

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 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, M Slater
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
10 Members of the public

1826. Apologies:

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

1827. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Snelson declared an interest in 1837a.

1828. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 25 November 2020, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1829. Matters arising:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Cllr. M Snelson reported that the tree is still to be moved. This will be completed before the next meeting.

b. Affordable Housing

Since the last Parish Council meeting the Councillors had met with Lesley Birch of Housing Plus to discuss the current position, matters of concern and how the project can be progressed. It was agreed that a further offer letter would be sent to the land owner. This was sent on 11 December 2020. The offer was based upon a collaborative Design & Build package deal inclusive of land, construction and design fees for 8 homes. A deadline of 15 January 2021 was given.

No response had been received to the letter, therefore, on 13 January 2021 Lesley phoned the land owner's colleague. However, he didn't know what the land owner's intentions were.

Lesley met with South Staff's Council to update them on all the schemes they have in the district. They know of the proposal to develop affordable houses in Bobbington. They are really pleased to have such a positive and pro-active Parish Council.

c. Bobbington website

Cllr. Burton reported that the County Council are currently reviewing the site, prior to it going live. Cllr. Burton has asked about the domain name and will circulate information when received.

d. Unkempt properties/gardens

Victoria Wilson had chased Environmental health who claimed they had not received the email. They apologised and are now investigating this matter.

e. Fly tipping

Cllr. Snelson stated there had been no change, it continues to be an issue. Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that it isn't the only example of regular fly-tipping in her area. As far as she is aware no progress has been made, it is with the cabinet minister for Highways and the Environment at the District Council.

Everyone agreed that there was nothing further that the Parish Council could do at the current time.

1830. Coronavirus (COVID-19)**Isolation / community assistance**

No additional help has been sought by any Parishioners. Several continue to be supported. A further leaflet drop wasn't actioned as discussed, however, given the new lockdown a reminder could be added to any leaflet that is produced in response to the Airport planning application.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson advised the Parish Council to check the restrictions on delivering leaflets during lockdown. She also suggested that other areas have found that Parishioners need help getting to vaccination centres, so this may be something we want to offer assistance with.

1831. Highway Matters**a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road**

A video of the water gushing up was forwarded to Highways. Diane Firkin of stated further investigative work would take place. She has been advised that *"from the video footage I would guess that's a farm stand pipe, which are often private feeds to troughs in fields. On visiting the site, ask the team to dig down with a spade gently. Again, referring to the video I suspect it's no deeper than 300-500mm. If there's no clear sign it will be a call to Severn Trent (or South Staffs Water depending on the supplier)."*

Some work has been completed however more is to be carried out in the next few weeks.

It was noted the road was closed for two half days, whilst the gullies were emptied and pipes cleansed, however, they only sucked out the top and the problems lie further down.

b. Brook Six Ashes Road / Glebelands / Brantley Crescent

An update is still awaited from the County Council officer.

c. Tactical flood planning spreadsheet

It was noted that quite a lot of information was requested and some of this has already been provided. Cllr. Mrs Wilson added that both the District Council and County Council are working on similar projects, it has been suggested that they work together and share information.

**1832. Reports from Committee Representatives
Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton reported that the school is closed to all children except for critical worker's children in line with national policies. Home schooling work and guidance is being offered, the teachers are being proactive which is pleasing.

Cllr. Snelson reported that The Lady Grey Foundation are donating five government specification laptops to Corbett School. The Foundation normally only give grants for higher education, however, in view of the difficult circumstances with children being educated from home and many not being able to afford the right equipment the Trustees have provided 10 Government specification laptops to local schools.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the village hall is closed until further notice. She had sought further guidance as to the purpose of the latest grant – it was awarded by the local authority with respect to business disruption.

Church of the Holy Cross

No services are being held in church at present but Revd. Richard Fisher is offering various services on line. However, the church itself is open each day for anyone who wishes to go in.

Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)

Cllr. Burton reported CSW has again been stood down because of the lockdown.

Police Crime Report

There have been two reports of anti-social behaviour: in Six Ashes Rd there was a vehicle playing loud music and on Tom Lane off-road bikes were driving through a field.

1833. Public Question Time

The Chairman requested that any questions with respect to the Airport planning application be left to planning, when a further opportunity for a public question time would be granted.

A parishioner asked why Leaton Lane was closed, as there didn't appear to be anything happening to justify the closure. Cllr. Snelson reported that work had been carried out, which he understood was now complete, despite the signage still being in-situ. Cllr. Wilson stated that the signage and barriers are the responsibility of a separate crew, removal could take a week or more. It was suggested that the signage could be pushed aside if the work was definitely complete.

1834. Civic Award 2019/20; 2020/21

At the last meeting a nomination was made with respect to the 2019/20 award, which all present unanimously agreed with. The 2020/21 award was adjourned to the next meeting.

The Chairman asked for nominations for the current year. Cllr. Burton proposed Mrs Jill Humphries for her contributions to the village, Holy Cross Church, Parish council (as a Clerk and Councillor) and many other village groups for many years. Cllr. Hadgett seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed by all.

It was proposed that the awards be presented to Mrs Margaret Southall and Mrs Jill Humphries in the late Spring / early Summer of 2021 - it is hoped that a face to face, socially distanced meeting may be possible.

1835. Localities / 3 Tier working

a. Update from the last meeting 26/11/20

The Chairman had circulated the slides from the last meeting for all to review. There were no questions.

b. Going forwards – Letter from C Peterson re locality forums and 3 tier working

It was agreed that the Parish Council were keen to be involved in future meetings.

1836. Finance:-

a. Precept Accounts and budget

The Clerk had prepared and circulated accounts for the period ended 31 December 2020, a draft budget for 2021-22 and a comparison of the 2020-21 budget with actual expenditure.

The draft precept accounts and proposed budget were reviewed and discussed. The accounts and budget were approved. It was agreed the precept should be set at £4,875 (i.e. an increase of 5.5%)

1837. Planning matters

a. Received

- i. PA 20/00893/OUT Wolverhampton Airport, Crab Lane, Bobbington DY7 5DY - Mixed use development comprising the erection of three new hangar buildings, the refurbishment of existing airport infrastructure, the provision of new hard standing for external plane and fuel tanker parking, additional grassed informal plane parking; the demolition of up to 7 existing single storey commercial / retail buildings and the erection of new / replacement commercial / retail / community and, the erection of 112 dwellings as enabling development (all matters apart from access reserved) – A number of parishioners and airport users had attended the meeting, the chairman started the discussions by stating that the application was huge and she believed we would not be able to discuss all matters this evening, further meetings would be needed. The closing date for comments is currently 4 February 2021. She further stated that the Parish Council will submit their comments in due course, but parishioners and members of the public are to be encouraged to submit their own comments also.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Mrs Rees, as the Council's airport representative to start the discussions by giving her initial thoughts on the application. Cllr. Mrs Rees stated it was very comprehensive, although there were some areas of duplication. It was noted that many of the concerns / queries from the consultation event had been included.

Cllr. Burton had previously suggested that the application be divided amongst the Councillors and Clerk to assist with a detailed review – Cllr. Mrs Rees agreed this was a good idea.

An airport user requested that the Chairman permit another airport user to speak on the matter. He is a pilot, Parish Councillor in another area and was previously the Chairman of a Housing Association, so has a significant amount of knowledge to share.

The gentleman spoke and conveyed his thoughts. His comments were much appreciated and the Chairman thanked him for his contribution.

The Chairman then provided every other member in attendance to discuss the application and their concerns / queries. A long discussion followed the main points being:

- It is an outline planning application – presumably to reduce costs
- It seems to be more concerned with housing and a long term plan for housing rather than the airport
- If permission is granted for housing the value of the land increases significantly
- It is unlikely permission would be given to develop the whole site – hence a smaller application to start
- Income appears to be understated and expenditure over-stated
- The airport requires a lot of work / maintenance
- Hangarage – there is significant demand – however, large hangars are not required. T hangars would be much better suited and involve no expenditure – you rent the land they are placed on. T hangars can also be built to actual demand not speculation
- Runways – the closure of a runway was disappointing to start, but it hasn't stopped anyone from flying – the other runways have been used instead – some airports only have one runway
- If the airport is not viable, why not sell it – there are interested parties who would buy it and retain it as an airport
- The application develops the North side – this will make sacrifices to the main runway – if you want to retain the viability of the airport this is the last area you would develop
- Affect on the local community is important – it could add a significant number of people to the Parish population, the main village could also be moved so the current village is an outlier. The character of the area will change
- Increased volume of traffic will pose a danger to walkers and cyclists
- The correct Highways infrastructure is not in place
- Increased noise during development and significantly more lorries and heavy equipment passing through lanes which are not adequate for such vehicles

A discussion followed with respect to the deadline for comments. It was noted that many organisations were closed and public were being advised not to meet with others, therefore, some Parishioners would not be aware of the application. The Council were advised against a leaflet drop due to it being non-essential travel.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would request an extension to the deadline for comments given the vast information that needs to be reviewed and the national lockdown – i.e. to permit time to make others aware of the application.

The Councillors agreed that the application would be divided amongst them to permit a detailed review, Cllr. Burton agreed to organise this. The Chairman suggested a further meeting be held the following week for the sole purpose of discussing the application. It was agreed that members of the public would be invited.

- ii. PA 20/01123/FUL Orchard House Tom Lane, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5EN - Single and two storey extensions – No objections

b. Received and responded to

- i. PA20/01084/FUL 4 Brantley Crescent Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5DB - Proposed kitchen extension and canopy – No objections in principle, however, concerns as to the red cedar cladding
- ii. PA 20/01077/FUL Grassmoor House Gospel Ash Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5EF - Two storey side extension to form dressing rooms and bathroom to ground floor with office and w/c to first floor level – No objections
- iii. PA 20/01048/FUL 81 Six Ashes Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5EA - Replacement of conservatory with masonry one with tiled roof and small extension to its side – no formal response submitted as only one Cllr commented – no objections

c. Responded to

- i. PA 20/00964/COU Brelades, Long Common, Claverley, Wolverhampton, WV5 7AX; Proposed change of use of existing domestic annexe to separate dwelling – objections made
- ii. PA 20/00918/FUL Kedesh Gospel Ash Road Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5ED; To convert the existing linked garage into habitable accommodation – no objections

d. Outcomes:

- i. Appeal Decision 3245585: 19/00659/FUL: 16 Brantley Crescent Bobbington DY7 5DB – appeal dismissed.

e. Enforcement matters:

1838. Airfield matters

There was nothing further to discuss with respect to the airfield.

1839. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 10/12/20,
14/1/21

VAST – Community mental health transformation event

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Council news 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin –
26/11/20, 3/12/20, 10/12/20, 17/12/20, 24/12/20, 31/12/20, 7/1/21, 14/1/21

SPCA NALC covid-19 update December 2020, January 2021

Staffordshire libraries – telephone reading friends
Staffordshire libraries eNewsletter
SSC – Covid testing Great Wyrley
SSC – Tactical flood plan
Staffordshire Community Foundation – monthly e-bulletin 15/12/20
Covid rates Trysull & Seisdon ward 1/12/20, 15/12/20, 23/12/20, 1/1/21,
Staffordshire County Council (SCC) – letter to PC chairs – Cllr Wilson Cabinet
member for Communities & Culture
SSC – Covid 19 update – positive cases; very high tier
SSC Covid Marshalls – Dec 20, Jan 21
SSC Tier 4 restrictions
SCC Covid Press release

SSC Christmas fun for Parishes
SPCA Course bookings
SCC Community Safety Flash 8/12/20
Community speed watch (CSW) – to resume 2/12/20
SCC Warmer homes poster
SSC Localities & Newsletter Christmas 2020
Geospatial Commission Public Sector Contracts (“GCPSC”) Newsletter 15/12/20
SSC Locality 5 forum agenda & slides, meeting notes & presentations
SSC Street scene update issues 7
Community Federation for Staffordshire: Covid 19 lockdown appeal

c. Any other business

Date of the next meeting 17 March 2021 to be held remotely through zoom.

Meeting Closed