

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 17 July 2019 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village Hall
at 7:30pm

PRESENT: Councillor: Cllr. Mrs L Jones (Chairman)
Councillors: M Snelson, Mrs J Stanton, A Burton, and S Hadgett
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
PCSO Jamie Buzzard (part of meeting)
Andy Pitt - Chipmonk Computing
6 Members of the public

1701. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr M Slater, Cllr Mrs I Rees and Country and District Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

1702. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

1703. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 19 June 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1704. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

No update - Cllrs. Snelson and Slater will review the site and take measurements closer to the planting season.

b. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) has confirmed she has not heard back from Mr Sanderland.

c. EE rural cell trial

No further update has been received.

d. Bobbington website

Andy Pitt of Chipmonk Computing had kindly attended the meeting. Those present explained the desire to have a fresh look to the website. A more modern site, with a clean look including more photos and less animations.

Andy said he was happy to set up a prototype for the Councillors to look at. He suggested those present take a look at Enville's website, which he had also created, but this was a younger site than Bobbington. The historic problem has been getting information about the village that is current.

Several different ideas were discussed. Andy will look into whether the facebook page can be fed into a news/blog page so that information is easily shared. He will look at a few ideas and provide a quote for the work to be completed if agreed.

1705. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. SSRP Grant application

The grant application was unsuccessful. It was agreed that feedback would be useful as no explanations had been given. Cllr Burton had tried to contact a member of the grant team, however, he was on annual leave - he has been requested to call Cllr Burton on his return.

b. South Staffordshire Council locality SIDS

A number of SIDS have been acquired by the District Council to be rotated around the parishes. Parish Councils have been asked to suggest possible locations for the equipment – a discussion followed after which it was agreed that the following suggestions would be submitted:

1. Gospel Ash Road, Halfpenny Green Bobbington - to be sited between Yew Tree Farm and the White Cottages (on the left-hand side as you head from Highgate Common to Halfpenny Green)
2. Six Ashes Road, Bobbington - to be sited somewhere between Brantley Lane and The Glebelands, on the side of the road entering the village (ie. Six Ashes to Halfpenny Green)

c. Street Scene

The Clerk had reported the concerns discussed at the last meeting, however, the Development Officer was on annual leave. Further contact will be made before the next meeting.

d. Pavement outside 4 Six Ashes Road

This has been reported. An inspector has been out and raised a job for some work to be carried out.

e. Tom Lane junction with B4176

The Clerk had been contacted by a driver involved in an accident reported in the minutes of the Parish Council in June 2018. He requested support in changing the layout of the junction of Tom Lane and the B4176 to address the issues. His correspondence also questioned the accuracy of the minutes.

A discussion followed. The Clerk was asked to respond stating that this junction is actually in the Parish of Swindon. As such the driver should contact them with concerns as well as Staffordshire Highways. With respect to the minutes, the Parish Council can only discuss and, therefore, minute what they are made aware of - they do not check the accuracy of the information nor obtain a legal view.

- f. It was suggested that the parish may benefit from road signs warning of deer, following an increased number of sightings around Six Ashes, Tom Lane and around Highgate Common. The clerk agreed to look into this.

1706. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**Corbett School**

Cllr Burton reported that the school year ends on Friday. The children return on the 3 September 2019. Recent weeks have seen a successful sports day and end of term play.

A brief discussion followed with respect to parking. A drop and go zone was suggested, however, it was noted that this would be unlikely to have any impact on the afternoon parking. As the village hall committee need to prioritise the roof over the car park extension, a query was raised as to whether the trustees would be able

to contribute towards the cost of the car park. Cllr. Burton agreed to discuss both issues with Mrs Southall.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton stated that there was little to report other than more quotes are being obtained for the repair of the roof.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that:

Corbett School Leavers' Service will be in church on Thursday 18th July at 5.30pm. The Harvest Festival will be earlier this year, on Sunday 22nd September, followed by the Harvest Supper at Blakelands on Monday 23rd September.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been no outings in the last month, however, an outing was planned for the end of the week. There are currently 6 members, but only 4 are active. More volunteers are needed.

Police Crime Report

PCSO Jamie Buzzard was in attendance. A number of emails had been received since the last meeting, addressing some of the concerns raised by local Parish Councils about the levels of crime, crimes reported in the crime reports and attendance at Parish Council meetings.

Further to those emails PCSO Buzzard explained that not all crimes are included in the Parish reports given the time it takes to prepare them and the lack of PCSOs (3 covering 8 Parishes). Instead the reports include instances of note, major incidents and crime trends. However, the PCSOs are always happy to respond to emails in respect of concerns. If there are instances of repeated crime, they are happy to drill down into reports. The main priority is currently vehicle crime, officers are carrying out pro-active stop checks. A number of suspicious vehicles have been seen in the area, one of which was taking charity bags. These have been subsequently investigated – the police have confirmed that those in question were connected to the charity suggested.

PCSO Buzzard is leaving the area in October to become a Police Officer in Staffordshire.

Cllr. Burton asked about the accident in the village involving two speeding vehicles. PCSO Buzzard explained that he was not aware of the current position as it was being dealt with by officers from Cannock. He explained that Staffordshire Police have a centralised response; officers drive from Cannock each day, and are in the area to respond to 999 calls. Neighbouring officers and PCSOs deal with neighbouring issues and are based locally. PCSO Buzzard was not aware of the recent incident where a van stopped to talk to children along Gospel Ash Road, however, he agreed to look into it.

1707. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public had attended specifically in respect of one property which is looking unkempt. The property is currently empty. It is a disgrace and is attracting rats to the vicinity. Photographs were shown to the Councillors present,

as was communication with the District Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the owner with the concerns raised and also contact the enforcement team at the District Council, who were aware of the problem, but not appearing to be doing much about it.

At the last meeting the condition of some of the properties owned by the Housing Association was discussed. It was noted there had been little improvement, although the grass in some gardens had been improved. The Clerk has obtained the contact details of the neighbourhood Officer at the Housing Association, so agreed to contact her if house numbers could be provided.

It was noted that there is a large pothole at Tom Lane – this has been reported and is now marked out, although it was noted that pavements in Brantley Crescent were marked up over 12 months ago, but there has been no progression. Cllr. Wilson agreed to look into this at the last meeting.

It was also noted that the grass at the junction of Tom Lane at Halfpenny Green is long and needs cutting. It was initially thought that this was private land, however, after further discussion it was unclear as to whether the first metre is owned by the District Council.

It was noted that there were a number of trees in the brook between Glebelands and Brantley Lane / Crescent that needed attention. Ownership of this area has never been clear, however, it is thought it is owned by the District Council.

1708. FINANCE

a. Bank mandate update

The wrong mandate was provided by Barclays and therefore the changes requested have been rejected. A further mandate has now been received and will be submitted once signed.

1709. PLANNING MATTERS

- i. PA 19/00278/LBC 3 Leaton Hall, Leaton Lane, Bobbington, DY7 5DE – Window replaced with door – A limited number of Councillors had reviewed the plans. Concerns were raised as to the potential change in character of the building and the precedence that may be set. It was agreed the remaining Councillors would review the plans and pass comments to the Clerk.
- ii. PA 19/00277/FUL 3 Leaton Hall, Leaton Lane, Bobbington, DY7 5DE – Window replaced with door – see above
- b. Responded to:
 - i. 19/00362/FUL - Alder Farm Six Ashes Road Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5BX - Erection of steel portal frame agricultural barn – No objection
 - ii. 19/00436/FUL - 91 Six Ashes Road Bobbington DY7 5EA - First floor side extension and single storey rear extension – No objection
 - iii. Appeal - APP/C3430/W/19/3227909 18/00755/FUL Meadow View Cottage Six Ashes Road Bobbington Stourbridge DY7 5DT - Detached bungalow and double garage – No additional comments
- c. Outcomes:
- d. Enforcement matters:

1710. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Nothing to report.

1711. CORRESPONDENCE

Blakelands fireworks 10/8/2019 10pm

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Staffordshire Police recruitment of independent advisors to Staffordshire Police

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 8/7/19, 28/6/19

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Council news 123,124,125

SSC – Street scene update 21/6/2019

SSC Parish Summit 2019 11/10/2019

Old Sarum airfield appeal dismissed after inquiry

SSC LWT Family awareness session for people affected by dementia

SSC Council tax empty property discount discussion

SSC Steve Does Oak Processionary moth

SSC IT Buddies

SSC Open Space study

SSC Elections newsletter 10

Universal Credit scam

SSC draft revised statement of community involvement

1712. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 18 September 2019

Meeting Closed