

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 16 October 2019 in the Jubilee room at Bobbington Village
Hall at 7:30pm

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

1725. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

1726. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

1727. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 18 September 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1728. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Cllrs. Snelson and Slater reported that the leaves have still not fallen from the trees. It is anticipated that the tree will be planted prior to the next meeting.

b. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) had confirmed she has spoken to the District Council about the possibility of carrying out a smaller survey to assess housing need. This would mean a consultation event would not be needed straight away because residents are more likely to complete a smaller form. She had sent a copy of the previous questionnaire and suggested that just part 2 be sent to the parishioners to prove to the Planning officer that there is still a need for Affordable housing. If Councillors are happy, she would chase South Staffordshire Council for their agreement. A discussion took place. It was agreed that Parish Council would be happy with part 2 being sent to Parishioners. It was, however, agreed that the questionnaire would need to be accompanied by a covering letter that explained the current situation, actions since the last consultation and the land selected. The Clerk agreed to contact Lesley and ask whether they would write such a letter, if not the Clerk will look to draft a letter and circulate it for approval.

c. EE rural cell trial

The EE mast on The Red Lion is now operational. It is still in a period of test, so any feedback on the function would be welcome. Cllr Burton reported that his signal had improved significantly, however, Cllr Hadgett stated that there was no change at his property. Generally, it seems the feedback to date is very mixed, some reporting a big improvement but others not noticing a difference. It was suggested that EE may need to bring testing equipment out to assess the true position.

Councillors were asked to spread the word about the mast. Any comments are to be provided to Cllr Mrs Stanton or the Clerk. These will then be collated sent to EE.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs Stanton for her work on this project.

d. Bobbington website

The Clerk had corresponded with Andy Pitt of Chipmonk Computing about the new website design. Andy was sorry to hear that the council didn't like the new design. He is unsure as to what is really meant by 'cleaner', but will look at other websites the Clerk had suggested.

The Clerk had also raised compliance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 with Andy as these regulations would apply to a new website. Andy had agreed to look into the requirements. He will stop further development on the new site until he's looked at what is involved.

Since the last meeting the Clerk had circulated details of a Parish Council's website template offer from Staffordshire County Council. This new website template is being offered to Parish Councils looking to modernise their own websites. It will guarantee compliance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 and be responsive to any mobile device. Webmaster support would be from within the county council.

This offer would be considerably cheaper than an independent provider, therefore, the Clerk asked the Councillors to consider this option before obtaining quotes from independent providers. It was also noted that the Parish Council email was already provided by the County Council.

A brief discussion followed. The Clerk agreed to re-circulate the County Council's website information for Councillors to review.

e. Unkempt properties

The Clerk had further corresponded with Teresa, the Tenancy Officer. She has scheduled a site visit on Wednesday 23rd October 2019 to all properties previously mentioned. Once she has established if they meet their tenancy conditions or not she will contact them with a letter initially requesting what they need to do in order to satisfy the Association. She will then hopefully conduct another site visit on the 31st October to check on progress.

1729. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. SSRP Grant application

Cllr Burton has spoken to Ben, however, the applications were forwarded to a different team and, therefore, he was unable to provide any information as to why the application was not successful.

b. Street Scene

The Clerk had contacted Cllr. Mrs Wilson as agreed. She has explained the position as follows and sought clarification from Staffordshire Highways with respect to whether contact can be made to private land owners where overgrown grass / verges are a problem. She has also requested they confirm the number of cuts the verges along Gospel Ash Road have had this year:

“The County Highways has an agreement with the District Council (DC) to undertake 8 cuts per year on roads with speed limits of 30pmh or less, although land belonging to the DC is cut fortnightly (Halfpenny Green itself). The County Council cuts grass on roads with speed limits of 40mph or more, and cuts the grass nearest to the road, to a maximum depth of 1 metre, so that consideration is given to the flora and fauna of the verge. The DC states that the verges in the vicinity of Halfpenny Green are all managed by the DC except possibly those on Gospel Ash Road”.

A long discussion followed. The Councillors' main concern was that it would seem the grass / verges have not received the number of cuts that would have been expected to date based on the above clarification. Cllr. Mrs. Wilson thought that grass cutting schedules are available to view on the County Council website. Cllr. Hadgett stated that at the recent Parish Summit, the Street Scene team agreed to circulate their cutting schedules to the Parish Councils.

c. Brantley Crescent Pavements

There is no update from Highways. Cllr Mrs Wilson explained that these would not be classed as a priority and, therefore, it may be several months before they are actioned.

d. Potholes

It was noted that a lot of potholes have been marked but no actions to repair them have been taken as yet, however, the junction of Crab Lane was patched last week.

e. Streetscene – Parish Summit

Cllr. Hadgett had attended the Street Scene break-out group at the recent Parish Summit. One of the questions he asked was why the road sweepers do not sweep all roads when in the Parish. It was explained that there is only one road sweeper for the District, therefore, only roads on the schedule are swept. If additional roads are required, a request has to be made.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson explained that a lot of these problems are as a result of funding cuts over the years. This is why many communities are coming together and doing tasks themselves e.g. litter picking, strimming etc. A discussion followed. Blocked drains were also discussed with Cllr. Wilson providing further details with respect to procedure and cost. It was agreed that whilst funds may not permit all jobs to be carried out, and may result in delays in others being done, the Parish Council / parishioners should continue to report matters.

1730. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Corbett School

Mrs Southall is organising her own retirement party, this will be for old pupils their parents and colleagues and will be on held on Friday 6th December 2019,

commencing at 18:30 in the Red Lion pub, Bobbington. Mrs Southall says that it is a "pop in" party for people to come and say farewell if they wish to.

Cllr Burton reported that the Harvest Festival had been held earlier in the day. Mrs Southall had stated it to be the best turnout they'd ever received. The Village Hall was full. A new Headteacher has been appointed and will take up her post in January 2020. Mrs K Crook will join the school in January from a Deputy Head post at a school in Wolverhampton. She will be visiting the school and meeting the staff, children and parents on several occasions between now and Christmas.

Village Hall

A committee meeting was held on 14 October 2019, no further information is currently available.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that:

The Harvest Supper at Blakelands was a big success, many thanks to all those who supported it and those who generously contributed produce and/or food. The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 10th November at 10.45 a.m. There is a P.C.C. meeting on 29th October at which they will discuss the newsletter.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that the group arranged to go out twice since the last meeting, however, one was subsequently cancelled due to rain. 98 vehicles passed through with 7 found to be speeding. The fastest speed recorded was 48mph.

Two new recruits will complete training on 26 October 2019. A further person is considering this date.

Police Crime Report

Cllr Burton reported that he'd seen a PCSO in the village this morning. She had been checking for cars parked on pavements. She did speak to one parent who had parked on the zig zag lines.

No PCSO was able to attend, however, they had reported that there have been no incidents of note reported and no locations of note re ASB hotspots.

1731. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

1732. FINANCE

There were no cheques to be approved.

1733. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. Received and responded to:
 - i. 19/00605/FUL Provision of three holiday lodges; Land East Of Six Ashes Inn Six Ashes Road Six Ashes – numerous objections including greenbelt and access
- b. Responded to:

- i. 19/00659/FUL 16 Brantley Crescent Bobbington DY7 5DB - New detached three bedroom dwelling house with integral garage (Resubmission of 19/00145/FUL) – No objections
- c. Outcomes:
 - i. APP/C3430/W/19/3227909 Glasshouses, Meadow View Cottage, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, South Staffordshire DY7 5DT, detached bungalow and double garage – appeal dismissed; inappropriate development in the Green Belt and would result in a moderately greater impact on the openness of the Green.
- d. Enforcement matters
 - i. The Corner House, Blacklands Barn, Six Ashes Road - stables themselves are on skids, so it has been agreed they will move them on a regular basis.

1734. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Nothing to report since the last meeting. Cllr Mrs Rees has requested a meeting of the Consultative Committee once the plans are submitted. Cllr Mrs Wilson confirmed she had spoken to the manager the previous day. He hasn't been shown any plans to date.

1735. CORRESPONDENCE

Locality Police engagement meeting information – The Clerk had drafted responses and sought feedback on any additional items to be added – nothing further was raised.

BT – removal of 27 phone boxes – this concerns the phone box at Halfpenny Green. Several Councillors understood there was no phone in the box or it didn't work. It has certainly been subject to removal reviews in the past. Only one 999 call has been made. It was agreed there were no objections to its removal. A brief discussion was held on the merits of keeping the “red box”.

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 3/10/19

South Staffordshire Council - Council news 136,137, 139

SSC Parish Summit 2019 - 11/10/2019

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin 19/9/19; 26/9/19;

3/10/19; 10/10/19;

SSC 2019 Parish Summit Agenda

SSC Remembrance Service 11/11/19 – Chairman invitation

1736. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 27 November 2019 at Halfpenny Vineyards.

Meeting Closed 8:20pm