

MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 18 September 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 and Cllr Mrs I Rees
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
Lesley Birch Housing Plus (Part of business)
2 Members of the public

1713. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs J Stanton, Cllr. S Hadgett and County and District Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

1714. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

1715. MINUTES:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 17 July 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1716. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Cllrs. Snelson and Slater have reviewed the site and taken measurements, unfortunately, there is only one feasible place to plant the replacement tree. Whilst this is not where the occupant would like it to be, technically it is the only qualifying position.

A tree has been purchased, but cannot be moved / planted until dormant (leaves have fallen off). This should be before the end October 2019, however, the Councillors were aware of the original condition and if not dormant until October this would be outside of the specified time period. A discussion followed concluding that the original tree was only taken down in February, after which sap was rising, so the Autumn is the best planting season for the tree to survive. It was agreed to wait until the optimal planting time.

b. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) was in attendance, as was Mr Sanderland, the owner of the land originally selected for development.

Lesley explained that as it currently stands nothing can be done until a new housing survey is commissioned. The Housing Association would be happy to pay for this if there is land to build on. She reminded the meeting that most of the original sites identified were ruled out for one or more reasons.

Mr Sanderland explained that he had originally purchased the area of land which had not been considered for development, however, at a later date was offered the site for the affordable housing. He is relatively flexible as to what goes there, but would prefer to see more affordable housing for shared ownership rather than rent.

Lesley explained that the mix of houses is partly determined by the survey. However, there is no obligation to build exactly what the survey dictates, you can build up to that level. A further survey will take approximately one month to complete. A discussion followed with respect to the information delivered so far.

It was agreed to hold a further consultation event on a Friday evening (3-8pm) and Saturday 10am-2pm before the end of the year. Flyers could be sent out with questionnaires attached. Lesley will send some dates to the Clerk.

c. EE rural cell trial

No further update has been received.

d. Bobbington website

Andy Pitt of Chipmonk Computing had kindly forwarded a sample of a new webpage for the Councillors to review. It was felt that this still wasn't as modern or eye catching as the Councillors had hoped.

It was agreed we should ask for tenders from 2-3 other providers also. The Clerk will respond to Andy and request that he submit further ideas and a cost. Councillors were asked to provide the Clerk with details of any website designers known to them.

e. Unkempt properties

The Clerk had contacted Housing Plus and corresponded with the Tenancy Officer for the area, Teresa Smith. Teresa will look to arrange home visits to look at the gardens etc and then agree action plans and timescales of when any work (if necessary) can be done by, as it's a breach of the tenancy conditions if Teresa feels the garden is not meeting the requirements of a satisfactory standard.

The Clerk was also asked to report 69 and 87 Six Ashes Road.

1717. HIGHWAY MATTERS

a. SSRP Grant application

Cllr Burton has not yet received a response – he will attempt to contact them again.

b. Street Scene

A response had been received from Andrew Aston, Development Office, Street Scene, South Staffordshire Council stating that they have had some issues regarding the mowers and growing rates, due to this they have hired an additional mower for two months, which will enable them to catch up and get around the District in two weeks. They are fully aware the grass is not looking very good, but have put things in place to ensure it is rectified over the next four weeks.

Cllr. Hadgett had asked for the cutting of grass verges to be raised – whilst it is noted that they have now been cut, this is only the third time since April. He requested that Cllr. Mrs Wilson advise as to the frequency of this work as it doesn't seem to be sufficient. As Cllr. Mrs Wilson wasn't at the meeting, the Clerk agreed to contact her in anticipation of the next meeting.

c. Pavements

- i. The pavement outside 4 Six Ashes Road has now been resurfaced
- ii. Brantley Crescent pavements have been reported to Highways following concerns from residents.

d. Hedge, Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Mrs Jones expressed concerns with the hedge from the Red Lion to Corbett School. One section appears to have been cut back, but there are brambles etc at eye level and also under foot. Given this is the main path to school, it is concerning that children may be hurt. Cllr Burton confirmed that a parishioner had cut one section back opposite his house. Cllrs. Snelson and Slater agreed to take a look and address the concerns.

e. Potholes

It was noted that a lot of potholes have been marked but no actions to repair them have been taken as yet.

f. Deer Road signs

The Clerk had contacted Highways with respect to the possibility of Deer warning signs. The cost for a sign and post would be in the region of £850 plus the traffic management cost of £500-£1000. It was agreed no further action would be taken at the current time, as the frequency of sightings did not warrant the costs.

1718. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that the children returned to school on Tuesday 3 September 2019. The school now has a total of 95 children across 7 years including reception, this is slightly down on last year but in keeping with a drop in birth rate. 2 new teachers started in September. The closing date for applications for the new Head Teacher has passed and interviews are taking place. The Harvest Festival is planned for the 16 October 2019 at 2pm.

Cllr Burton was asked if there were any events planned to mark Mrs Southall's retirement, he agreed to speak to the school office.

Village Hall

No report available.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that:

The Harvest Festival will be next Sunday 22nd at 11.15 a.m., with the Harvest Supper on the following evening Monday 23rd at Blakelands.

Rev. Richard is holding an Alpha Course which will run for 9 weeks on Tuesday evenings, 7 - 9 p.m. at Corbett School. The second of these is on Tuesday of this week, the 17th. It is held jointly with Trysull and supper is provided for which a donation is suggested. It is a relaxed event and all are welcome.

Please convey to Councillors the grateful thanks of the P.C.C. for the very generous donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It is greatly appreciated and we trust a good standard of care will be maintained.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that the group arranged to go out 3 times since the last meeting. One was cancelled, however the other 2 went ahead. Out of 95 vehicles 6 speeders were recorded with the fastest speed of 43mph. The speed van was in the village on Saturday 7 September 2019, Cllr Burton has requested the results of their activity and will share these once received.

There are two new possible recruits. Michelle Shaker is to provide information on the next training courses.

Staffordshire CSW continue to break records in 2019. There are 77 active groups covering 100 villages / towns / wards. 500 volunteers are on the books. There have been over 1000 monitoring hours creating 9740 warnings to issues to drivers for speeding.

Police Crime Report

1 burglary at Six Ashes Road. Offenders have tried to gain access to the garage using an unknown tool – possibly a crow bar. Offenders disturbed and made off.

4 x suspicious off-road motor bikes reported in Lutley Lane. Said to be wearing balaclavas and casing properties. Reported 11th Aug.

Burnt out Land Rover recovered on private property off Crab Lane. Vehicle identified as stolen from Leicester two days prior to being burnt out. Vehicle recovered on 6th Aug.

It was noted that one man responsible for a break-in several months ago was back in prison. Two further men are still part of Police investigations.

It was further noted there had been an accident at Six Ashes from which several men ran away. A house in Brantley Lane had been broken into and tools stolen.

Cllr. Burton asked whether there had been any further information on the matters PCSO Buzzard agreed to look into and report back. The Clerk agreed to chase the PCSOs as it is understood PCSO has now left to complete Police Officer training.

A parishioner had asked whether it would be possible to invest in Parish CCTV cameras and suggested it could be funded by a village fundraiser. It was agreed that this would be very expensive as there are 4 ways into the village alone and that excludes Gospel Ash. There were further concerns over data protection, storing of data, maintenance, installation and vandalism. It was agreed that the Parish Council could support a community crime prevention scheme e.g. Neighbourhood Watch but not the installation of CCTV.

1719. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

1720. FINANCE

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

i.	SPCA	Training course for Councillors	£55.00
ii.	Clerk	Salary and expenses	£363.02
iii.	HMRC	Paye	£85.80

1721. PLANNING MATTERS

- 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
- b. Received and responded to:
 - i. 19/00591/FUL 2 Brantley Crescent Bobbington DY7 5DB - Single storey side extension including porch and facilities for a disabled person (re-submission of 19/00003/FUL) – No objection
 - ii. 19/00512/FUL Upper Whittimere Farm Halfpenny Green Vineyards Tom Lane Bobbington DY7 5EP - Extension to existing winery – No objection
- c. Responded to:
 - i. PA 19/00278/LBC 3 Leaton Hall, Leaton Lane, Bobbington, DY7 5DE – Window replaced with door - concerns with respect to the applications. The removal of the window and replacement with a door would set a precedent for other owners to do the same. This would ultimately change the character of the building and its protected heritage status. Additionally, if the owner is fitting a door and it opens out, then it would be encroaching on the common area of other residents. I suspect that as with most apartment blocks the surrounding garden/driveway is a common area and maintained through the service charge. If they intend to leave the door open, would this block access for other residents?
 - ii. PA 19/00277/FUL 3 Leaton Hall, Leaton Lane, Bobbington, DY7 5DE – Window replaced with door – see above
- d. Outcomes:
 - i. APP/C340/W/19/3225664 Land to the North of Six Ashes Road Creation of a natural Burial ground – appeal dismissed
- e. Enforcement matters:

1722. AIRFIELD MATTERS

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that there should have been a virtual meeting earlier in the day however, it did not take place. An email was sent round stating they had decided not to hold it unless people wanted it specifically.

The Chair summarised the closed meeting held the previous evening with the airport manager for those who hadn't been able to attend. A discussion followed. It was agreed to wait for the planning application to be submitted before commenting further.

1723. CORRESPONDENCE

Locality Police engagement meeting information – It was agreed the Clerk would complete the main parts and forward it to the Councillors for comment.

Andrew Aston SSC – Weed spraying using a quad bike with weed spray ability at £350 per day. Many felt this shouldn't be a chargeable service and that it should be included in the Council tax, it was unanimously agreed that £350 per day was

expensive. It was felt that rather than investing in machinery additional operatives could be trained and carry out weed spraying on foot so to cover the villages more often.

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 26/7/19, 2/9/19

South Staffordshire Council - Council news 127,128,129,130,131,133,134,135

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Street scene update 30/8/2019

SSC Parish Summit 2019 - 11/10/2019

South Staffordshire Work clubs – consideration of Parish Council funding

SSC Highways presentation

Cllr V Wilson – Police presence at Parish Council meetings

Your voice matters - merger update re Housing Plus Group & Staffordshire & Rural Homes

CSW Updates and dates for your diary

SSC LWT Adult safeguarding self-neglect 22/8/2019

Locality Police Engagement meetings & survey

SSC – Via Cllr Wilson District Members' budget

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) – New office

SSC Street scene weed spraying (see discussion above)

SSC 2 minute litter pick up - this has already been discussed, but was re-circulated by Cllr Mrs Wilson. It was agreed not to pursue the matter.

SSC Code of Conduct training Perton and Great Wyrley

Let's work together (LWT) Dementia Community Support 5/9/19

Cllr. Wilson – Questions for Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP)

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual report, AGM agenda

Cllr. Wilson – Visit to Parliament

Staffordshire Police – Staffordshire Police open day 8/9/19 11am - 4pm

SPCA bulletin 12/9/19

Penwood Farm FAQ

Dring A J WHG Airport LPR I&O

1724. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 16 October 2019

Meeting Closed