

**Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 25 November 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 and
Mrs J Stanton
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
Observers – One member of Claverley Parish Council)

1813. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf Cllr. M Slater.

1814. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Rees declared an interest in 1823aii.

1815. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 16 September 2020, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1816. Matters arising:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

It was agreed we had now seen the first frost and therefore the tree can be re-positioned as previously discussed. This will be completed before the end of the year.

b. Affordable Housing

The Clerk had received an email from Lesley Birch at Housing Plus Group. She had met with the land owner on 8th October 2020 and discussed a design for 8 Affordable homes. The following week Lesley asked the landowner to provide a sketch of what they discussed. Having not received a response she had subsequently asked their architect to re-design the proposed scheme, based on the discussions. If the land owner is happy with the proposal, Lesley agreed she would email it to the Clerk for the Council's consideration.

A discussion followed with respect to the number of houses that would be built. It was understood that the Parish Council would be able to comment on this, however, discussions had not taken place despite draft drawings being in progress.

A further discussion followed during which it was suggested the land owner had not received a formal offer for the land. The Clerk was asked to invite Lesley to a meeting to provide a detailed update and advise as to what measures could be taken to progress the matter.

c. Bobbington website

Cllr. Burton has continued working on this project and updated the meeting accordingly. A couple of photographs and biographies are outstanding, these need to be completed as soon as possible. It was agreed that no personal contact numbers would be provided. All other aspects are ready to go live.

The Clerk had received an email from Chipmonk computing, the current website provider stating they didn't think there would be a charge for acquiring the web address after all.

d. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Clerk had emailed Teresa Smith, Senior Tenancy & Estate Management Officer, she had apologised for the late response, as the team are currently experiencing a high volume of work. She gave a summary as follows:

"Property 1 - New tenant so they are just settling in and have plans for the front garden.

Property 2 – please feel free to report to Environmental Health. This may work better in encouraging them to clear the front and back garden. A number of our team over the years have worked and tried to support the tenant and this still continues, I cannot disclose any further information regarding them because of Data Protection.

Property 3 - although unkept, grass needs cutting, I could not see a tree when I went out the other week?"

The issues summarised were discussed. It was noted that Environmental Health were informed after the last meeting – nothing has been received back from them – so Cllr Victoria Wilson had agreed to obtain an update. Cllr. Burton agreed to provide a photo of the tree raised.

With respect to the bungalows to the side of the Red Lion, Teresa had confirmed they are for tenants who are 55 years and over or any tenant who meets their high medical need criteria, meaning they need level access housing.

e. Fly tipping

Cllr. Snelson stated this was still an issue. Tree stumps have been placed in the entrances to several fields, however, these have been rolled away in some cases. Hare coursing is also rife at the moment. Earlier in the week 2 hours had been spent removing tipping.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson has been in contact with the cabinet minister for Highways and the Environment at the District Council with respect to available options to help land owners. Everyone was in agreement that there was a problem that needed to be addressed, but there is currently no solution.

f. Parish online

A 12 month subscription has been taken out, the ordnance survey has also been added.

1817. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

Cllr. Burton reported that there were no additional requirements from parishioners at the current time. It was noted that there had been a high number of cases reported locally. Cllr Mrs Wilson stated that 120 tests for non-symptomatic patients had been carried out at Kinver. 2 positive cases were identified, 2 had been inconclusive, the remainder were negative.

It was suggested a further leaflet drop take place, to reach out to those who are alone, given social isolation has been identified as a big concern nationally. It was agreed we could offer a listening / talking service. The Clerk and Cllr. Burton agreed to work together to produce further leaflets. Several Councillors offered to join the list of volunteers and call Parishioners.

1818. Highway Matters

a. Church Lane flooding

A number of Councillors had met with the parishioners as requested. Several issues and potential solutions were discussed, however, not all of the solutions suggested were viable. It was agreed that the gully would be cleared, some of the depth would be removed from the field entry to help water soak away. The infrastructure all appears to be there or has been put in place by the Parishioners, however, the gullies are all blocked so it is not working effectively.

b. Six Ashes Road

Several people in attendance commented on seeing the road “bubbling like a fountain” during recent wet weather. A discussion followed with respect to the possible cause. It was agreed that if anyone saw the road “bubbling” they would video it and send it via Diane and Cllr. Mrs Wilson. It was also suggested it be logged via Highways website. Cllr Mrs Wilson offered to use some of her funding for investigations next year if the issue hasn’t been resolved, but she warned that such work is expensive.

The clerk had emailed Diane Firkins, Staffordshire Highways as requested. She had agreed to visit the area. Upon doing so she noted many of the gullies along the road are silted up, she looked at the history and some have jammed lids. Therefore, she has added this road onto their drainage work spreadsheet as a high priority. She also noted that the area where they worked has surcharging water which potentially indicates an issue with this particular gully which will need investigating. She has made their Technical Review Officer aware and the works supervisor who oversaw the works previously. Unfortunately, she isn’t able to give any time frames as to when work will be carried out but has raised this site as the highest category for attention. Should a road closure be required, which is highly likely, then they will unfortunately need to book the road space and a closure can require a few weeks to organise due to notification of diversion routes.

c. Brook Six Ashes Road / Glebelands / Brantley Crescent

No update had been received from Cllr. Mrs Wilson or the County Council officer who was trying to speak with the people that own the garden with the fence over the brook

1819. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been one case of COVID-19, the relevant bubble was closed and the children isolated at home, they have now all returned to school.

A letter has been sent to all parents requesting that they park on the Red Lion car park and walk to school at least one day per week. Cllr. Mrs Wilson informed the meeting about park and stride an initiative in the County Council – she suggested

the school could contact her or Sue Benton for further information / assistance with this initiative.

A carol service and nativity will take place in the playground.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the village hall was currently closed. Another grant has been secured.

Church of the Holy Cross

There was no report from Holy Cross Church

Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)

Cllr. Burton reported CSW has again been stood down because of the lockdown. However, as the safety roads partnership van was in the village, he has requested the statistics from the visit.

Police Crime Report

No crime report received.

1820. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public present.

1821. Civic Award 2019/20; 2020/21

The Clerk asked for nominations with respect to the Civic awards. A nomination was made with respect to the 2019/20 award, which all present unanimously agreed with.

It was agreed to adjourn the 2020/21 award to the next meeting. Both awards will be presented towards the end of the financial year in the hope that face to face meetings may be possible.

It was noted that a Parishioner had recently been awarded the Sir Terry Wogan fundraiser of the year award. Mr Pitt has been fundraising for over 30 years in memory of his son. To date he has raised over £30,000.

1822. Finance:-

a. Annual donations

i. Bobbington Village Hall booking clerk (2019 £500)

It was noted that the committee had successfully secured a couple of grants during the year. Cllr Mrs Stanton was asked to find out what the second grant was for. A donation of £500 was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Rees and seconded by Cllr Mrs Stanton.

ii. Halfpenny Green Air Scouts (2019 £230) – the Clerk had emailed the Group Scout leader to request an update both earlier in the year and during the last month, however, no response had been received to either email. It was agreed that the donation would be adjourned pending receipt of an update.

b. Cheques

i. Bobbington village hall	Annual donation booking clerk	£500.00
ii. Clerk	Salary & expenses	£774.74

iii.	Clerk	Paye	£146.00
iv.	Geoxphere	Parish online	£72.00

1823. Planning matters

a. Received

- i. PA 20/00964/COU Brelades, Long Common, Claverley, Wolverhampton, WV5 7AX; Proposed change of use of existing domestic annexe to separate dwelling – the plans were discussed and compared to an application in 2016. The last application was approved, however, there were a large number of conditions attached. It was agreed that objections would be submitted as before (i.e. inappropriate development in greenbelt), however, should the planners be minded to approve the application again, we would request they impose the same conditions as a minimum and remove the permitted development rights –
- ii. PA 20/00918/FUL Kedesh Gospel Ash Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5ED; To convert the existing linked garage into habitable accommodation. The plans were discussed after which it was agreed there were no objections.

b. Received and responded to

- i. PA 20/00771/FUL Bobbington Hall Farm Six Ashes Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5BT; Steel framed lambing shed in dutch barn style with corrugated metal roof – no objections

c. Responded to

- 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

d. Outcomes:

Cllr. Hadgett confirmed that permission had been granted for the farmers' markets at Halfpenny Green.

e. Enforcement matters:

1824. Airfield matters

It was confirmed that the District Council will continue as honorary secretary of the Consultative Committee.

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that the Airport Consultative Committee AGM was held on 4 November 2020. A representative from MCR took part in the meeting. He confirmed that a Planning Application had been submitted and quickly outlined the content of the proposal. The application number is 20/00893/out, however, this doesn't yet appear to be available to view online (it is assumed it is not yet validated).

MCR have not yet had discussions with the Highways Department and when asked about possible road widening, they said there was nothing in the proposal relating to this. There will be a further update from MCR as the application progresses.

A loss has been made in the last year. The plans link investment to the development.

The representative from Claverley had concerns with respect to the sewerage. A discussion took place as to current sewerage provisions.

Although there are a number of concerns, Highways is of particular concern.

Cllr Mrs Rees said Consultative members had still not seen a business case for the development. Cllr. Mrs Stanton suggested this may be one reason the application had not been validated yet. A number of other discussions followed.

It was agreed that a meeting would be needed as soon as the plans were made available in order to submit a response to the consultation.

1825. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Email from Brian Rawlings to consultative committee members re postponed AGM (16/9/20)

Localities Forum - Locality 5 - 26 November 2020

Climate Change Action Fund

CPRE – Save our spaces appeal

Cllr. Mrs Wilson – Gigabit broadband voucher scheme Staffordshire

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 24/9/20,
8/10/20, 21/10/20, 23/10/20, 5/11/20, 13/11/20

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Council news 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191,
192, 193, 194

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin –
17/9/20, 24/9/20, 1/10/20, 8/10/20, 15/10/20, 22/10/20, 29/10/20, 5/11/20, 12/11/20

SSC – Planning white paper briefing session 1/10/20

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) – Covid national restrictions in place 5 Nov –
2 Dec

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service – safety plan 2020-24

SPCA Training planning

Housing Plus Group 2019/20 annual report

Staffordshire Police and Fire rescue service smart alert

SCC – Additional covid testing

SSC – Covid 19 update – positive cases

SSC Street scene update issues 6

SCC – doing our bit community fund

Co-op food fund is live

SCC – Stafford moves to high alert for covid-19

SS Work club 13/11/20 11 – 12:30

CSW lockdown

Support your community foundation through Christmas shopping

SPCA training bulletin – 2021 courses

SPCA – Covid-19 updates - various

SCC Community suicide prevention training course

CPRE – Funding appeal - will you help save our spaces from reckless
development?

c. Any other business

Chairman's Initials

Date:

Date of the next meeting 20 January 2021 to be held remotely through zoom.

Meeting Closed