

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 20 June 2018 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village Hall
at 7:30pm

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

1536. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr. M Snelson

1537. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr. Mrs Rees declared an interest in 1544bi. Cllr. W Snelson declared an interest in 1539b.

1538. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 16 May 2018, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1539. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

The Planning Inspectorate performed a site inspection on 4 June 2018, in connection to the appeal made with respect to the conditions applied to the planning approval. The outcome is now awaited.

Leann Knox, Neighbourhood and Tenancy Officer, of Housing Plus Group had responded to the Clerk's email chasing a response to the letters. She has conducted a site visit and taken photos which will be passed to their grounds surveyor. She explained the tree is half on their boundary and half on the public highway boundary.

She states that the association do not offer assistance with the maintenance / removal of trees as they form part of the garden, and garden maintenance is the tenant's responsibility. They will only arrange for removal of a tree if there is an immediate health and safety concern and the cost of this is often re-charged to the tenant for failing to maintain them. She also confirmed she was writing to Miss Haughtey.

It was agreed that Ms Knox appeared to have missed the point that the tree was there before the house was built and, therefore, how could the tenant be responsible. The damage being caused to their property will continue until the tree is no longer safe – the cost of maintaining the house also appears to have been overlooked.

It was agreed that although it was also on the public highway, Highways would not contribute towards the cost.

It was agreed that advice could be taken from the legal retainer we have with South Staffordshire Council – however, there was one more avenue that Cllr. Stanton offered to explore first. This was in relation to training for tree surgeons.

b. Affordable Housing

The Chair gave a brief overview of the position to date and informed the members of the public present that a closed meeting of the Parish Council had been held with a representative of Housing Plus, the appointed architect and the agent for the land owner.

An initial sketch plan of 5 affordable houses will be submitted as part of the pre-application planning process. These were shown to those present – they are not confirmed and are only represent the initial phase of planning – further, more detailed pictures will be available in due course. It was noted that any comments with respect to the applications would need to be made through the formal planning process in due course.

With respect to next steps Housing Plus will now make an offer to the land owners, which will include a red line plan.

It was agreed at the closed meeting that the Clerk will attempt a history of the project to include a timeline.

c. Defibrillator

15 people have now completed the approved training. The defibrillator has been installed and is sited at the rear of the Red Lion.

Signage is needed from the main road, which Cllr. V Wilson has agreed to fund in principal. She will forward the relevant application forms to the Clerk for completion. Highways are happy to site the sign on an existing post, however, they will perform a site visit to confirm the position in due course.

d. EE rural cell trial

Cllr. Mrs Stanton confirmed the product had been installed at the Red Lion the previous day, testing will now be undertaken.

e. Noticeboard

The Clerk has been unable to make further progress but will endeavour to do so before the next meeting.

f. Bobbington Bash

Further to the last meeting Mrs J Southall has agreed to represent the Church, a representative from the Vineyards is still awaited.

Cllr. Lewis has not yet spoken to Mrs Southall but will do before the next meeting, to confirm whether the school will be involved and who will represent the Village Hall committee. Blakelands have not yet responded, the Clerk agreed to chase them.

1540. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Whittimere Lane will be closed between 8am and 4pm on 10 July 2018 for BT Openreach works.

Diane Firkins, Community Traffic Management Officer and Community Highway Liaison Officer had emailed the Clerk with an offer to meet up with Parishes and discuss any issues that we can work together to resolve. It was agreed that the Councillors would welcome Diane's attendance at a meeting, the Clerk will provide her with the dates of the upcoming meetings.

It was reported that a road sweeper had been in the village the previous week – however, it appears to have made little difference.

Further correspondence had been received from a Parishioner with respect to the Tom Lane / B4176 junction (which is actually in Trysull or Swindon parish) following a recent road traffic accident. The meeting understood the incident concerned dangerous driving as opposed to solely the layout of the junction.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that pothole season is passing – however, weeds in gullies and gutters are now causing flooding as drain are blocked. Any issues are to be reported to Highways.

1541. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**Village Hall**

The AGM will be held on 26 June 2018 at 3:45pm. The committee are currently looking for new members.

Church of the Holy Cross

The PCC are awaiting the finalisation of the appointment of a new team vicar. There has been a brief interruption to the grass cutting at the churchyard due to annual leave.

Corbett School

Year 5 and 6 children will be visiting the Houses of Parliament and War Museum as part of their end of year school trip. All SATS exams have been completed. Before the end of term the children will take part in a swimming gala and sports day. The Summer fayre will be held on Wednesday 18 July 2018.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

A volunteer meeting is needed as outings in the last few months have been few. Cllr. Lewis will arrange something for the coming weeks. He will also arrange for posters requesting additional volunteers to be placed on noticeboards and in the pub.

An email had been received from the Engagement Coordinator, following recent focus group meetings and points being raised about HGVs in restricted areas and tractor operators on mobile phones. Two letters had been attached to tackle this from a unite front. The Parish Council reviewed these, however, were not in favour of their use. It was agreed that Cllr. Lewis would speak to Mr Burton and ask him to raise these at the next focus group meeting.

Velo

A response is awaited from the Information Commissioners office. Cllr. Mrs Wilson explained that a contact of hers was looking at the problems also. She confirmed that Ms J Taylor had left the organisation and not been replaced.

Police Crime report

A report had been received for the period from 19 May 2018 to 19 June 2018.

- one burglary at a local stables, for which enquiries were ongoing;
- one theft from a motor vehicle – the offenders were disrupted by the owner, however, an area search was completed and the vehicle pursued with one person detained
- one other theft of garden chairs from a garden
- two anti-social behaviour reports from Brantley Crescent – no further action at this stage as no evidence, just suspicion

1542. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were raised by those present in respect to the proposed affordable housing, namely:

- Is there a need? How will it work practically as the school is already full?
The original survey highlighted a need, this was confirmed during the consultation event. Children may already be at school or indeed occupants may not require the school.
- Will people wishing to occupy the houses have a link to the village – other housing association houses are often occupied by people from outside the Parish
All occupants will need to prove a link to Bobbington – thorough checks will be applied, it does not work on the same basis as Housing association properties. Affordable housing works on a different basis.
- There is nothing in the local plan for Bobbington
It was explained that this is a rural exception site and is, therefore, outside of the plan
- The survey is outdated – what is the back-up?
The District Council have implied they are willing to accept the survey and evidence from the consultation event to support the need for affordable housing

Initial concerns were expressed with respect to the entrance and reduced visibility due to parked cars.

The attendance of the road sweeper was confirmed.

Comments were made with respect to grass verges and reduced visibility at junctions. The grass cutting updates received suggest that efforts on now being concentrated on cutting the verges.

1543. FINANCE**a. Review of Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment**

An updated assessment had been circulated with respect to GDPR – it was agreed the document is now approved.

b. Internal audit of the Accounts to 31 March 2018

Mr Hayhurst has completed the internal audit and signed the certificate. The accounts have now been forwarded on to the external auditor and posted on the website.

Mr Hayhurst had tendered his resignation with respect to the 2018/19 accounts. It was agreed a new Internal Auditor would be required. Several contacts are known throughout the Parish and associated circles – further enquiries will need to be made in due course.

c. Annual contribution – Holy Cross Church – upkeep of churchyard (2017 £900)

Cllr. Mrs Humphries detailed the costs concerned, which had been obtained from the PCC Treasurer. Due to various changes in the gardeners, the ongoing costs were uncertain, therefore, it was agreed to maintain the current contribution for this year and perform a full review in 2019.

d. Cheques

The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Mrs Rees and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanton

1. Clerk	Salary & Expenses	£496.77
2. HMRC	Paye	£112.40
3. Holy Cross Church	Upkeep of churchyard	£900

1544. PLANNING MATTERS

a. Received:

b. Responded to:

- i. PA 18/00319/FUL – The Cottage, Gospel Ash Road, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5ED – Ground and first floor elevation extensions to enlarge entrance hall and provide first floor terrace and enable installation of disabled access platform lift between ground and first floors – no objections

c. Outcomes:

d. Enforcement matters:

Mr David Pattison had responded to our letter of 16 March 2018. The response simply states:

“In terms of the points made in your March letter Lucy Macdonald answered the questions in her email back (copy attached).

I had nothing to add to Lucy's original email other than that I have asked for an update from the officer which I will forward as soon as I receive it.”

It was noted that Lucy Macdonald's email of 20 March 2018 stated that Mr Pattison will respond separately, however, some months later, the only response we received was as above. The Parish Council felt this was demeaning. A discussion followed. It was agreed the Clerk would respond to Mr Pattison – if no satisfactory response is received, a further letter may be sent to the Chief Executive.

1545. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Snelson had attended the consultative committee AGM. No reason was given as to the lack of meetings for the past 12 months, it was merely commented that changes in personnel had resulted in meetings being cancelled. Both District and County Councils were in attendance, along with various other local Parish Councils.

The AGM had been attended by a planning team appointed by the airfield's owners. It was explained that the Airport as a business was struggling to make money and, therefore, planners had been brought in to look at alternative ways to make the Airport profitable, as it is having to be subsidised from other areas of business. They explained that various schemes had been reviewed but the only one they deemed viable at the current time was to build 100+ houses on the site.

A discussion took place between the Councillors where concerns were raised. The next meeting will be held on 12 September 2018.

1546. TOM BUTLER CUP COMPETITION "Wildlife in Bobbington".

The school's summer fayre will be held on 18 July 2018. It was agreed to ask Tom Butler if he would be willing to present the prizes. Cllr. Mrs Rees will approach a professional photographer contact to request he judge the competition. Cllr. Mrs Rees and Cllr. Mrs Humphries kindly agreed to collect entries from participants on Friday 13th afternoon and Saturday 14th morning. The Clerk will update the posters and promote the competition on Facebook.

1547. CORRESPONDENCE

CSW poster seeking new volunteers
 CSW letters re HGV and tractor operators on mobile phones
 Blakelands fireworks 4/8/18
 Dementia Friend workshop
 Police Accountability forum – locality 5 11/7/18

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

South Staffordshire Council (SSC)– Council News round-up issues 68,69,70,71,72
 SSC grass cutting update 22/5/18; 6/6/18; 13/6/18; 29/5/18; 19/6/18
 Staffordshire County Council – pothole update w/c 21/5/18, 4/6/18, 11/6/18, 18/6/18
 SSC Let's work together 13/7/18 at Codsall
 Press release re The future of the Community Council of Staffordshire
 Staffordshire Police Newsletter 29/5/18
 Civic Voice War memorial news 12/6/18

1548. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that the Civic Award for 2018-2019 be presented earlier than in previous years due to the resignation of the internal auditor, who has fulfilled this role for many years – it was agreed this was plausible. The Clerk agreed to place it on next month's agenda for further discussion.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 25 July 2018 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed