

**MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 20 March 2019 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village**  
**Hall at 7:30pm**

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

**1628. APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr R Lewis.

**1629. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1630. MINUTES:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 20 February 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**1631. MATTERS ARISING:**

**a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)**

The Chair read out the planning condition requirements with respect to the type and size of tree to be replanted; namely:

“A replacement tree is to be planted for the Oak that is to be removed. The replacement tree shall be an Oak tree (*Quercus robur*), 12-14cm girth container grown in container size C45 - C70. The tree shall be planted on the Brantley Lane frontage of the property and within 10 metres of the junction with Brantley Crescent.”

A brief discussion followed as to who was responsible for the planting and acquisition of the tree – no conclusion was reached.

Cllr. M Snelson will attend the site to determine where the tree can be planted. Costs will also need to be obtained. This will then be discussed at the next meeting.

**b. Affordable Housing**

The Clerk had corresponded with Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) who will make contact with the purchaser of the preferred land and express their interest in acquiring a proportion for affordable housing. If he is willing to enter into a contract with them Lesley will carry out a housing needs survey.

**c. Defibrillator**

Cllr. Lewis had corresponded with Diane Firkins with respect to the sign. Upon discussion confusion arose as to the agreed location and in the absence of Cllr. Lewis clarification was not possible.

Diane's email in November 2018 states that the visibility splay has to be maintained when pulling out of the access, this requires 2 metres rear of the access. Highways mapping system suggested that the footway was approx. 2 metres wide so a sign at the rear of the footway should be acceptable. Diane's email of the 25 February 2019 requests the precise location of the sign as if within private land the Parish Council can purchase the sign themselves, but if on Highway land then Highways would look to install it. A further email on the 26 February 2019 suggests that Diane will obtain a quotation for consideration, therefore, suggesting the sign will be on Highway land. Cllr. M Snelson had agreed that with the owners of the Red Lion that the sign would be placed in the gravel/bark area at the edge of the pavement, which was believed to be private land. Unfortunately, copies of the location pictures submitted to Highways were not available for clarification, although the description was the edge of the pavement. Concerns were raised as it was believed the cost of the alternatives could differ substantially.

It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chairman, Cllr Lewis and Clerk be formed to progress this given it has been on the agenda for in excess of 12 months.

**d. EE rural cell trial**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton informed the meeting that there has been a small delay in the swap out of existing communities and, therefore, it is now likely to be May when they are ready to build any new sites. Cllr. M Snelson informed the meeting that someone had attended the Red Lion and taken pictures, so it appears there is some background activity.

**e. Bobbington Bash**

Cllr Mrs Stanton has still not heard from the Chair of the Enville show. She had requested further contact details from Cllr. Lewis. Cllr. M Snelson agreed to let Cllr. Mrs Stanton have a contact number.

**1632. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**a. Meeting with Diane Firkins – Community Traffic Management Officer**

Cllr. Lewis had circulated a progress update from Diane Firkins (Highways), namely:

- Drain cover opposite the school – awaiting resources to carry out work
- Footpath / island around Post Office – inspection team have confirmed the area is not part of the adopted highway, it looks like District Council or Housing Association footpaths
- Water running down Six Ashes Road – job raised to have the gullies within the area jetted and to ensure that the outfalls are clear and running – it appears some of the gullies are blocked.
- Whittimere Lane culvert – Job raised for the Contractor jetter to attend to jet clear the culvert (Highways jetter isn't strong enough to cleanse it). Awaiting resources to carry out the work.
- Brantley Lane / Brantley Crescent – awaiting resources to carry out work.
- Tom Lane – Self-setter trees to be cleared to allow water to drain.

b. It was reported that a road sweeper had been cleaning roads in the village during the last month.

- c. A letter had been received from the owners of 77 and 79 Six Ashes Road concerning the continual flow of water across the road outside their properties. The letter provides a background and details of investigations to date, it requests the Parish Council investigate the matter. It was agreed that Staffordshire Highways should be approached. County Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to assist with this matter.

## 1633. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

### **Corbett School**

Cllr W Snelson reported that apart from the parking issues all was well. It was agreed by those present that parked cars were gradually creeping further down the road and were now often beyond the bend into the village. Concerns were expressed as to access for emergency vehicles. Cllr W Snelson explained that conversations had been held across the board of Governors and with the Headteacher but there was no easy solution – although additional parking was anticipated at the rear of the Village Hall, it is now understood that this will not take place in the immediate future. Some parking had been permitted at Salters Hall yard, however, recently this had caused disruption to deliveries. Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated that parking outside schools was a problem around the County. It was suggested that the school could promote healthy ways of getting to school, however, it is understood that some parents already park on the Red Lion car park and walk to school. Many pupils are not from within the village and, therefore, walking is not always feasible. It was agreed that anyone with any suggestions on how to improve the position should contact the school directly.

### **Village Hall**

Cllr. Lewis had submitted a report, which the Chair read. Earlier in the month we had a 48 hour deluge of heavy rain. This caused several leaks in the flat roof section of the hall. The management committee have now agreed the whole roof needs to be repaired.

Quotations in excess of £5k for the repair have been received. For this reason the stoning of the grassy area at the rear of the hall is on hold indefinitely due to financial constraints.

### **Church of the Holy Cross**

Nothing to report.

### **Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)**

Since the last meeting there has been one outing, 50 cars passed through, none were found to be above the speed limit.

More volunteers are needed. The Clerk will share the upcoming training session for new volunteers (3 April 2019) on facebook and with the school. Cllr. Mrs Wilson again offered to help. The Clerk will forward her contact details to Mr Burton.

Mr Burton raised a concern with respect to signage at Gospel Ash Road / Halfpenny Green. It is currently anticipated that this will be risk assessed on the 3 April 2019, however, as outside of the permanent sign area temporary signs will need to be used if a site is agreed.

**SSRP Grant Fund**

The application process has been reviewed by the Clerk and Chair and is quite substantial, the closing date is the end of April 2019.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burton for his research into SIDs / VAS, which he had shared with the Chairman, Cllr. Lewis and Clerk. It is now understood that these signs cannot be in the same place permanently and for this reason many areas, rotate the signs between different locations. As such, two SIDs/VAS may not be necessary. If so, it was suggested the fund application could be used to fund permanent CSW signs for Halfpenny Green / Gospel Ash Road also.

A discussion followed around insurance, repair and moving SIDs/VAS from site to site.

The Clerk had spoken to Enville Parish Council and obtained details of the supplier of their equipment, she is awaiting a call back. Mr Burton has been in contact with several other companies in addition to the quotes already obtained from Mr Burton and Cllr Lewis from Messagemaker Displays.

The Clerk has contacted the PCSO team for a letter of support, as having spoken to Michelle Shaker the CSW team are not able to provide this.

It was agreed by those present that a sub-committee consisting of Mr Burton, Cllr. Lewis, the Chair and Clerk be formed to progress this matter.

**Police Crime Report**

No official report had been received. Concern was expressed as to the lack of a report given the number of crimes is increasing. Various crimes across the Parish were raised and discussed. A new facebook page (Bobbington neighbours watch) has been set up by a Parishioner for villagers to know what is going on around them.

**1634. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Concerns were raised as to a hedge from Leaton Lane into Crab Lane restricting vision when driving. Cllr. W Snelson and Cllr. M Snelson believed it may be on their land, however, it may possibly be a new hedge and, therefore, subject to restricted trimming. Cllr. M Snelson agreed to review this.

**1635. FINANCE****a. Internal Auditor**

Following the resignation of Mr Hayhurst a new internal auditor is sought. The Clerk asked those present to consider whether this will remain a position for a nominal fee or whether she should obtain quotes from a local firm which may charge a higher fee. Several possibilities were discussed. It was agreed that an approach could be made this year to any contacts of those on the Council / in the village. Councillors were asked to submit any suggestions to the Clerk for discussion at the next meeting. The Clerk agreed to look into any qualifications/requirements needed and whether candidates could be ruled out for any reason.

**b. Year-end donations**

- i. **Corbett School – High Fives and football tournament.** This year's tournament will be held on 21 April 2019. The cost of medals is £250. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Rees that a contribution of £230 be given as in the previous year, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanton.
- ii. **Halfpenny Green Air Scouts** – It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Stanton that a contribution of £230 be given to assist with the running costs, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Humphries.
- c. **Clerk's annual pay review**  
The Chairman proposed an increase of 2% given the CPI had only risen by 1.8%. This was agreed by all present.
- d. **Cheques**  
The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. W Snelson and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Humphries
 

i. Corbett School	s137	£230.00
ii. Halfpenny Green Air Scouts	s137	£230.00
iii. Clerk		£353.83
iv. HMRC		£84.80

#### 1636. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. Received:
  - i. PA 19/00145/FUL16 Brantley Crescent Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5DB, New detached three bedroom dwelling house with integral garage – The plans were briefly discussed, although not all present had reviewed them. It was agreed that the development was alongside the existing property / in the garden and, therefore, not in greenbelt. Cllr. Lewis had lodged objections with the Clerk, however, there were no other immediate objections. It was agreed that Councillors would submit comments to the Clerk who would submit the formal response.
- b. Responded to:
  - i. PA 19/00055/FUL Tuckhill Farm Tuck Hill Six Ashes Bridgnorth South Staffordshire WV15 6EW - Single storey extension – No comments were lodged due to an insufficient number of responses.
  - ii. PA 19/00077/TREE\_T - 16 Brantley Crescent Bobbington DY7 5DB Tree Preservation Order 83/1986. T14, Oak - 20% crown reduction and remove dead wood – No objections
- c. Outcomes:
- d. Enforcement matters:

#### 1637. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported on a meeting with various pilots / users of the airfield which was attended by a number of Councillors and the Clerk. The Clerk has been added to this group's circulation list. These emails are currently being forwarded to Cllr Mrs. Rees (Airport Representative), Cllr Mrs. Jones (Chairman) and Cllr. Mrs Wilson (County Councillor), the email traffic has so far been considerable and therefore, those present were given the opportunity to receive the correspondence and be involved in a sub-committee. Cllr. Mrs Stanton offered her assistance.

This was followed by the consultation event hosted by MCR at the Village Hall. Again, a number of Councillors attended this event and asked questions of the

MCR representatives. A discussion was held as to the answers obtained and general feedback from the event.

The Rt honourable Gavin Williamson's newsletter contains an article on the possible development on the airfield, these have been distributed within the village.

#### 1638. **ELECTIONS**

The Clerk had received a pack from South Staffordshire Council with respect to the forthcoming elections containing a nomination guidance pack for prospective candidates and presentation notes from the candidates and agents briefing session. She will scan these and circulate them. Nomination forms are available from the District Council offices or can be downloaded from their website.

#### 1639. **CORRESPONDENCE**

South Staffordshire shire Council (SSC) – campaign re dog fouling

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Elections newsletter 5

SSC – Notice of election posters

SSC – Council News round-up issues 107, 108, 109

Staffordshire County Council weekly update – 8/3/2019

Staffordshire Dignity in Care awards 2019 - nominations open

VAST 1/3/2019

#### 1640. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Mrs Wilson explained that a new fund of £2,500 will be made available to her in 2019/20 - "People helping people fund". Further details will be available in May 2019, however, it is anticipated that bids will have to be submitted to Cllr. Mrs Wilson. The minimum bid will be £500 and it is anticipated that this will be match funded. There is understood to be criteria which has to be met, to ensure the money given helps people out of poverty or keeps children and families healthy.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson referred back to a discussion several meetings ago in respect of the Highways scheme for 2019/20. £20,000 will be made available for 8 County Councillors and therefore, match funding will be expected. However, smaller councils where the precept is less should not be penalised for not being able to match funding. The Parish Council were asked to consider the proposal.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Due to a number of people being on annual leave and Easter, it was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the 24 April 2019 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed