people arrested.

1485. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised.

1486. FEEDBACK FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COURSE

a. GDPR

The Clerk had attended a course at South Staffordshire Council on the new GDPR regulations. She expressed concern as to the implementation and monitoring of these regulations as they are onerous, the Chairman agreed. A number of organisations are offering packages whereby the Parish Council can outsource the function. The Clerk suggested that the Councillors needed to consider this. It was agreed that the information found by the Clerk would be circulated for all to review. The Clerk will obtain further information about the costs.

b. Elections

The Clerk had attended a course about elections in 2019 – the information collected will be circulated and reviewed at the next meeting.

1487. FINANCE

a. Clerk's salary review

As requested the Clerk had attempted to record all time spent working on Council matters in the previous 9 months. This suggested that the average hourly rate was above the minimum living wage. The clerk had also calculated the expected salary increase if based on CPI rates, this being 2.96%. It was suggested that this be reviewed by a sub-committee and discussed at the next meeting.

b. Cheques

There were no cheques to be proposed.

1488. PLANNING MATTERS

a. Received –

- i. PA 18/00140/FUL Gospel Ash Methodist Church, Gospel Ash Road, Bobbington, DY7 5EF - Former Methodist Church - change of use into private dwelling, with 2 storey rear extension to provide 3 bedrooms - The owner of the property was present and explained the intentions of the application. The existing chapel will remain at the front, the extension will be at the rear. A contrasting style has been requested. The chapel was advertised for sale as a Chapel / Community place for 6 weeks without any interest. The Councillors concluded that it would be good to see it reused, there were no objections providing greenbelt restrictions had been considered.

b. Responded to:

- i. PA 17/01140/FUL Halfpenny Green Golf Club Karter Farm New Road Swindon Dudley South Staffordshire DY3 4PP; Construction of ground floor showroom. First floor indoor golf area, construction of ground floor store building extension, and completion of first floor driving range shelter (Previously approved in 2017) – in principle this application would be supported if used for its intended purpose.
- ii. PA 17/01095/COU Land on The North Side Of Six Ashes Road Bobbington South Staffordshire; Creation of natural burial ground with parking and pavilion on agricultural land – the revised plans were discussed, however, the Parish Council's original objections still stand. It is understood that this application has been delayed – although not officially withdrawn it is understood an extension has been given until the end of June – full circumstances are not known.
- c. Outcomes: Nothing to report
- d. Enforcement matters:
An email had been received with respect to staffing changes within the enforcement team.
The Clerk had drafted an email as requested to submit to the Head of Planning and Enforcement and copy in the Chairman of the Planning Committee with concerns that Parishioners are taking matters into their own hands given the lack of enforcement. The contents was approved by all present, the clerk was however, asked to amend it slightly to cover the stable block at land on the South East side of Six Ashes Road, Halfpenny Green DY7 5DP - the planning permission had been rejected, however, a second stable has been erected. It was concluded that the letter should be sent to David Pattison and Lucy Macdonald, with a copy being sent to Cllr. Bob McCardle also.

1489. NEW PREMISES LICENCING APPLICATIONS

- a. THE HALFPENNY GREEN CIDER COMPANY LIMITED, Rear of Farthingdales, Crab Lane, Bobbington, Staffordshire DY7 5DZ application for a premises licence to sell alcohol by retail for consumption off the premises - No comments

1490. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Mrs Rees informed the meeting that the December meeting of the Consultative committee was cancelled due to the snow. There was no meeting in January due to unforeseen circumstances. It is anticipated the next meeting will take place during February.

1491. CORRESPONDENCE

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Modifications to the SAD

Blakelands Fireworks – 17/3/2018 10pm

Connect Bus Service – service ceasing due to withdrawal of funding from the County Council. Cllr. McCardle confirmed that the District Council were reviewing the position and trying to source alternative transport – further information will hopefully follow in due course.

Football Association – engaging communities

CSW Newsletter 31/1/2018

SSC Council News round-up issue 51, 52, 53, 54, 55

SSC A board guidance

SSC Code of conduct training 5/2/18, 5/6/18 & 12/6/18
Cllr. Mrs Wilson – Opportunity for funding – Weston Garfield Foundation
Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership – grant funding available
Staffordshire Police – Cannabis factory in Codsall
Staffordshire Police - Great news story Lower Penn and news that a second man
has been charged re car jacking
Great Britain Spring Clean
Staffordshire County Council – Great War Conference 10/3/18

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

SSC Infrastructure Delivery plan – extension to 19/2/2018
District design guide and sustainable development supplementary planning
documents consultation 5/3/2018
VAST 25/01/2018
SSC Let's work together – serious organised crime 23/3/2018

1492. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported a large amount of litter and rubbish dumped along Watery Lane. Cllr McCardle advised Councillors to report it to the litter line on 01902 696200.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 21 March 2018 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed