

**MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at Halfpenny Green Vineyards 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  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
Sergeant Jason Dorrington – Neighbourhood Sergeant  
2 Members of the public

**1737. APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of County and District Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

**1738. ANNOUNCEMENT RE MR WILLIAM SNELSON MBE**

The Chairman took a moment to remember Mr Bill Snelson MBE, a former Councillor and Chairman of Bobbington Parish Council who had sadly passed away earlier in the month. Bill was a pillar of the community who was well respected and liked. All members of the Council requested their condolences and best wishes be passed to Mrs J Snelson and her family.

**1739. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1740. MINUTES:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 16 October 2019, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**1741. MATTERS ARISING:**

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

Cllrs. Snelson and Slater reported that tree has still not been planted as the seller has advised they wait until after the first frost. It is anticipated that the tree will be planted prior to the next meeting.

**b. Affordable Housing**

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus) had corresponded with the District Council, however, they are unable to accept a smaller survey, stating that both parts need to be included to ensure its suitably robust to meet the policy requirements and to provide a fuller picture of the housing issues and need to support any future application. A discussion followed. This also considered the possibility of a consultation event.

Lesley had sent the previous covering letter to the Clerk that day – this was not deemed sufficient to the Parish Council's needs, as it was felt more explanation was needed, given the time that has passed since the last questionnaire. The Clerk agreed to draft a letter for circulation.

Lesley had suggested they could commence the Housing Needs survey early in the new year. It was agreed that whilst this was acceptable, timescales should be agreed at the outset.

**c. EE rural cell trial**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that she had suggested EE bring testing equipment out to assess the true position, as discussed at the last meeting. However, a convenient testing date had not been identified. In the meantime, the mast manufacturers have attended site and performed a survey. A report will be issued in due course.

**d. Bobbington website**

The Clerk had received a quotation from Andy Pitt of Chipmonk Computing in respect to the new website design. She had also re-circulated the County Council's website information to Councillors as requested.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that the County Council would be approached to develop a new website in accordance with the gold package. The Clerk agreed to progress this matter.

**e. Unkempt properties/gardens**

Nothing further had been received from Teresa, the Tenancy Officer. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a further chasing email, and if no response is received the matter will be escalated to her Senior.

**1742. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**a. Six Ashes Road flooding**

The severe flooding on Six Ashes Road was discussed – Cllr. Mrs. Stanton's garage had been flooded and a large flood has been present between Brantley Lane and Glebelands. Cllr. Mrs Stanton had contacted the County Council, due to the volume of water running down Six Ashes Road and the increased frequency of her garage flooding.

Diane Firkins, Community Highway Engagement Officer from Staffordshire County Council, had attended the site to review the situation. Having returned to their offices she checked the history of the gullies on this road and reported that they were last cleansed on 31.05.19. The two gullies nearest to the property were left running following the cleansing, however, some of the gullies further up the road were subject to having their lids jammed. Therefore, a job has been raised for a crew to free the jammed lids and then cleanse these gullies.

With respect to the ditch adjacent to Cllr. Mrs. Stanton's property, the County Council have advised that it is a private ditch and, therefore, the adjacent land owner should check if their pipework is clear as potentially there may be a blockage in the drainage ditch and it is their responsibility as riparian land owners to ensure that the ditch does not cause an issue to neighbouring properties.

As a result of the running water a large pothole had appeared towards College Farm. This had been reported by numerous people and was particularly hazardous. Whilst it was filled in once, it soon reformed due to the amount of water.

The County Council's Technical Review Officer wishes to visit the area so he can get a better understanding by reviewing the surrounding land, levels and existing drainage. Some of the water coming onto the carriageway appears to have come off the fields higher up, therefore, the County Council will have to investigate as to

who owns these field as it is illegal for water to discharge onto the highway. They will arrange to write to the owners of the fields to ensure that they clear any of their ditches or make provision for ditches, so as to ensure no further water comes onto the public highway.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that prior to 2015 there was little flooding along that stretch, but the frequency is increasing. It was suggested that pipework under the road may have broken / collapsed. Sergeant Dorrington commented that Seisdon is in a similar position, as are a number of other villages in the area, many are suggesting it is due to the lack of drain maintenance in recent years. It was also noted that the hedges are cut later in the year due in accordance with regulations, as a result this may be contributing

A member of the public noted that there are also issues with running water outside their house, near the Red Lion. This has been reported to the Parish Council before. It is believed that a land drain is blocked under the road. The Parishioner was reassured that the matter had been referred to the County Council and Cllr. Mrs Victoria Wilson was working with them. The Clerk agreed to ask Cllr. Mrs Wilson to provide the property owners with an update.

**b. Grit bin Six Ashes Road**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton requested that the grit bin at the junction of Brantley Lane and Six Ashes Road be restocked in light of the water on the road.

**1743. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton read a report from Mrs. Southall, her last as Headteacher of Corbett School. Mrs Southall will be in the Red Lion from 6:30pm on 6 December 2019, for those who aren't able to make that there will be an afternoon tea from 3pm in the Village Hall on 18 December 2019.

Children are preparing for their nativity play and will be attending the pantomime on the 13 December 2019, this trip is funded by the PTFA.

The Chair asked that the Parish Council's appreciation for Mrs Southall and all her hard work over the years be recorded. We wish her well in her retirement.

**Village Hall**

A temporary repair has been carried out to the flat roof whilst quotes are being obtained for its replacement. A bollard on the car park was knocked over, however, this has now been reinstated.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Nothing to report

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

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been one outing since the last meeting partly due to the weather and dark nights. Three parishioners were due to complete the training, however, unfortunately, none were able to attend due to other commitments. At least two of them will complete the training at a later date when Michelle, the County Co-ordinator returns after an operation.

**Police locality meeting feedback**

Cllr. Hadgett had attended the recent locality meeting. He gave a summary of matters discussed (see attached). Whilst there has been an 8% reduction in anti-social behaviour, this is thought to be partly due to crimes not being reported and the public being frustrated by 101.

A few of the crime prevention schemes e.g. Neighbourhood watch, a free tack marking service and Staffordshire Smart Alert app were discussed. It is understood that new PCSOs have been recruited and will be on duty from Mid-November.

**Police Crime Report**

Sergeant Dorrington introduced himself to the meeting. If a PCSO is unable to attend, then a neighbourhood Sergeant will attend if possible. The Police are now based in the Civic Centre. He gave a brief introduction into Police operations and who they work with.

The crime report was read out, this included theft of tools from a van in Gospel Ash Road, damage to livestock in Lutley Lane and a vehicle sighted potentially poaching at Six Ashes.

A discussion was held in respect of local concerns and issues – this included 101. The digital 101 (via Staffordshire Police website) was recommended as this goes direct to the control room. All Police employees can also be contacted by email for non-urgent matters.

**1744. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**1745. FINANCE****a. 2019 Election charges**

The Clerk had met with South Staffordshire Council representatives for a meeting with respect to the election costs. A schedule of the costs incurred and a glossary of terms was presented and the allocation of those costs discussed. Unfortunately, because the District seat was uncontested there are less parties to share the costs. The final cost to the Parish Council is £1,779.19. The Clerk explained this to the meeting. The costs are in line with the Parish Council's expectations. Payment can be spread. It was agreed that a payment of £900 would be made, with a further payment being made at the start of the next financial year.

**b. Annual donations****i. Bobbington Village Hall – Contribution towards the booking Clerk**

Unfortunately, no report had been received from the Treasurer, due to sickness. In a text message to the Clerk she had stated that the flat roof needs to be completely replaced. A discussion followed. Cllr. Mrs. Stanton proposed that the donation be maintained at £500, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rees and approved by all.

**c. Cheques**

- |      |                             |                               |         |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| i.   | Halfpenny Green Vineyards   | \$105 In lieu of room hire    | £25.00  |
| ii.  | South Staffordshire Council | Election costs                | £900.00 |
| iii. | Bobbington Village Hall     | Annual Donation booking Clerk | £500.00 |

**1746. PLANNING MATTERS**

## a. Local Plan Consultation

The web page link had been circulated to all Councillors, as a response is required by 12 December 2019. Both Cllr. Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Hadgett had reviewed the consultation in detail. The housing target appears to have reduced slightly. A further proposal had been introduced, being "G" as this was the preferred option. A brief discussion followed. It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Hadgett would form a sub-committee and prepare a response on behalf of the Parish Council, liaising with the Clerk as necessary.

## b. Received:

- i. 19/00860/FUL 3 Brantley Lane, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5DA - Two storey side with single storey front and rear extension – no objections

## c. Responded to:

## d. Outcomes:

- i. No official outcomes had been reported, however, it was understood that the following applications had been refused:
  - 19/00605/FUL Provision of three holiday lodges; Land East Of Six Ashes Inn Six Ashes Road Six Ashes
  - 19/00659/FUL 16 Brantley Crescent Bobbington DY7 5DB - New detached three bedroom dwelling house with integral garage (Resubmission of 19/00145/FUL)

## e. Enforcement matters

## f. Planning meeting – Kinver

Cllr. Mrs Rees had attended the planning meeting in Kinver earlier in the evening. She gave a brief summary of the presentation for those who hadn't attended the Parish Summit.

**1747. AIRFIELD MATTERS**

Nothing to report since the last meeting. Cllr Mrs Rees stated a meeting should be held next week.

**1748. CORRESPONDENCE**

Blakelands – notification of fireworks 7/12/2019 at 10pm and 14/12/2019 at 10:30pm

Chipmonk Computing – increase in domain renewal cost £12 to £16

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) homeless survey – nil return

SSC Locality working

SPCA AGM 2/12/2019

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 17/10/2019, 31/10/2019

South Staffordshire Council - Council news 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145

SSC Parish Summit 2019 - 11/10/2019

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin 17/10/2019, 24/10/2019, 31/10/2019, 7/11/2019, 14/11/2019, 21/11/2019

SSC Streetscene update 25/11/2019

SSC Locality working together meeting 23/1/2020

Chairman's Initials

Date:

SSC Signs, Buddies and stands and 1 large flytipping banner  
SSC Spatial Housing Strategy Public Consultation  
SSC Guidance for outdoor advertisements and signs  
SSC BT notification of the removal of 27 payphone kiosks within South  
Staffordshire - first notification / draft decision  
Staffordshire Police: Staffordshire Police Newsletter - Winter edition 2019  
Red Telephone Box  
Agri-cycle Wheelie bins made into Benches, picnic tables and planters

**1749. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 15 January 2020.

Meeting Closed