

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 held remotely through Zoom at 7:30pm

Present: Councillor: Cllr. Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)
County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson
Councillors: M Snelson, A Burton, Mrs I Rees, S Hadgett, M Slater and
Mrs J Stanton
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
Observers – Swindon Parish Council x2

1801. Apologies:

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

1802. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1803. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 15 July 2020, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1804. Matters arising:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

We are awaiting the first frost before re-locating the tree, the District Council are aware and will follow it up when appropriate.

b. Affordable Housing

The Clerk had received an email from Lesley Birch at Housing Plus Group. The landowner has reservations about whether he wants to have social housing built next to his house. Lesley has explained that the only people entitled to these properties are those with a connection to Bobbington. Further information has been provided. The survey has not identified the need for any family houses. Since this correspondence and shortly before the date of this meeting the landowner had again been in contact with Lesley to find out a bit more. The housing specification has been sent as the landowner may be interested in building the houses.

A discussion took place, it was agreed that as a council we need to ensure that this is progressed in a timely manner. The Clerk agreed to chase Lesley regularly. It was also suggested a closed meeting be held with Lesley in October to ensure the matter was moving forward and to discuss alternative sites if the preferred site was no longer available.

c. Bobbington website

Cllr. Burton has continued working on this project and updated the meeting accordingly. There are still some photographs and biographies outstanding, these need to be completed as soon as possible. All other aspects are ready to go live.

Chipmonk Computing had emailed the Clerk to notify the council there is no issue in transferring most of the information on the website to the new site, however, any entries in the 'Have Your Say' and 'Guest book' pages should not be transferred as

it could result in a breach of the Data Protection Act. It was agreed that there was never any intention to transfer these elements of the site.

Chipmonk Computing currently own the website name. They are happy to transfer ownership to the Parish Council, however, there will be a nominal charge. The Clerk was asked to request details of the charge to permit further discussion to take place.

d. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Clerk had emailed Teresa Smith, Senior Tenancy & Estate Management Officer, to request she attend a virtual meeting with the Parish Council, however, the invitation had been declined. Teresa had, however, stated she would be more than happy for the Clerk to email a list of questions / issues that the Council have in relation to any South Staffs Housing Association tenants / land and then she can see what can be done, pass on any issues to other departments if required and feed back that way. She had also requested a reminder of the properties concerned, the Clerk had responded but planned to send a further update after the meeting.

It was noted that whilst one property had been tidied up at the front, the rear had not yet been touched. Rats have been spotted in the garden. A discussion took place and it was agreed action was needed. The Clerk was asked to report the issue to Environmental Health.

Each property was reviewed and the issues noted for a further email to the Housing Association.

It was also noted there is an issue with a tree fronting some properties along Six Ashes Road, opposite the Red Lion - it is suspected that this could be damaging the foundations and may need reviewing.

e. Fly-tipping

Since the last meeting Cllr. Snelson had circulated a short recording as an example of what they as landowners are having to deal with each week. Cllr. Mrs Wilson had reported the issues within the County Council. Tim Cooper the head of waste and recycling is acting on the information and will be carrying out a site visit with Cllr. Snelson in the coming days. As a County Council they are unable to give permits to all landowners and have to be aware of preferential treatment, however, they acknowledge there is an issue that needs action. It was noted that all cannabis waste needs to be reported to the police.

f. Parish online

Cllr. Burton shared his screen and gave an overview of the system, details of which had been circulated to all since the last meeting to enable the Clerk and Councillors to trial the system.

It was agreed the software was powerful and could hold many opportunities. It was unanimously agreed that a 12 month subscription should be taken out when the free trial ends. Cllr. Burton also reminded the meeting that a subscription was not needed with certain insurance companies – this will be explored when the insurance next falls for renewal.

1805. Coronavirus (COVID-19)**a. Isolation / community assistance**

Cllr. Burton reported that support was still ongoing for one parishioner who sought help with his weekly shop. There are still plenty of volunteers if the need arises.

1806. Highway Matters**a. Drainage maps**

It was agreed that the maps that had been provided by the District Council were not of significant use as they depict the main sewer drains as opposed to storm water drains. A discussion followed. It is hoped that Parish online can be used to assist with the mapping required.

b. Church Lane flooding

An email had been received from parishioners with respect to the flooding of properties and gardens along Church Lane. The email had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting to permit a useful discussion to take place. The parishioners had requested a meeting on site, in the near future, to look at the stream and also the ground profile. The email and contents were discussed. It was noted that there are a large number of land drains, from farmers' fields, that all enter a large pipe under the ground near the properties concerned. The pipe then takes the water under the road and into the field adjacent to the Red Lion, there may be a weak point in this sequence. It was agreed a number of parishioners would attend a site meeting and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

c. Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Mrs Stanton apologised for not having followed this up, she understood from the last meeting that Cllr. Mrs Wilson was taking the action point. The Clerk agreed to contact Diane Firkins to report the issues and request more regular cleansing of the drains.

Cllrs Snelson and Slater summarised the position with the brook by Glebelands. Cllr. Mrs Wilson expressed concerns that changing the direction of a water course is against the law. It was agreed the direction is not necessarily changed but the flow could be restricted. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to make enquiries if further information could be emailed to her.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that a new cabinet member had been appointed to Highways.

d. Parking – Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Burton has been asked to raise the issue of parking by the bungalows adjacent to the Red Lion. A van is parking on the bend during the evening and night, which is making getting on and off driveways difficult. The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries although it was agreed we were limited in what could be done.

1807. Reports from Committee Representatives**Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton reported that the school reopened from the summer holidays on 3rd September 2020.

Covid-19 restrictions are in place. The drop off and pick-up times for the individual year groups are staggered so that “bubbles” can be maintained.

The Nursery is now part of the school and they intermittently touch base with the Reception children, making the transition from nursery a little less intimidating in future.

Mrs Crook was pleased to announce that nursery is full, offering 8 sessions a week to 6 children per session. Ways are being investigated to see how they can increase their numbers safely so they can accommodate sibling groups.

The previously discussed TA hours that were reduced, are now being increased again, though not quite to the original hours. This has been facilitated partially by the increased turnover from the nursery and partially down to the “Pupil Catch-up Grant” that has been provided by central Government.

So far, Corbett are pleased to say they have no Covid-19 cases at present and attendance for last week was 98%.

Mrs Crook is very concerned about the speeding cars that pass the school, especially now that the children have set times for drop off, as this has resulted in the children waiting on the road or the carpark prior to being let in.

Parking has also been raised again as an issue, and Mrs Crook is looking to promote walking to school, however the majority of pupils are not within walking distance. A suggestion has been made where-by they propose to park on the Lion car park and walk to and from school one day a week. Cllr. Burton has offered to speak to the Lion to see if this is acceptable.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the Village committee met in late August. A full Covid-19 risk assessment was undertaken and the hall is considered COVID-19 secure. There are hand sanitiser dispensers in-situ and all the relevant signage is on display.

The school are utilising the hall at present. The hall should be reopened to the general public from October 1st. The rule of six does not apply to the list of permitted activities, however, groups of individuals should not mix socially outside the hall settings in groups of more than six.

A grant application was made in late August through Support Staffordshire and the village hall received the sum of £10k. This will help towards the costs of the flat roof repair which has now been completed.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that Sunday services are continuing, with COVID-19 safeguarding measures in place, thanks to Jane Southall. There is no hymn singing! The nave ceiling has been repaired. A wedding was held at the beginning of September.

Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)

Cllr. Burton reported there has been no CSW activity. The speed camera van was in the village last week. Police have also issued new bin stickers, the only issue being bins are not out every day.

Police Crime Report

No crime report received.

1808. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

1809. Finance

There were no finance matters to discuss / approve.

The Clerk was given permission to pay the annual subscription to Parish Online when it fell due – this would be ratified at the next meeting when full details of the cost etc were known.

1810. Planning matters

- a. Received
 - i. PA 20/00573/FUL New Katar Farm New Road Swindon DUDLEY DY3 4PP - Proposed additional timber framed storage unit for tools and equipment for agricultural purposes – No objections
 - ii. PA 20/00587/AGR Bobbington Hall Farm Six Ashes Road Bobbington DY7 5BT - Steel framed lambing shed in dutch barn style with corrugated metal roof – No objections
- b. Received and responded to
 - i. PA 20/00584/FUL Grassmoor House Gospel Ash Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5EF Single storey extension to side to form dressing rooms and ensuite – No objections
- c. Responded to
 - 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 – No objections
 - 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 – no objections
- d. Outcomes:
- e. Enforcement matters:

1811. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs. Rees reported that the Airport Consultative Committee meeting had again been cancelled. There has been no meeting of any sort for approximately 12 months. Cllr. Mrs Wilson has emailed the Airport Manager – once received his response will be circulated.

1812. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 16/7, 30/7, 13/8, 27/8, 10/9

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Council news 178, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 16/7, 21/7, 23/7, 30/7, 6/8, 12/8, 13/8, 20/8, 27/8, 3/9, 10/9
SSC Street scene update issues 4 & 5
Staffordshire County Council (SCC) – Updates to government guidelines
SSC Government guidance on council buildings and SSC decisions
SSC Government flood recovery scheme – application successful
SSC Validated planning applications 20-27 July – Highgate Farm
Pttro 420/001 Grove Lane Lutley Road closures
Pttro 420/430 Mere Lane Lutley road closure
Pttro 420/433 Whittimere Lane closure
Pttro 420/441 Six Ashes Road closure
SCC Email on behalf of HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire 11/8/20
SSC Local plan update
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association annual report and subs 7/9/20
South Staffs work club & welfare support webinar

f. Any other business

A discussion took place with respect to the date of the next meeting and whether meetings should continue to be held every other month as opposed to monthly. It was agreed every other month was ok at the current time, however, there is a need to ensure matters are progressed in a timely manner. Meetings will continue to be held virtually in line with national guidance. In order to progress affordable housing it was agreed to hold a closed meeting with Lesley in October.

Date of the next meeting 25 November 2020 to be held remotely through zoom.

Meeting Closed