

**MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at Halfpenny Green Vineyards at 7:30pm**

PRESENT: Councillor: Mrs L Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors:, M Snelson, Mrs. J Stanton, Mrs. J Humphries, Mrs. I Rees  
and R Lewis  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
Pete Barker, Community Partnership Officer, Stafford and South  
Staffordshire, Staffordshire County Council  
8 Members of the public

**1588. Apologies:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of County Cllr Mrs V Wilson, District Cllr. McCardle and Cllrs. W J Snelson

**1589. PETE BARKER** – Community Partnership Officer, Stafford and South  
Staffordshire, Staffordshire County Council

The Chairman warmly welcomed Pete to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance. Pete briefly introduced himself and explained a little about his role. He is looking to build on relationships with Parishes and provide a further link to the County Council.

**1590. Declarations of interest:**

Cllr Mrs. Rees declared an interest in 1598aii.

**1591. Minutes:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 17 October 2018, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**1592. Matters arising:**

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

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had chased the training agency, who had agreed to look at her correspondence and photographs, however, no further response has been received to date.

**b. Affordable Housing**

The Clerk had been copied into email correspondence between the land owner's agent and Housing Plus. The correspondence suggests that progress is slow with one party claiming the contract has not been reviewed or amended, whilst the other party claim not to have received the contract (hence not reviewed or amended). It would appear that the owner's have agreed a sale of the balance of the field and the purchasers are keen to make an unconditional purchase of the land under offer to Housing Plus. Nothing further had been received. The Clerk agreed to contact Lesley for a further update.

**c. Defibrillator**

Cllr. M Snelson reported the Red Lion have agreed to the position of the road sign in principal. Cllr. Lewis stated this was discussed with Diane Firkins of Staffordshire Highways during her recent site visit, however, no mention was

made in the summarising email following the visit. Cllr Lewis agreed to speak to Ms Firkins.

**d. EE rural cell trial**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that EE are currently swapping out all the hardware on the existing communities with the new hardware that Bobbington would get. This is scheduled to finish during February 2019, once approved they will then give the go ahead to build Bobbington.

**e. Bobbington Bash**

Cllr. Humphries reported that the Vineyard's hadn't yet nominated a representative.

It was agreed that the first meeting would be organised in January.

Cllr Mrs Stanton said it would be useful to speak to local parishes who held such events e.g. Enville & Kinver to learn more about insurance, risk assessments etc. Cllr Lewis agreed to speak to a contact in Enville.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the organising committee will be completely separate to the Parish Council, however, it will have the support of the Parish Council.

**f. Trees at Halfpenny Green**

Cllr. M Snelson had been in contact with Steve Dores at South Staffordshire Council, he had agreed to send someone to carry out a site visit and assess the trees. He believes they are on land they maintain. Unfortunately, no further update was available. Cllr M Snelson will speak to the property owners if unable to contact Mr Dores prior to the next meeting.

**g. Community team / reduction in County Council funding**

A discussion was held following previous announcements that County Council funding will be reduced. Whilst the parishioners could be consulted, it was noted with some concern that recruiting volunteers for the community speed watch was challenging. It was agreed that the Air Scouts could be approached for assistance, as in previous years they have asked if there are any projects they could complete for community badges.

**h. Response to the Local Plan Consultation**

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the consultation. Since the last meeting it was decided a sub-committee would review the plan and meet to draft a response, given the responses must be submitted by 5pm on 30 November 2018. The Chairman summarised the activities of the sub-committee to date. She then handed over to Cllr. Mrs Stanton who discussed the draft responses (which had been circulated prior to the meeting) and the reasons for them. Cllr. Mrs Stanton had attended the consultation meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and raised a number of questions with respect to the draft plan. She explained that the airport is no longer considered viable by its owners, as such they have taken advice as to possible methods to make it viable. This has resulted in a number of meetings being held with the District Council. One suggestion tabled was a combination of housing and aviation, another was just housing – this would

result in a satellite village with approximately 1500 new houses being built. The Airport is mentioned in the Plan, it is not known whether the District Council would support any development. A discussion followed with respect to the matters raised and the draft responses. It was agreed by all present that the draft responses would be submitted the following day.

### 1593. Highway Matters

#### a. Meeting with Diane Firkins – Community Traffic Management Officer

Cllr Lewis and two parishioners met with Diane to discuss all associated highway matters. The following was noted by Diane:-

1. Opposite the school edge of carriageway failure, as stated I am happy to raise a job to have some infilling with recycled material (recycled road material/tarmac loose) however as an afterthought are you still happy for me to raise this task as to put this material down will potentially encourage parking at this location and with the ditch this could be an issue. Whilst also bearing in mind you will have your car parking facility at the Village Hall increased? If you just let me know your thoughts I can action as necessary.
2. Manhole opposite school subsidence/potential damage – I have asked our Network Inspector to look and raise any necessary defect.
3. Footpaths near Post Office, This will require me to do some more detective work, I will update further once I hear back from our footway Engineer.
4. I have requested that your Community grit bin is filled on the refilling program currently being carried out.
5. Culvert clearing due to surface water just up the road from 7 Six Ashes Road, unfortunately our drainage chap is on leave I will chase this up on his return.
6. Whittimore Lane by Whittimore Farm, culvert under road silted and consideration for long term fix? Again will speak with drainage chap on his return and get back to you.
7. Slow markings x 2 by Church Lane junction I have raised a job to have these refreshed. Job ref 2160321.
8. Tom Lane drainage issue was discussed on site, however I will provide the photo's I took to try to escalate?

Whilst it was a productive meeting, actions are limited due to limited financial resources.

Since the meeting with Diane Cllr. Lewis has been made aware of issues with drains in Brantley Lane and Brantley Crescent – he agreed to contact Diane with further details.

#### b. Parking on Six Ashes Road

The Clerk had received a telephone call and email from Mr Williams, whilst they are responsible for some of the parking issues he did explain that generally

only two cars on the road belong to his family. He will try to ensure that they are parked away from the bend and that any visitors park at the pub.

#### 1594. **Reports from Committee Representatives**

##### **Village Hall**

The last committee meeting was adjourned and will be held in the New Year.

##### **Church of the Holy Cross**

A couple of branches have fallen off an Ash tree at the rear of the churchyard into Glebelands, resulting in a complaint from the resident concerned. Steve Dore (South Staffordshire Council) has inspected it and advised shortening other branches which overhang or are parallel to the fence and removing dead wood from the crown. Although the tree is protected by a TPO he does not require an application for this work to be carried out. Quotes are being sought.

Details of Christmas Services will be delivered to all in the Village, there will be a Christingle service, Carol service, Crib service and first Communion of Christmas.

##### **Corbett School**

All is going well and the children are preparing for Christmas. Following the recent Ofsted inspection the school have received a "good" rating.

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

There are currently four members with a further four awaiting training. Unfortunately, due to the low numbers and dark nights there has not been any activity since the last meeting. More members are needed, especially with the permanent signage now being in place.

Andy Burton, a CSW volunteer has conducted some research into available SIDs. As previously suggested it may be possible to apply for a grant to assist with the funding of these devices, although other speed deterrents are available and will also be considered. The recording of more data could encourage the Safer Roads Partnership to attend the Parish more frequently.

##### **Velo**

A response has finally been received from Lian Stubbs at Staffordshire County Council who states:

"I am writing to state that on this occasion the authority breached the statutory deadline and I apologise for this. This was due to delays in discussing this request with the correct officers within the authority. We believe that the response answered your request, however, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information."

Whilst the response is brief, an apology has been given and accepted.

##### **Police Crime report**

A report had been received for the period from 17 October to 21 November 2018, this stated there were no reoccurring issues to report and no anti-social behaviour hotspots.

**1595. Public Question Time**

It was noted that the 30mph sign along Gospel Ash Road is currently obscured by the overgrown hedge. The meeting was unsure as to the landowner. Cllr. M Snelson agreed to make enquiries.

**1596. Civic Award 2018-2019**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bill Hayhurst and gave a brief summary of his accountancy and internal audit work in respect of many organisations in the Parish e.g. Parish Council, Corbett School, Holy Cross Church and the Village Hall. A certificate, cheque and bottle of wine were presented. Bill thanked the Chairman and Councillors.

Whilst in attendance Bill was also thanked for the Internal Audit for the year ended March 2018.

**1597. Finance**

## a. Annual donations

- i. Bobbington Village Hall – contribution towards booking clerk (2017 £500). Unfortunately, the Treasurer had not been able to provide a report due to a death in the family, however, it is understood that despite the dancing group no longer using the hall, activity remains stable with the school being the main user. Cllr. M Snelson proposed a donation of £500 as in the previous year, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rees.
- ii. Bobbington Elderly Peoples Welfare Association (2017 declined) – Cllr. Mrs Humphries confirmed that as in the previous year, the association had sufficient funds for the number of members and planned activities and kindly declined the offer.
- iii. Card and Craft group (2017 £255). Mrs Southwick was in attendance and gave an overview of the last year. Sadly, they have decided to dissolve the group due to falling numbers and not being able to recruit any new members. Those present expressed sadness and disappointment. If at any point in the future a new group can be formed, the Parish Council would be happy to consider a donation.

## b. Cheques

- |      |                                 |                            |         |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| i.   | Halfpenny Green Vineyards       | \$105 In lieu of room hire | £25.00  |
| ii.  | Bobbington Village Hall         | \$137 donation             | £500.00 |
| iii. | Clerk                           | Expenses                   | £130.25 |
| iv.  | M Snelson Agricultural Services | Expenses re noticeboard    | £29.88  |

**1598. Planning Matters**

## a. Received:

- i. PA 18/00855/VAR Halfpenny Green Golf Club Karter Farm New Road Swindon Dudley South Staffordshire DY3 4PP - Application Reference Number: 17/01140/FUL Date of Decision: 18/05/2018 - Condition Number(s): 2 Conditions(s) Removal: The Applicant wishes to amend some of the materials to be used in the external appearance of the proposed extensions as approved. See covering letter for full details. Substitution of amended drawings. See covering letter for full details. – No objections.

- ii. PA 18/00909/FUL The Cottage Gospel Ash Road Bobbington Stourbridge South Staffordshire DY7 5ED - Ground and first floor front elevation extensions (resubmission) – No objection.

**1599. Airfield Matters**

The next Consultative Committee meeting will take place on 16 December 2018.

**1600. Correspondence**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Staffordshire County Council – (SCC)

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) – Partnership event 9/11/2018

SSC Street Scene update 19/10/18, 9/11/18

SSC Local Plan review consultation drop in sessions

Staffordshire Police – confirmation of attendance on Remembrance Sunday

South Staffordshire Council – Council News round-up issues 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95

SSC Promotion of Street Scene Services

SSC Let's work together 23/11/18

Email re Highways resurfacing, forwarded by Cty Cllr. Mrs Wilson

Staffordshire Police Online surgery 27/11/18 7pm

Local Elections newsletter 1

SSC Parish Summit feedback 2018

Staffordshire County Council – pothole update w/c 24/10/18

VAST 30/10/2018

Civic Voice War memorial news 26/11

**1601. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Date of Next Meeting** 16 January 2019 at 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed