

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 19 January 2019 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village
Hall at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Councillor: Mrs L Jones (Chairman)
County Cllr Mrs V Wilson
Councillors: W J Snelson, Mrs. J Humphries, Mrs. I Rees and R Lewis
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
2 Members of the public

1602. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllrs. Mrs. J Stanton and M Snelson.

1603. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ROBERT McCARDLE

It is with great sadness that we remember the late Cllr. Bob McCardle, who sadly passed away in December 2018. The Clerk and Cllr. Mrs Stanton had represented the Parish Council at his funeral.

1604. Cllr AND MRS M SNESSLON

On behalf of all present the Chair congratulated Cllr M Snelson and his wife on the birth of their daughter.

1605. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr W Snelson declared an interest in 1613.

1606. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 28 November 2018, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1607. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

There was no further update; it was agreed this would be adjourned to the next meeting.

b. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) had emailed the Clerk with disappointing news on the Six Ashes Road site. Whilst the draft contract and sale memorandum were under review by the solicitors, the land owners had agreed a sale of the balance of the field. A further email from the agents then confirmed that the owners had received an alternative offer to purchase the affordable housing land which they subsequently accepted. In the circumstances, the land owner's solicitors were instructed to withdraw the papers from Housing Plus's solicitor on the basis that the sale is no longer proceeding.

Lesley had asked whether there were any other sites in the village that the Council wished to consider. The Clerk had already asked for clarification as to whether the District Council would accept the original survey for a further site as she was conscious it was already out of time – an answer is awaited.

A discussion followed. Although all present felt we should continue with the affordable housing, it was agreed to defer the decision as to which site to the next meeting.

c. Defibrillator

Cllr. Lewis stated he believed the width of the footway to be 2m or more and therefore, the visibility would be acceptable. He would check to ensure all information had been conveyed to Diane at Staffordshire Highways.

County Cllr. Mrs Wilson informed the meeting that the funding application with respect to the road sign had been unsuccessful. She seemed surprised that the Parish Council had not received formal notification. It had not been successful due to the withdrawal of funding from County Councillors.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that a sign was needed due to the location of the defibrillator. Cllr. Mrs. Rees proposed the cost of the sign be funded from existing funds, this was seconded by Cllr. W Snelson.

d. EE rural cell trial

There was no further update at the current time.

e. Bobbington Bash

Cllr Mrs Stanton has requested details of an Enville committee representative from Cllr. Lewis in order to consider aspects such as insurance etc. Cllr. Lewis confirmed he will provide these prior to the next meeting.

f. Trees at Halfpenny Green

Cllr M Snelson has contacted Steve Does at South Staffordshire District Council, it is understood a site visit has been performed which Cllr. M Snelson will follow up.

1608. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. Meeting with Diane Firkins – Community Traffic Management Officer

Following the site meeting and emails of early November, Diane had provided an email dated 30 November 2018 containing further updates, namely:

- Drain cover opposite school visited and a job raised
- Footway by Post Office – this is not straight forward as ownership is unclear – Diane will make more enquiries
- Six Ashes Road – To be visited by drainage colleague
- Whittimere Lane culvert – unfortunately, only able to resolve via regular cleansing at the current time. Job to be raised for large vac gully emptying machines to cleanse pipes.
- Brantley Lane / Brantley Crescent – gullies have recently been cleansed, if still causing problems, may be due to jammed lids – unable to provide time frame

Cllr. Lewis agreed to obtain a further update for the next meeting.

b. Email from Ms Hart

An email had been received from a member of the public visiting Bobbington. She expressed concern as to the state of the pavement between the Red Lion and Bannockburn, she also noticed a broken public pathway

sign in the entrance to a field. The email was discussed, this will be raised with the farmer. With respect to the sign, this can be reported to the County Council public rights of way team, however, they are unlikely to have the funds to repair it. If on private land, the land owner will be asked to repair it.

c. Hedges along Gospel Ash Road

At the last meeting Cllr M Snelson agreed to make further enquiries into the hedges obscuring the 30mph signs along Gospel Ash Road. No update has been received. The Clerk confirmed she had written to two separate owners in past – a further letter can be sent, however, it is still unclear who owned the land.

d. Query from County Councillor V Wilson

County Cllr Wilson enquired as to the Parish Council's preference should a sum of money be available for the division. It was suggested this could be used for potholes, gully cleansing etc. Whilst all could be considered high priority, funding is very limited. A discussion followed around potholes and culverts, many felt that potholes needing more permanent work done to them to prevent them from forming again within a very short period of time.

1609. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Village Hall

The new parking area has been formally approved and a contractor chosen. It is anticipated that the work will take place during the half term holiday.

Church of the Holy Cross

Dennis Roberts kindly donated a Christmas tree, it was quite large, however, Craig Snelson kindly put it in place. Rev. Fisher is settling in. The groundsman is doing a good job of clearing some of the overgrown areas of the churchyard. Work still has to be done on the pear tree and Ash tree.

Corbett School

There are currently 103 children attending the school. There has been an attempted break in. There are a few parking issues, however, these are in hand.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Permanent signs are now in place, it is anticipated further controls will be performed.

Michelle Shaker is attempting to arrange a further training session for new volunteers. Parishioners have asked whether it would be possible to have a site along Gospel Ash Road. The Clerk agreed to contact Michelle with respect to both matters.

The Chair had attended a divisional Parish meeting at which Enville confirmed their interest in sharing CSW duties and Parishes – this can be explored in the future.

Divisional Parish Council meeting

The Chair reported she had attended a meeting of Parish Chairmen the previous evening, hosted by County Cllr. Wilson. A number of matters were discussed,

including online banking, social isolation / mental health and Community speed watch.

1610. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised by the members of the public present;

1611. FINANCE

a. Precept accounts and 2019/20 annual budget

The Clerk had prepared and circulated accounts for the period ended 31 December 2018, a draft budget for 2019-20 and a comparison of the 2018-19 budget with actual expenditure.

The draft precept accounts and proposed budget were reviewed and discussed. As agreed earlier in the meeting it was agreed that an additional cost would be required with respect to the Defibrillator sign. Otherwise the accounts and budget were approved. It was agreed the precept should be set at £4,400 (i.e. an increase of 3.3%)

b. Cheques

The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Lewis and seconded by Cllr. W Snelson

i.	Clerk	Salary and expenses	£237.31
ii.	HMRC	Paye	£56.20

1612. PLANNING MATTERS

a. Received:

- i. PA 19/00003/FUL 2 Brantley Crescent Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5DB – Single storey extension and storm porch – No objection

b. Responded to:

- i. PA 18/00855/VAR Halfpenny Green Golf Club Karter Farm New Road Swindon Dudley South Staffordshire DY3 4PP - Application Reference Number: 17/01140/FUL Date of Decision: 18/05/2018 - Condition Number(s): 2 Conditions(s) Removal: The Applicant wishes to amend some of the materials to be used in the external appearance of the proposed extensions as approved. See covering letter for full details. Substitution of amended drawings. See covering letter for full details – No objections
- ii. PA 18/00909/FUL The Cottage Gospel Ash Road Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5ED - Ground and first floor front elevation extensions (resubmission) – No objections

c. Outcomes:

d. Enforcement matters:

1613. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported on an “interesting” Consultative Committee meeting. There was an obvious agenda to the meeting, where artist impressions of a proposed development were presented. Cllr Mrs Rees explained that the concerning factor was the term “enabling” i.e. development was needed to release capital to enable the airport to continue operating. A discussion followed with respect to the development, highways infrastructure, school capacity, medical facilities, public transport etc. It was also noted that the Local plan responses have been posted on the South Staffordshire website. It was also noted that the airport

had posted details of a housing development on their facebook page. The next consultative committee meeting will take place in March 2019.

1614. CORRESPONDENCE

The Police locality 5 Accountability forum 13/2/2019 5-6:30pm – Cllr W Snelson tendered his apologies and requested that someone else attend this meeting.

The Clerk will approach the Cllrs not in attendance.

The Parish Council had been copied into a response to a complaint to Blakelands from Swindon Parish Council concerning fireworks.

Divisional parish meeting for Chairman

Blakelands Fireworks - 17/2/2019 8:45pm

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Staffordshire County Council – (SCC)

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Partnership event – feedback re 2018

SSC – Elections newsletter 2

SSC Streetscene 15/1/2019

SSC – New tree policy

South Staffordshire Council – Council News round-up issues 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

Staffordshire County Council – pothole update w/c 24/9, 2/10, 9/10,

VAST 30/11/2018; 14/12/2018

The Goodlife South Staffs Energy team – helping businesses to save money

1615. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 20 February 2019 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed