

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 19 September 2018 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. I Rees and R Lewis
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
5 Members of the public

1563. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of District Cllr. McCardle and Cllrs. Mrs. J Stanton and Mrs. J Humphries.

1564. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllrs M Snelson and W J Snelson declared interests in 1572ai.

1565. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 25 July 2018, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1566. COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman had asked for the Code of Conduct to be circulated prior to the meeting. She reminded all Councillors that they were bound by the terms of the Code of Conduct (adopted on becoming a Parish Councillor). She requested that everyone review it and consider their conduct and its impact on the Parish Council. The Chairman cited social media as one area where Councillors should be mindful. Although the Code concerns conduct in office, she reminded those present that Bobbington is a small Parish and so Councillors can often be seen as acting in their role.

1567. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

An update is awaited from Cllr. Mrs Stanton who is exploring one further idea.

Cllr. Lewis reported that the property next door (owned by Ms Haughtey's father) was up for sale. It was agreed this currently had no relevance to the discussion.

b. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) had agreed to provide answers if the Clerk was able to send her a list of questions regularly asked. The Clerk had drafted a list which was reviewed and approved by those present.

Cllr. M Snelson had located a soft copy of the guidance given to the Parish Councillors by Lesley Birch when discussions first started. The Clerk agreed to request some further copies from Lesley.

Following further discussion the Clerk was asked to put the following questions to Lesley Birch to seek clarification:

1. Is there a way of changing the split of houses available for rent / shared ownership?
2. If in a rented property is there an option to buy a share of the property / convert it to a shared ownership property after 2-3 years - or will it always remain a rented property?
3. Similarly, if in a shared ownership property, is it possible to increase the proportion owner after 2-3 years?

c. Defibrillator

Unfortunately, the defibrillator road sign cannot be placed alongside the recycling sign as this is on a lamp post and is no longer permitted. An alternative location is required.

A discussion followed concluding that the following were possibilities, subject to discussion with the land owners – the entrance to the field adjacent to the car park, driveway or garden area of the Red Lion. Cllr M Snelson agreed to make some enquiries with the land owners.

Cllr. Mrs Humphries had reported that Cllr. Lewis had written a short article for the Bobbington brief with respect to the defibrillator.

d. EE rural cell trial

EE now have a new project manager who is busy trying to tie all the departments together to agree a way forward with respect to the operational maintenance and customer services departments i.e. what happens if someone in Bobbington calls customer services and reports a fault. These microcells are currently being maintained by an external company, EE's customer services team need to be able to log a fault to that external company.

e. Noticeboard

Delivery is awaited.

f. Bobbington Bash

The Clerk will forward details of those interested in sitting on the organising committee to Cllr Mrs Stanton to permit a first meeting to be arranged.

1568. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. Meeting with Diane Firkins – Community Traffic Management Officer

Unfortunately, due to the number of Parish Councils that Diane looks after it is not feasible for her to attend evening appointments. The idea of the meeting was to have an informal discussion regarding the financial position that Staffordshire County Council are in and to promote the “people helping people” agenda.

It was agreed that Cllr. M Snelson and Cllr Lewis would meet with Diane during a working day to discuss all associated highway matters.

1569. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Village Hall

The grassed area at the rear of the hall will be removed and a hard surface put down to increase the number of parking spaces available. It is anticipated that this

will take place during October half term, failing which it will be completed next Spring.

Church of the Holy Cross

Revd. Richard Fisher will be licensed as the vicar of Bobbington and Trysull on Thursday evening 18th October at Trysull church. His first service here at Bobbington will be on Sunday 21st October.

The "Bobbington Brief" newsletter is expected to be delivered to the village before that date and is already prepared. Thank you to Cllr. Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Lewis for contributions under Parish Council news.

Corbett School

Overall numbers of children are consistent. A 5-star certificate has been attained by the kitchen and catering staff with respect to hygiene.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

The CSW team have been out once since the last meeting, no speeding vehicles were noted. The team are still looking for more volunteers if anyone is interested.

A member of the public asked whether patrols could also be carried out in Gospel Ash as there are a large number of vehicles driving in excess of the speed limit. Cllr. Lewis agreed to speak to Michelle, the CSW lead – risk assessments will need to be performed to ensure the proposed places are safe.

Andy, a senior member of the CSW team, had suggested that an application be made for SIDs (Speed indicator devices) next time funding is made available. It was agreed this was sensible.

Velo

The complaint was approved and will now be submitted to Staffordshire County Council.

The Clerk asked Cllr. Mrs Wilson whether the 2019 Velo event will pass through the area. Cllr. Ms Wilson was not aware that it would.

Police Crime report

A report had been received for the period from 18 August 2018 to 18 September 2018, this stated:

- **Drugs:** a strong smell of cannabis has been reported on several occasions in the area of Brantley Crescent. It has also been reported that residents have been smoking it in the street. Regular patrols have been carried out however, no one has been found yet. On one occasion, there was a smell of cannabis in the air but it couldn't be located where it was coming from.
- **Suspicious:** Six Ashes Road – 11/09/18 at 1545hrs 3 males were seen to run from a property and quickly get in to a white '59' plate Renault Megane. There were no signs of a break in etc but the vehicle made off at high speed.

1570. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were raised by the members of the public present;

Is it possible to do anything about the cars parking on the road between the Red Lion Public House and the telephone exchange?

A discussion followed which concluded that actions available were limited unless they were doing anything illegal. It was, however, suggested that the Clerk could send a letter with respect to the potential danger they posed.

The ownership / responsibility for the spruce pine trees on Halfpenny Green was raised. These trees are impeding on the neighbouring property and would benefit from a size reduction. Cllr M Snelson agreed to visit the site and speak to Steve Dore at the District Council if required.

1571. FINANCE

a. Cheques

The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Lewis and seconded by Cllr. W Snelson

i.	Clerk	Salary and expenses	£614.64
ii.	HMRC	Paye	£112.40
iii.	Earth Anchors	Noticeboard	£961.20

A budget of £10 was agreed as payment for judging the Tom Butler Cup competition. Cllr Mrs Rees will organise this.

1572. PLANNING MATTERS

a. Received:

- i. PA 18/00755/FUL - Meadow View Cottage Six Ashes Road Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5DT - Detached bungalow and double garage

The owner of the land answered several questions with respect to the application – he was unsure as to a couple of answers, but agreed to make further enquiries.

The application was discussed following which it was concluded that the proposed development was in greenbelt and there did not appear to be any special circumstances to warrant the development. Objections to be logged with the planning team.

- ii. 18/00727/HEDGE - Hedge Off Lutley Lane, Bobbington – no objections
- iii. APP/C3430/W/18/3207145 PA 17/00584/FUL 19 Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5BZ – Appeal made to secretary of state – no further comments to add

b. Responded to:

c. Outcomes:

d. Enforcement matters:

1573. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr M Snelson had attended the Consultative Committee meeting he reported that:

- The Control Tower is manned between 9am and 5pm. Planes can use the airport to land and take off outside of these times but have to have completed a written disclaimer form, and resubmit every 12 months.

- Project propellor was a private event which involved flying in world war 2 veterans to a party in one of the hangers. Although a private event it was advertised on Facebook to the public to come and watch the planes and the Lancaster bomber fly by. This Facebook post had 45,000 views.

Due to the success of the Facebook post, they will now use Facebook and Twitter a lot more so everyone is encouraged to 'like' the page or follow, to keep up to date with what's going on.

- A Paranormal evening had been arranged with all 36 tickets being sold within 24hrs.
- New website is being developed - watch this space.
- Wellesbourne airport has recently closed, some of planes (2-3) have moved to Bobbington from here.
- They have recently invested in new fire engine.
- Runway '34', which was damaged by a jet take off and ripping up the tarmac. Needs a 7 figure sum of money spending on it. At the moment this runway is temporarily closed. The current owners MCR are willing to invest in the repair - more info at next meeting.

1574. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Blakelands – Fireworks notification for 20/10/18

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – grass cutting / grounds maintenance 2/8/18

SSC – request to attend a meeting re elections

SSC – Streetscene

South Staffordshire volunteer awards

Shrewsbury Model railway show 20 October 2018

Staffordshire Police Crime Commissioner – New Governance for Fire and Rescue

SSC request for events in the Parish

Community Council – end of an era

SSC Skills and job fair

Friends and neighbours living (FANS) network newsletter

Staffordshire County Council Budget and medium term financial strategy message to Parish Councils

Gavin Williamson newsletter

South Staffordshire Council – Council News round-up issues 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85

VAST newsletter 23/8/2018

Staffordshire County Council – pothole update w/c 30/7, 6/8, 25/7, 13/8, 20/8, 30/8, 4/9, 19/9

Civic Voice War memorial news 7/8, 21/8, 4/9, 19/9

VCSE projects funded by SSC

Voluntary Sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

Summary from the Police Accountability meeting

SSC Parish Summit 2018 – 28/9/2018

Staffordshire Police Newsletter July 2018

SSC Local plan update

SSC Section 106 guidance

SSC Lottery – funding for projects

News from Staffordshire County Council Conservatives Group

SSC Who's who directory

1575. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. M Snelson commented on the SAD documents which the Clerk had forwarded by email. He confirmed that there was no suggested development sites

for Bobbington, however, there were a couple of sites in each of Wombourne and Kinver and one site in Swindon.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson warned those present that services provided by Staffordshire County Council would be depleting due to financial difficulties. She explained that the council would this year break-even, however, if spending and income continued at the current rate a deficit of £50m would be incurred in 2 years time. Over 9 years £240m has been saved but a further £35m is needed. In order to recover by 2023 a number of cuts will be made, these include crossing patrols, cutting grass outside homes, back office staff, Councillors funds. There are record number of vulnerable adults and children currently needing the support of the County, these services need to be provided at the expense of some of the others. Staffordshire County Council do not want to end up in a financial crisis like some others not that far away, as such, steps are being taken now.

Cllr. Wilson anticipates Parish Councils will be given more control, there will be options for the Parish Councils to arrange works, e.g. clearing gullies, some funding may be able to assist with equipment and safety gear as one-off expenses, however, with this in mind, Parish Councils are being asked to carefully consider their precepts. This information has been released 3 months earlier than required and although the County Council hope for some positive news in the Autumn statements, steps are being taken now as this cannot be guaranteed. A discussion followed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 17 October 2018 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed 8:25pm