

**MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 15 January 2020 in the Jubilee Room at Bobbington Village**  
**Hall at 7:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor: Cllr. Mrs L Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors:, A Burton, M Slater, Mrs I Rees, Mrs J Stanton and S Hadgett  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
PCSO Louise Jones  
1 Member of the public

**1737. APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr. M Snelson

**1738. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1739. MINUTES:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 27 November 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**1740. MATTERS ARISING:**

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

Cllrs. Snelson and Slater have planted the oak tree. Confirmation was sent to Steve Dores at South Staffordshire District Council. Mr Dores has responded stating the tree should be within the boundaries/ownership of the property and not on the adjacent land of any third party. The Parish Council have been asked to confirm that the tree has been planted accordingly. A discussion was held. It was agreed that the wording of the planning condition should be reviewed and legal advice obtained.

**b. Affordable Housing**

The Clerk had drafted a letter for circulation with the questionnaire. Whilst the letter was comprehensive there was concern, that people would lose interest and not complete the questionnaire. The Clerk agreed to take out some of the detail and recirculate the letter for approval.

Lesley Birch (Housing Association) had suggested the following timescales:

Surveys out – end of January

Surveys back – end of February

Report on results – Mid March

Consultation event – June (this can be any time but suggest before school summer holiday)

The timescales were discussed, the Councillors would prefer an earlier consultation, possibly May.

**c. EE rural cell trial**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that EE have completed a drive survey of the village and coverage levels are as anticipated. It's actually one of their busiest trial sites! Indoor coverage levels are very dependent upon the particular building materials, therefore, they focus on outdoor levels.

This is not to say they won't be making further improvements. As a trial they are working on many different streams to improve the overall performance and as such they are always happy to receive any customer feedback. EE would welcome people's thoughts at [community.network@ee.co.uk](mailto:community.network@ee.co.uk)

This matter has now been concluded.

**d. Bobbington website**

The Clerk had approached the digital team at Staffordshire County Council to develop a new website in accordance with their gold package. They currently have a few projects on so had requested a meeting with the Clerk and perhaps a councillor at the end of January. The Chairman asked if any Councillors were willing to support the Clerk in this matter. Cllr. Burton kindly offered to assist. The Clerk agreed to progress this matter.

**e. Unkempt properties/gardens**

Since the last meeting, Teresa Smith, Senior Tenancy & Estate Management Officer, has confirmed she has been out to all the properties discussed. She states she is fully aware of one tenant and it's a little bit more complicated, however, she will continue to work on this one. With respect to the other two: Teresa will contact one and ask about the condition of the garden and request to inspect the house as well; the other she did not see an issue with and was happy with this one. She has since confirmed she hasn't made appointments to see the two properties but has placed them on her to do list.

The update was discussed. It was agreed that the complications surrounding the one tenant will not be removed in the near future and, therefore, the Councillors wondered whether the Housing Association would/should tidy the property up. If not, there is no incentive for other tenants. The patio at the front of the Red Lion overlooks the properties and, therefore, the unkempt gardens present the village in a bad light.

The Housing Association had raised concerns with respect to a privately owned property in Brantley Crescent. These were responded to and developments will be monitored.

**1741. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**a. Six Ashes Road flooding**

Following Staffordshire Highways' visit to the Parish, they raised a task to have all the gullies cleansed. It is noted that many of the gullies along Six Ashes Road have got jammed lids and, therefore, these need to be freed in order that they are able to cleanse them.

Traffic lights are in situ along Six Ashes Road due to the mains pipe being broken. This is causing a lot of water to discharge along Six Ashes Road. Once all the cleansing has taken place the gullies will be able to remove the excess water off the carriageway.

Unfortunately, due to all the wet weather, Staffordshire Highways have a large backlog of outstanding drainage tasks and are, therefore, unable to provide any

timescales as to when the work will be carried out. However, it will be considered as one of their priority sites. With regards to fixing the mains it is hoped it will be in the next month, but this will be subject to any emergency works that arise in the meantime.

**b. Grit bin Six Ashes Road**

Diane from Staffordshire Highways could not locate a grit bin plotted on their system at the specified junction, so had asked the Clerk to confirm it was a blue grit bin. These bins are community grit bins and are filled once a year, however, as it was not plotted it is likely that it never got filled. Confirmation had been given and the bin is now plotted on the system. *Update* - Shortly after this meeting the grit bin was filled.

**c. Streetscene**

Notification had been received that the road sweeper would be within the area in the coming weeks. Cllr Hadgett had requested confirmation from the District Council that Brantley Crescent is on the list of streets to be cleaned, as the sweeper missed this road last time. It was noted that this may need to be raised with Cllr. Mrs Wilson if no response is received.

**d. Fly tipping**

It was noted that building rubble and wood appears to have been disposed of just down from White Cross crossroads.

**1742. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton has met with Mrs. Crook, the new Headteacher. Mrs Crook is settling in well and already knows the children's names. Mrs Southall and Mrs Crook had a crossover during the Christmas holidays and Mrs Southall has offered her help if needed. Mrs Crook is trying to alleviate some of the parking problems, as such Reception and Key Stage 1 finish slightly earlier. She is working with Reverend Richard to improve relations. The school has its SIAMS inspection in June. The teachers and headteacher are attending training to assist with this. Mrs Crook is also looking at ways to promote the school. There are currently 94 pupils. They are looking at the possibility of a mother and toddler group with Little Greenhouse nursery.

**Village Hall**

The next management committee meeting is to be held on the 21st January 2020. The flat roof has had a temporary repair. Full restoration will take place during the Easter half term. The cost of the repair is approx. £6k, efforts are being made to obtain grant funding to help with the costs.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Following a busy Christmas there is nothing to report.

**Community Speed Watch ("CSW")**

Cllr. Burton reported that unfortunately there hadn't been any outings since the last meeting, partly due to the weather and dark nights. One parishioner has resigned, therefore, there are only four volunteers remaining. More volunteers are needed, it is hoped that more may be recruited in the late Spring.

There is an upcoming campaign for Community Speed watch. Cllr. Burton will endeavour to get a team out, subject to availability and the weather,

A speed camera van was in the village one Friday afternoon from lunchtime to approx. 4/4:30.

### **Police Crime Report**

PCSO Louise Jones attended the meeting. She introduced herself and provided further detail on the email which had been received from Sgt Kelly Wareing with respect to a change in areas covered and new working practices following the departure of several PCSOs.

The PCSOs will no longer automatically produce reports as the data can be out of date and members can access this themselves on the internet. Instead, PCSOs will be asked to take positive news stories, updates on any crime trends, incidents of note, details of up and coming events. Any questions for the officers, should be emailed to one of their local officers prior to the meeting, so the staff can find the answers if they are not already aware. This will be the case for a 3 month trial and then we will review. There should be sufficient staff on duty to attend the meetings, which will mean that someone will be there rather than having a report. It is anticipated that new PCSOs will be in post in March 2020.

PCSO Jones informed those present of vehicle crime. Staffordshire Police are advising owners of vans on crime prevention techniques following number of power tool thefts. She recommended wheel locks, faraday bags and CREmark (an overmarking system). Golf clubs have also been targeted recently.

A number of crimes in the village were noted, including the theft of a fiat 500.

### **1743. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Parishioner raised a query with respect to potential charges for the green bin following an article in the local newspaper. The Parish Council were not aware and agreed to ask Cllr. Mrs Wilson for further information.

### **1744. FINANCE**

#### **a. Precept Accounts and budget**

The Clerk had prepared and circulated accounts for the period ended 31 December 2019, a draft budget for 2020-21 and a comparison of the 2019-20 budget with actual expenditure.

The draft precept accounts and proposed budget were reviewed and discussed. The accounts and budget were approved. It was agreed the precept should be set at £4,620 (i.e. an increase of 5%)

#### **b. Cheques**

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

i.	Clerk	Wages & expenses	£449.04
ii.	HMRC	Paye	£86.00

### **1745. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a. Received and responded to:
  - i. PA 19/00910/FUL Proposed detached garage; Primrose Cottage, Gospel Ash Road, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5EE – no objections
- b. Outcomes:
- c. Enforcement matters

#### 1746. **AIRFIELD MATTERS**

Cllr Mrs Rees stated that the meeting due to be held before Christmas was cancelled due to there being nothing to discuss.

The Clerk had received an email from Eliot Baker, the Planning & Asset Manager at MCR Property Group requesting a meeting to discuss the proposed planning application and potential local benefits. It was agreed that a closed meeting should be arranged.

#### 1747. **CORRESPONDENCE**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 29/11/2019

South Staffordshire Council - Council news 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin 28/11/2019, 5/12/2019, 12/12/2019, 9/1/2020

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Tree planting within the District – any sites etc – the possibility of replacing those opposite Bannockburn on the grass verge was suggested.

Staffordshire Community and Voluntary controlled school admission arrangement 2021/22 consultation

SSC Street scene update 16/12/2019

Cllr. Mrs Wilson – Role of the planning overview meeting

SSC Let's work together 13/1/20

SPCA Local Councillor training course 12/2/2020

SSC Reminder re Governance session (14/1/2020)

Staffordshire Police – email re internal transfers / post holders

#### 1748. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The possibility of joining CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) was discussed. The Clerk agreed to look into the cost of membership. Cllr. Mrs Rees would look into the Airport Consultative Committee membership.

The Clerk reported that the corkboard has been taken off the noticeboard at Halfpenny Green

Cllr. Burton mentioned a funding stream available for voluntary and community organisations from the National Lottery Community Fund. The programme offers a larger amount of funding (over £10,000) for projects that last up to five years and work with their community – whether that's a community living in the same area, or people with similar interests or life experiences. A total of £190m is available this financial year. Cllr. Burton will circulate details. Councillors immediately suggested, gates at the ends of the village or speed indicator signs. They were asked to bring ideas/suggestions to the next meeting for discussion.

Chairman's Initials

Date:

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 19 February 2020.

Meeting Closed 8:35pm