**MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 26 February 2014 at Bobbington Village Hall at 7:30pm**

**PRESENT**: Councillor: T Rees (Chairman)

County Councillor B Edwards

District Councillor R McCardle

Councillors: W J Snelson, D Kimbley, Mrs. J Humphries and Mrs. J Tudor

Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council

3 Members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf Cllr. Mrs. L Jones and Cllr. S Homer.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **MINUTES:**

The minutes were amended in respect of 905 (page 460) as follows:-

The pipe is laid from the Brook course to the ditch, therefore across Sanderland’s and Butler’s land, to relieve the flooding on the road and ditch. It is currently not extended to the playing fields, however, can be in the future if reqired.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 15 January 2014, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council and having been amended as above, be approved.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**:
   1. **B4176 signage**.

There had been no further update from Highways, despite the Clerk requesting an indication of expected timescales.

* 1. **Affordable Housing Survey**

It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with South Staffordshire Council to clarify certain points in relation to affordable housing and rural exception sites. The Clerk agreed to liaise with Cllr. McCardle and South Staffordshire Council to arrange a special meeting, outside of the normal council meetings.

* 1. **20mph speed restrictions / County SID’s**

There had been no further update from Highways.

* 1. **Hedges – Gospel Ash Road**

It was noted that Mr. Shakespeare’s hedges are still to be cut. The Clerk agreed to send a chasing letter.

* 1. **Replacement Notice Boards**

Cllr. Mrs. Humphries agreed to contact the craftsman to arrange for a quotation, however, the timescale for completion of the project is currently uncertain, due to him having recently undergone an operation.

* 1. **Halfpenny Green Air Scouts donation**

Cllr. Humphries explained that unfortunately the Air Scouts were unable to place their memorial in Holy Cross Church, as suggested at the previous meeting, as the relevant authority could not be obtained. Instead, they will place a memorial to the RAF at the Airfield. In future, the Remembrance service wreaths will be placed on the altar in church, as opposed to by the memorial plaques.

It was agreed that Mr. Karl Owen should be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss specific requirements in respect of their anniversary event. Cllr. Mrs. Tudor agreed to contact Mr. Owen.

Cllr. Edwards requested Cllr. Mrs. Tudor inform Mr. Owen that an application could be made to him for assistance with the running costs of the group from the County Council funding available to local groups.

* 1. **Bobbington Village Website**

Cllr. Kimbley opened the discussion by informing the meeting that we only pay a hosting fee, which cover the technical side of the website. No contribution is currently made for the upkeep and design.

It was agreed that some pages were very good and accurate, however, others needed updating e.g. the closure of the chapel, links to local restaurants, map of Bobbington. It was however, acknowledged that local groups needed to submit regular updates to ensure the site was current. They should therefore be encouraged to have direct contact on a regular basis.

It was agreed that Mr. Andy Pitt should be invited to attend the next meeting, to discuss what changes could be made and the cost of doing this.

1. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

It was noted that the Swindon Golf Club advertising board had been removed from Tom Lane.

Simon Griffiths, Staffordshire Highways, had reviewed the position of the speed camera sign on the approach to the school from the Red Lion, and was not unduly concerned that the visibility of the sign was impaired, due to the 20 is Plenty sign. He commented that there were various other speed camera signs throughout the village and, therefore, did not deem a change of position necessary.

Concerns were raised over Six Ashes Road – particularly the stretch from Bobbington House to Six Ashes. The Clerk had received several complaints. Pot holes were being reported to the Highways team on a regular basis. Although those by the Red Lion had been filled in a large number remained on the previously mentioned stretch of road.

A query was raised as to whether the road sweepers, who had been seen in the village regularly in the last couple of weeks, were likely to report the constitution of the road. If not repaired in the next few days, the Clerk agreed to speak to Simon Griffiths.

It was noted that a pot hole had appeared at the end of Crab Lane, by Highgate Farm.

The Chairman reported that the neighbourhood highways team would be in the village again from the 8-13 May 2014 and 23-26 September 2014. The Clerk had sent an email to all, asking for work that needed to be completed. It was agreed that suggestions from the last list were still outstanding and therefore, that list should be re-submitted.

1. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**Village Hall**

It was agreed that the alterations to the Village Hall were an improvement. Prior to the Council meeting, the new room had been officially opened by Cllr. Edwards.

Cllr. Mrs. Tudor confirmed the committee, are currently purchasing tables and chairs to equip the room.

**Corbett School**

Cllr. Snelson reported that alterations had taken place during the half term holiday. The entre courtyard is now one classroom as opposed to a smaller classroom and store room. Thanks should be passed to the builders, Mr. Southall and Cllr. Kimbley.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Nothing to report.

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Concerns were raised in respect of the large lorries using the village during recent weeks. It was agreed that this was due to the closure of the B4176. It was understood that road should re-open on 1 March 2014, which should alleviate the problem.

1. **FINANCE**
   1. **Cheques**

The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Kimbley and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Humphries.

* + 1. AEF Annual Subscription £36.00

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**
   1. Finchfield Estates (“Finchfield”) – proposed planning application:

Cllr. Tudor asked to read two letters that had been passed to her by Parishioners. In summary, these were from neighbours to the proposed site on which Finchfield wish to build retirement properties. Each neighbour had received a letter from Finchfield informing them of the planning application which was to be submitted to the District Council. The letters raised various concerns which included, flooding, green belt considerations, access off Six Ashes Road, value of properties, affordable housing, location / privacy / light.

It was agreed that neither, the Parish Council, District Councillor or County Councillor could comment in detail on the proposed application, particularly as the application has not yet been validated. (South Staffordshire Council have confirmed receipt of the application, however at the date of the meeting it had not been validated.)

A discussion followed with those members of the public present. It was confirmed that there was no allocation for houses in Bobbington and therefore there was no change to greenbelt land. It was stressed that this application was nothing to do with the Affordable Housing discussions being had by the Parish Council which concerned rural exception sites.

* 1. Received and responded to:
     1. 14/00053/FUL – Replacement dwelling, The Summer House, Long Common, Claverley Wolverhampton South Staffordshire WV5 7AX - No objection
     2. 13/00886/FUL Dog Kennels, Halfpenny Green Vineyards, Tom Lane, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5EP – No objection
  2. Responded to:
     1. PA 13/00990/FUL Two-storey rear extension, 5-7 Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5BY – no objection subject to planners comments

1. **AIRFIELD MATTERS**

It was agreed to continue the annual membership. Nothing further to report.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Matthew Ellis – Police & Crime Commissioner – Young Police Cadets Charity

night 12/4/2014

Community Council of Staffordshire – Diary of village festivals & events 2014

Staffordshire County Council –Definitive Map and statements for South Staffordshire District

Letter from Mr Dring – Alder Tree, Glebelands

A discussion was held in respect of the letter received and the uncertainty as to who was responsible for strip of land and brook. Similar discussions were held approx 35 years ago. It was confirmed that the Parish Council were not owners and also had no authority in respect of tree preservation order, therefore it was agreed that the matter should be referred back to Steve Dores at the District Council.

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) Walking for health – SSC Scheme

AEF Renewal 2014

South Staffordshire Rural Affordable Housing conference 28/2/14 – SSC offices

SSC Fly a flag for commonwealth 10/3/2014 10am

Support Staffordshire South Staffordshire – launch of local service for frail,

elderly and disabled people

Community Learning trust Staffordshire – Training Course promotion survey

AEF Flying Green February 2014

Support Staffordshire South Staffordshire – Buzz Newsletter Winter 2014

Community Council of Staffordshire – South Staffordshire local plan – Housing

allocations Consultation

SSC Housing and Homelessness in South Staffordshire

Matthew Ellis – Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioners update

AEF Briefing re Airport Consultative Committees

Gavin Williamson – 13 (January 2014) Newsletter

Highways – Neighbourhood Highway Team 8-13 May 2014 and 23-26 September

2014

Monthly Crime reports not available due to a change in software

SCC Consultation on approach to supporting young people in the future

NHS Winter Pressure Campaign – Choose well mobile phone app

SSC – Centenary of First World War – request for information on events planned

Blakelands Fireworks – 25 April 8.45pm; 26 July 10pm

SSC referendums relating to council tax increases

SSC Site Allocations document

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk asked those present if consideration could be given to adjourning the July meeting until the end of July or possibly August. The revised date will be agreed at the next meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19 March 2014**

Meeting Closed 8:45pm.