

**Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 15 July 2020 held remotely through Zoom at 7:00pm**

Present: Councillor: Cllr. M Snelson (Chairman)
County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson
Councillors: A Burton, Mrs I Rees, S Hadgett, M Slater and Mrs J Stanton
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
3 Members of the public
Observers – Swindon Parish Council x3

1788. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Cllr. Mrs Louise Jones.

1789. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1790. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 20 May 2020, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1791. Matters arising:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Cllr. Snelson summarised the position to date. Following the last meeting Cllr. Mrs Wilson had discussed the issues with both the District and County Councils and concluded the only plausible position is in the garden.

The County Council stated – “Looking into the tree at Brantley Crescent, unfortunately this lies with Steve Dores to make a decision, he did contact us to see about the tree being in the grass verge area which we would not have an issue subject to the tree being set back from the visibility splay. However, as this is a District Council issue it will be Steve's decision where he requires the tree to be reinstated. Which potentially will be in the residents land within their ownership?”

Cllr. Mrs Wilson spoke to Steve Dores with no success. As such Cllr. Mrs Wilson kindly called Ms Haughtey and explained the position and issues. It was agreed that the tree can be planted in the garden.

Unfortunately, it is recommended that the tree should not be moved at this time, and, therefore, it was proposed by Cllr. Snelson and agreed by all present, that it should be moved following the first frost. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to update the District Council.

b. Affordable Housing

John Lancaster's report had been reviewed by all. Cllr. Mrs Stanton summarised the key findings and main outcomes. 238 households were surveyed, 54 questionnaires were returned (22%). The report recommends 8 housing association homes for local people. The proposal is for 6 rented and 2 shared ownership homes which is an increase since 2013.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Leslie Birch at the Housing Association to ascertain whether the landowner was still interested before any further discussions took place.

c. Bobbington website

Cllr. Burton updated the meeting. The majority of the content has been transferred to the new site, several councillor pictures / biographies are outstanding. It is anticipated the new site should be able to go live by the Autumn.

d. Unkempt properties/gardens

As anticipated there had been no further communication from Teresa Smith, Senior Tenancy & Estate Management Officer.

Cllr. Hadgett reported that in other areas Housing Association Managers arrange for the necessary work to be carried out and then recharge the occupier. It was suggested we could invite Ms Smith to a future meeting to discuss what can be done.

A parishioner had contacted the Clerk with respect to the condition of a property on Brantley Lane. This has previously been discussed at a meeting, shortly after the house was tidied up.

e. Flytipping

Cllr. Mrs. Wilson had asked the District Council whether permits were available for farmers disposing of fly tipping. Unfortunately, they are unable to allow special privileges.

In Wombourne "Streetscene" collected large bags of rubbish after the village tidy up, Cllr. Mrs Wilson was unsure if a charge had been incurred for this service, but wondered if something similar could be set up, she will make enquiries.

Cllr. Mrs Rees expressed concern with respect to fly tipping along Gospel Ash Road which had still not been removed. Cllr. Mrs. Wilson agreed to chase this matter up.

Cllr. Snelson commented that placing cameras in fly tipping hotspots was resulting in offenders disposing of waste from the side or back of their vans whilst still moving, as this method prevents their vehicle from being identified. This is making the situation worse as it is no longer confined to a single spot. Cllr. Mrs. Wilson agreed to pass this information on.

1792. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

a. Isolation / community assistance

Cllr. Burton reported that support was still ongoing for a couple of Parishioners. There are still plenty of volunteers if the need arises.

Cllr. Mrs. Wilson stated that financial assistance for the recovery phase is available from the County Council. PPE, masks and sanitiser is available to voluntary groups via their website.

b. Digital Projects

South Staffordshire Council are putting together an application to secure some funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, aimed at digital projects which will support Covid renewal.

The criteria for the funding is specifically aimed at digital projects which will enhance community engagement, and develop new working practices. Therefore, the Council's application aims to further enhance the collaboration between the district and parishes through a unified digital platform. The aim of our application will be to further accelerate the technological progress we have made during lockdown, and utilise the funding we draw down from the programme to create a unified digital platform.

South Staffordshire Council are looking for two parishes to come forward who would be willing to be pilots in the early stages of our proposal. A discussion took place, it was agreed that this would be of more relevance to larger Parish Councils.

1793. Highway Matters

a. Divisional Highways programme 2020/21

Cllr. Mrs Wilson had inquired as to the repair of the red strips by the Red Lion Public House, however, the funding cannot be used for this. Various slow signs will, however, be repainted.

Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to look into the Post Office footpath & island as this is still outstanding. Cllr. Hadgett agreed to provide some photographs of the area.

The contract with Amey is currently under review and, therefore, changes may follow.

b. Water main and cleansing Six Ashes Road

Cllrs. Snelson and Slater had carried out a site visit to the brook adjacent to 23 Six Ashes Road. It would appear that a house in Brantley Crescent have erected a fence over the brook which is causing branches and other large objects to cause obstructions to the water flow. Cllr. Hadgett has already raised this matter and been informed that the County Council will only take action if it interferes with the water course.

A tree has fallen further along, however, this is not causing any obstructions. It is not possible to get a machine down there to clear it out properly, however, residents have done a good job of clearing most of the rubbish that was there.

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that her garage had again been flooded, so it would appear that problems further up Six Ashes Road have not been resolved. A discussion took place. It was agreed that although a lot of the gullies have now been cleared by the community they have not been jetted as requested. Cllr. Mrs Stanton agreed to raise the issues again with Diane Firkin of Staffordshire Highways.

1794. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr. Burton reported that reception, years 1 and 6 have returned to school. Some pupils from other years have also gone back, however, classes are now at full capacity with respect to the COVID-19 guidelines.

The little Greenhouse nursery have withdrawn from Bobbington. The school will be taking over the facility to ensure an onsite nursery continues to feed into the school.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the flat roof section was repaired at a cost of just of £5k. The Committee are still looking into whether or not they can obtain a grant to assist with the cost.

The village hall remains closed for the time being. The Committee did receive notification from the village hall advisory service that they could reopen but under very strict COVID-19 restrictions. For now, they do not plan opening the hall for the foreseeable future.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that Church services resumed on 12 July 2020 in a simpler form, with no hymns! Jane Southall is taking all possible precautions.

Unfortunately, a tiny portion of plaster has fallen from high up in the apex of the ceiling which means most of the nave has been taped off pending an investigation by the specialist builders, who carried out the re-plastering 15 years ago, to see if any more is likely to fall. A similar fall happened two years ago and, because it's a listed medieval building, it was necessary to have the architect, with scaffolding, to inspect and then the builders to replace the plaster – again a very small patch. The whole process cost almost a thousand pounds! It is possible that extremes of heat up in the roof can cause movement.

Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)

Cllr. Burton reported that CSW is now permitted to restart. Schedules are currently being reviewed, however, due to the low number of volunteers and Summer holidays there may be a delay.

Police Crime Report

No crime report received.

1795. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public present.

1796. Finance**a. Accounts year ended 31 March 2020**

The Clerk had previously provided copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020. No questions were raised. It was proposed and seconded, that they be taken as read, this was agreed by all present. The Chairman and Clerk signed the annual return.

b. Governance statement return 31 March 2020

Due to the current restrictions in place owing to COVID-19, it was agreed that this statement would be signed at this meeting and reviewed by the Chairman

and Clerk once the internal audit has been completed, as such the statement was reviewed and completed.

c. Certificate of exemption

The criteria was reviewed and agreed, as such, the certificate of exemption was signed, ready for submission.

d. Review of risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment

The Clerk had previously circulated the updated policy, the document was reviewed and approved.

e. Annual donations – Holy Cross Church – upkeep of the churchyard (2018 £900)

Brian Taylor the PCC Treasurer had provided a brief report to the Clerk:

“We had spent £240 on the churchyard up to the end of May 2020 and I have told the gardener to spend 5 hours every two weeks thereafter so I estimate that there will be other costs £660. This will make the total cost in the region of £900. We desperately need any grant that the Parish Council can give us.”

A brief discussion took place. The Councillors were keen to ensure that the gardener did not make any charges for the lockdown period when he did not attend and Parishioners helped to maintain the churchyard. It was also noted that the Churchyard was again looking overgrown in places. Cllr. Mrs Stanton proposed a donation of £900 as in the previous year, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rees.

f. Cheques

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

i. Clerk's salary	Salary & expenses	£385.97
ii. HMRC	Paye	£87.40
iii. Holy Cross Church	Churchyard upkeep	£900.00

1797. Planning matters

a. Received

- i. 20/00172/FUL - The Summer House Long Common Claverley WOLVERHAMPTON WV5 7AX The development consists of the change of use of land from agricultural to commercial, the erection of two outbuildings and a dog kennel and the construction of an earth bund – The property owners gave a brief overview of the proposed development and their reasons for it. Cllrs Snelson & Slater had carried out a site visit. The application was discussed and no objections were raised.
- ii. 20/00408/TTREE - 12 Brantley Crescent, Bobbington DY7 5DB - Tree Preservation Order 83/1986, T17 Copper Beech. Crown lift over drive and prune to clear overhead cables – There were no objections.

b. Received and responded to

- i. 20/00389/COU - Car Park Six Ashes Road Halfpenny Green Bobbington, Wombourne DY75EJ - This application seeks planning consent for the temporary (for a period of 3 years) change of use of a former public house car park and beer garden into a venue that can host local

produce/'farmer' style market stalls that would be open to trade on Wednesday and Saturdays morning only. The site would remain closed for the rest of the week – A number of objections were raised with respect to this application including; the land is situated on what can be a busy junction, a farmers' market is not required here. There is already a successful farm shop situated just down the road by the Woodman and the vineyards sell local produce, there are two trees with TPOs on the site

- c. Responded to
 - 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 objection
 - ii. PA 20/00321/FUL - 23 Six Ashes Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5BZ - New single storey rear extension and extension above existing garage – No objection
- a. Outcomes:
- b. Enforcement matters:

1798. Airfield Matters

Cllr. Mrs. Rees reported that the June meeting was cancelled, no further meetings have been called to date.

An email had been received from South Staffordshire Council with respect to the position of Honorary Secretary of the Airport Consultative committee.

The team currently responsible for undertaking this role has been restructured and can no longer continue to undertake the role. It was wondered whether the clerks to the Parishes involved in these meetings could take over the role of honorary secretary going forward? A discussion had taken place over email prior to the meeting, which concluded as a smaller Parish Council we did not have the capacity to undertake this role.

1799. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 18/6/20
 VAST Covid News 28/5/20, 5/6/20, 11/6/20, 2/7/20, 10/7/20
 South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Council news 169,170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176
 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin 21/5/20, 28/5/20, 4/6/20, 11/6/20, 18/6/20, 25/6/20, 26/6/20 30/6/20, 2/7/20, 9/7/20
 SSC Street scene update 31/5/20, 9/7/20
 Staffordshire County Council (SCC) – Updates to government guidelines
 SCC Covid-19 update 22/5/20, 29/5/20, 5/6/20, 12/6/20, 26/6/20, 3/7/20, 10/7/20
 SCC Stay safe local outbreak weddings
 Community Speed Watch (CSW) Welcome back
 SSC – Elected members briefing 22/5/20

1800. Any other business

Cllr Burton had attended a Parish Online webinar. He was impressed with the system which uses ordinance survey maps. He recommended a three month trial to assess the package as he believes it would be beneficial to the parish. The annual subscription is based on the size of the parish, it;s anticipated this would be

Chairman's Initials

Date:

between £60-70. A brief discussion followed. It was proposed and seconded that we proceed with the trial.

Date of the next meeting 16 September 2020 to be held remotely through zoom.

Meeting Closed 8:46pm