

**MINUTES of the meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 20 May 2020 held remotely through Zoom at 7:00pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor: Cllr. Mrs L Jones (Chairman)  
County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson  
Councillors: A Burton, Mrs I Rees, S Hadgett, M Snelson, M Slater and  
Mrs J Stanton  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council

**1774. APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

**1775. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr. S Hadgett declared an interest in 1784aii.

**1776. MINUTES:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 18 March 2020, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**1777. MATTERS ARISING:**

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

Following the adjournment at the last meeting, the Chairman summarised the issues and concerns that were discussed.

Cllr Snelson stated he was happy to move the tree if that decision was made, however, he was not aware that we had the permission of the occupant to plant the tree in the garden.

A brief discussion with respect to responsibilities followed. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to make enquiries at the County Council.

**b. Affordable Housing**

Lesley Birch has confirmed they have received approximately 55 replies, which have been forwarded to John Lancaster to be opened and assessed.

Shortly before the meeting the Clerk had received and circulated John Lancaster's report. This will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

**c. Bobbington website**

Cllr. Burton updated the meeting. All minutes of previous meetings have been transferred over to the development site. A lot of the narrative has also been transferred. Cllr. Burton has taken various photos and found other photos to use. New titles and pages are now being developed.

Cllr. Burton will send the link to the development website over for all to review what has been done. Any changes should be emailed to Cllr. Burton. A list of new pages needed will be compiled and circulated. It would be helpful if everyone could take a page.

**d. Unkempt properties/gardens**

As anticipated there had been no further communication from Teresa Smith, Senior Tenancy & Estate Management Officer. The Clerk will request an update once the current lockdown restrictions have been lifted and the overall COVID-19 position improved.

**e. The National Lottery Community Fund funding opportunities**

The Clerk attempted to complete the application form, however, the funding requires a **minimum** spend of £10k. The anticipated project cost was estimated to be £4-5k excluding VAT. The previous grant application was for £5,000. Therefore the project doesn't meet the minimum criteria.

A separate fund is available "National lottery awards for all" for projects requiring less than £10k, however, at the moment they are concentrating on COVID-19 projects and have asked that organisations apply at a later date if not COVID-19 related.

**1778. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)****a. Future meetings including annual meeting and AGM**

The Corona Virus Act 2020 and its accompanying Regulations remove the requirement for Councils to hold the annual general meetings at which the chair and other appointments are made and current arrangements may remain in place until May 2021. It was unanimously agreed that both the annual Parish meeting and AGM would not be held in 2020. All positions will continue to the next AGM in May 2021.

The Corona Virus Act 2020 has permitted Councils to meet remotely until May 2021. It was agreed that meetings should continue to be held every other month for the time being. It is unlikely that all the lockdown restrictions will have been lifted by July, therefore, a remote meeting via zoom was probably more likely. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

**b. Isolation / community assistance**

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been a good response from the call for volunteers - 26 people are now registered and willing to provide help and support to Parishioners. It was agreed it would be nice to recognise these volunteers once COVID-19 has eased.

2 parishioners are currently using the services – 1 for food and the other for prescriptions, this isn't however to say that people aren't helping others out.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson explained there was a COVID-19 fund available from the County Council to assist community schemes. Funds have already been given to Kinver and Huntington who required additional funds to assist their communities.

**1779. HIGHWAY MATTERS****a. Divisional Highways programme 2020/21**

Cllr. Wilson requested suggestions of work which needed completing in the Parish for her meeting with Highways, this should not include gullies or potholes as this work is scheduled separately. Examples of work that can be requested include white lines and painting white fencing.

The “red strips” by the Red Lion were suggested – we have been trying to resolve the issues with these for several years. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to look into this.

#### **b. Water main and cleansing Six Ashes Road**

The water main has been repaired and the traffic lights taken down the test will be when it rains!

Cllr. Hadgett reported that a Parishioner had updated him on the brook. A lot of activity has taken place to empty the Brantley Crescent end of the brook. A skip has been filled with rubbish, however, they are unable to clear a large tree trunk to clear the other side, an electric saw has been used, but the tree is too big. They are not sure where all the waste is coming from, but this can be investigated once the tree has been cleared. Cllrs. Snelson and Slater agreed to take a look.

#### **c. Crab Lane**

Cllr. Snelson reported that he hoped the flooding issues along Crab Lane would be less of an issue. There are 4 gullies in the area, the tops have been taken off all and cleaned, however, a jetter is needed to clear them out properly and ensure they do not fill with the next heavy rainfall.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated there was a long list of defect gullies with an associated cost of repair of £9m. Both Cllr Burton and Cllr Hadgett had reported issues at the Leaton Lane junction with drains – some of which are concreted in. They had received correspondence to state an inspector had attended and there was no action needed – however, it is quite clear action is needed. Cllr. Mrs Wilson requested the reference numbers and she will follow them up.

### **1780. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton reported that the school is currently closed to all pupils other than those of key workers wishing to take up the childcare provision. It is understood this provision is provided on 2 days each week for approximately 4 pupils.

Following recent government announcements, reception, years 1 and 6 will be able to return to school soon, plans are currently being put in place.

#### **Village Hall**

No report available.

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

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that there is nothing to report on the church except to say a very big 'thank you' to those from the village who have very kindly tackled some mowing in the churchyard and painted some of the railings. A great help!

#### **Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)**

Cllr. Burton reported that CSW is currently not active due to COVID-19. A new campaign will be released by Staffordshire Police on 25 May 2020 to raise awareness of speeding as the number of vehicles on the roads are set to increase again over the coming weeks as lockdown restrictions ease.

### **Police Crime Report**

No crime report received.

### **1781. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

### **1782. INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Zurich Insurance renewal documentation has been received the annual cost will be £257.60 (2019 £257.60) Cllr. Mrs Stanton proposed the policy be renewed, Cllr. Mrs Rees seconded it.

### **1783. FINANCE**

#### **a. Cheques**

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

i. Chipmonk Computing (*)	Annual renewal	£87.00
ii. South Staffordshire Council (**)	Election costs 2 of 2	£879.19
iii. Zurich Insurance	Annual insurance	£257.60
iv. Clerk's salary	Salary & expenses	£372.80
v. HMRC	Paye	£86.60

\* Cheque payable to the clerk who will then transfer the money by Bacs from a personal account as cheques no longer accepted.

\*\* Invoice £1,779.19 - £900 paid on account November 2019 balance o/s £879.19

### **1784. PLANNING MATTERS**

#### **a. Received**

- i. PA 20/00337/FUL - Claire Hayes Gospel Ash Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5ED - Proposed single storey rear extension and proposed rear dormer extension at first floor – No objections
- ii. PA 20/00321/FUL - 23 Six Ashes Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5BZ - New single storey rear extension and extension above existing garage – No objections

#### **b. Received and responded to**

- i. PA20/00273/FUL - School House Gospel Ash Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5EF - Single storey side extension. New gable roof over main entrance and new tiled roof over existing flat concrete roof and side elevation – no objections
- ii. PA 20/00181/FUL - Halfpenny Green Vineyards Tom Lane Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5EP - Erection of a timber building to accommodate a pottery shop and studio – No objections

#### **a. Responded to:**

#### **b. Outcomes:**

#### **c. Enforcement matters:**

- i. It was noted more work is continuing to take place at Brelades – no planning application has been seen.

**1785. AIRFIELD MATTERS**

Cllr. Mrs. Rees reported that the airport was closed except for helicopters and fixed wing trials as they have to test the engines. There is currently no further information on the planning application.

**1786. CORRESPONDENCE**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 7/4/20, 21/4/20, 7/5/20, 12/5/20

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Council news 160, 161, 163, 166, 167, 168  
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin 27/3/20, 21/4/20, 23/4/20, 30/4/20, 7/5/20, 14/5/20

SSC Street scene update 20/3/20, 7/5/20, 17/5/20

SSC Partners questionnaire request 29/3/20

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) – Coronavirus update 23/3/20, 9/4/20, 17/4/20, 29/4/20, 7/5/20, 15/5/20

SPCA Chief Executive bulletin – 20/3/20, 4/5/20

SPCA bulletin extra 19/3/20, 20/3/20, 24/3/20, 26/3/20

SPCA Update on burial sites

NALC Update Coronavirus 20/3/20, 24/3/20, 26/3/20, 27/3/20, 29/3/20, 8/4/20, 1/5/20

Funding for VCSE Groups during COVID-19

Message from Deputy Chief Constable Nick Baker 20/3/20

Great British Spring Clean postponed

SSC – update on Council meetings

SSC – letter re local business

Notification of temporary closure of Bobbington Post Office

SSC – Elected members briefing 12/4/20, 1/5/20, 8/5/20, 15/5/20

**1787. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Green bins / fly tipping – SSC state there is evidence in a study stating charging for green bins will not result in increased fly-tipping – however, local farmers have seen big increases in fly-tipping recently. Whilst some of this may be due to the COVID-19 lockdown and tips being closed, there is a concern the volume will remain with the charging for green bins. Cllr. Snelson asked Cllr. Mrs Wilson whether there was any provision locally for farmers to take a tractor and trailer to the tip without having to pay for a permit. 8 tonnes of rubbish was collected from around their farm last week, not all the waste can be burnt and the Council will only remove it if not on private land, which leaves landowners in a difficult position. Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to look into this, mobile CCTV is positioned around the County to identify fly-tippers in regular areas. She also commented that fly-tipping is currently the worst it has ever been on record, it is thought there is organised crime linked to the County. Whilst a small spike is expected with the green bin charges the overall fly-tipping levels are expected to fall.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 15 July 2020 to be held remotely through zoom.

Meeting Closed 8:05pm