

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

PRESENT: Councillor: Cllr. M Snelson (Chairman)
Councillors: Mrs J Stanton, Mrs. I Rees, A Burton, S Hadgett and M Slater
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
2 Members of the public

1689. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs. Jones and Country and District Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

1690. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr. M Slater declared an interest in 1697ai.

1691. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 15 May 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1692. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Further to the last meeting and concerns as to the planting season Cllrs. Snelson and Slater have agreed to plant the tree in early September 2019. Ms Haughtey was at the meeting and requested the position of the new tree be reconsidered. It was noted there are a large number of trees in this area already, however, the appeal lodged was dismissed. It was suggested the replacement tree be planted opposite the junction. Providing this in accordance with the conditions, the position was accepted. Cllrs. Snelson and Slater will review the site and take measurements.

b. Affordable Housing

The Clerk had corresponded with Lesley Birch (Housing Plus). Contact has now been made with Mr Sanderland. The street scene drawings have been sent to him. If he is happy to proceed, a further housing needs survey will be organised.

A discussion followed as to the need for affordable housing and the housing proposed on the airfield. It was agreed that any affordable housing on the airport would not be restricted to those with a connection to Bobbington, as this would be built under a different criteria. It was agreed that the Council should continue with a housing needs survey should M Sanderland be happy to proceed.

c. Defibrillator

The signs have now been installed. The Clerk agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mr Morgan.

d. EE rural cell trial

EE have confirmed they hope to be building the mast at the end of June 2019.

e. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA)

The Clerk had obtained further information with respect to membership, it was agreed unanimously that the annual cost was worthwhile as this included legal advice, discounted courses and membership of the national society amongst others.

f. Bobbington website

The Clerk had contacted the current provider, who has agreed to attend the July meeting.

Cllr. Snelson had circulated a link to another Parish Council's website, which has won an award. It was agreed it was a good site. Cllr. Mrs Jones had previously suggested that the costs could be minimised if the Parish Council provided content and photos. Cllr. Snelson suggested parishioners could be asked to submit their photos through facebook for inclusion in the website. All agreed to give some thought as to the content and links needed in anticipation of the next meeting.

1693. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. 77 and 79 Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Mrs Wilson has contacted the property owners and is now dealing with them direct.

b. Streetscene

Cllr. Hadgett expressed concerns over the deterioration in the standard of grass cutting since Streetscene (South Staffordshire Council) had taken on the contract. Lately grass around the reflector signs is just left – previously it used to be strimmed. A ride-on mower is now used and no attention is paid to the detail, there is no strimming at all, and whilst grass is swept into piles it isn't removed.

It was agreed that our concerns should be reported making reference to the steady deterioration in the upkeep of the Council maintained areas.

A further discussion was held with respect to the upkeep of Housing Association properties. A number of concerns were raised. The Clerk agreed to contact the Housing Association to determine what the tenant is responsible for. One further property was discussed, this is privately owned and already known to enforcement officers.

c. Pavement outside 4 Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Wilson had agreed to look into some of the pavement issues, however, no update has been received to date. This particular area (just beyond the driveway of number 4) was discussed given the pavement is badly broken up and a potential trip hazard. Cllr Hadgett agreed to provide the Clerk with photos to submit to Staffordshire Highways / Cllr. Victoria Wilson.

A pothole long Tom Lane, near to the Blackhills turning was discussed, this has been reported by several present, it is assumed it will be treated with high priority due to its size and location.

1694. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Corbett School

See attached report

It was noted that a Parishioner had raised concerns with Cllr. Burton with respect to the school finances. Mrs Southall had addressed this in her report and also wished to reassure the Parish Council that the Governors and Trustees scrutinise all expenditure and monitor income. Several quotes are obtained for all work completed. There is a contingency fund which has been growing for many years, and although it is now assisting to fill some of the funding gaps, it is not in immediate danger of running out, however, a number of cuts have been made (eg to teaching assistant hours) as the school think strategically about balancing the budget in the future. It should be noted that this is a national problem.

It was agreed that the Clerk would thank the Parishioner for their concerns and confirm that we were happy to leave matters in the capable hands of the trustees and governors. Updates will be requested and fed back to the Council through these School reports.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the AGM was held on 18 June 2019, there is nothing further to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

Nothing to report.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that there have been 3 outings since the last meeting. 22 out of 154 vehicles were found to be speeding, this equates to 14% of vehicles compared to 7% since the CSW records began. The fastest vehicle recorded was doing 56mph. Cllr Burton has requested that the speed camera van visit, however, Michelle Shaker had explained that the last visit was on the 1 April 2019 and being a low priority route they only aim to visit the area once per quarter. During the last visit there were 3 offences committed, 1 for speed and 2 for no seatbelts.

Mr Lewis has now stepped down from CSW leaving 7 volunteers including Cllr. Mrs Wilson, of these 4 are active. New volunteers would be welcomed, in the meantime Cllr. Burton will speak to neighbouring parishes to see if there is any interest in shared/cross pollination outings.

Police Crime Report

No official report had been received at the time of the meeting. Those present reported a van being broken into, a suspicious van driving around (the passenger was wearing a helmet) and children being approached by a van (in a neighbouring parish). It was also reported that there had been some drone activity within Swindon, Police believed they could be reviewed properties for potential targets.

The Clerk was asked to request the presence of a PCSO at our meetings, as none had been seen for several months.

1695. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No additional matters were raised, those present agreed on the deterioration of the grass cutting and the neglect of Housing Association properties.

1696. FINANCE

a. Internal audit year ended 31 March 2019

Mr Dudley has completed the internal audit and signed the certificate.

b. Certificate of Exemption

The criteria was reviewed and agreed, as such, the certificate of exemption was signed, ready for submission.

b. Governance statement annual return 31 March 2019

The annual governance statement was reviewed and completed.

c. Accounts year ended 31 March 2019

The accounts were approved and will be forwarded on to the external auditor and posted on the website.

d. Annual donations -Holy Cross Church – upkeep of the Churchyard (2018 £900)

The PCC Secretary, Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that the amount spent on the upkeep for the year to the end of December 2018 was £1,357.00. A discussion followed, it was agreed that the new gardener was much better and making good progress. It was agreed that a donation of £900 should be made towards the upkeep for 2019/20.

e. Cheques

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

i. SPCA	Annual membership	£142
ii. Clerk	Salary & Expenses	£366.50
iii. HMRC	Paye	£85.80
iv. Holy Cross Church	Upkeep of churchyard	£900.00

1697. PLANNING MATTERS**a. Received:**

- i. Cllr. Slater left the room - 19/00362/FUL - Alder Farm Six Ashes Road Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5BX - Erection of steel portal frame agricultural barn – No objections. Cllr. Slater re-joined the meeting.
- ii. 19/00436/FUL - 91 Six Ashes Road Bobbington DY7 5EA - First floor side extension and single storey rear extension – No objections
- 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 – nothing further to add

b. Responded to:

- i. PA 19/ 00190/FUL – Salters Hall Farm, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, DY7 5DX – Change of use from Agricultural buildings to 3 No residential dwellings – No objections.
- ii. Appeal – APP/C3430/W/19/3225664 PA 17/01095/COU Land to the North of Six Ashes Road Bobbington, WV15 6EL – Creation of natural burial ground with parking and pavilion on agricultural ground – Nothing further to add.

c. Outcomes:**d. Enforcement matters:**

- i. The Clerk reported having received queries in respect of two enforcement matters reported some time ago. South Staffordshire Council had stated in an email that there was a bit of a backlog.

1698. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Burton had attended the AGM and circulated a report (see attached). Cllr Mrs Rees reported that she had spoken to Cllr Mrs V Wilson and agreed to a small working group. Cllr. Mrs Rees and Cllr. Mrs Stanton have agreed to represent Bobbington Parish Council.

1699. CORRESPONDENCE

Blakelands Country House – Fireworks display 26 June 2019 at 10:15pm

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Your voice matters – merger update

Staffordshire Police newsletter

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 30/5/2019

Together we're better poster

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Council news 121,122

SSC – Street scene update

1700. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Slater reported he had been approached with respect to a visibility mirror at the end of Lutley Lane as views are often restricted. It was agreed that the Parishioner needs to contact Highways to discuss the requirements / obtain advice.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 17 July 2019

Meeting Closed