

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillor: Cllr. Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)
Councillors: M Snelson, M Slater
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council

1889. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson, Councillor A Burton, Councillor Mrs I Rees, Councillor S Hadgett and Councillor Mrs J Stanton.

1890. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs. Mrs Jones, Snelson and Slater declared interests in 1892a.

1891. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 19 May 2021, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1892. Matters arising:

a. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch has provided the Clerk with an update stating;
“We have made contact with the family via the agent who was originally involved in this site. Our architect is currently producing a sketch to identify the area of land required to accommodate the dwellings. If the owners are happy with the sketch, we will then submit a pre-application to the planning dept at SSC for their approval or otherwise. I will be in touch when some progress has been made.”

Cllr Snelson asked whether an offer had been made to avoid a similar situation – the Clerk agreed to raise this with the Housing Association.

b. Bobbington website

The Chairman read a report from Cllr. Burton.
“The new website (<https://bobbingtonparish.co.uk/>) is now up and running. Please take a look at the website and report back anything that may need adding or amending. Several pictures of Parish Councillors and Parish Councillor narratives are also outstanding, please submit these as soon as possible.”

The Clerk has contacted Chipmonk Computing and agreed the previous site will be maintained until 30 September 2021, after which date it will be taken down. As a result of this discussion the original invoice (which was approved in May 2021) has been amended and a 50% reduction given.

c. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Public Health Officer (Alison Simmons) has contacted the Housing Association (“SSHA”), to see what assistance can be offered. As a result, she has confirmed that letters went out from SSHA on 27 May 2021 to the tenants at both properties, advising them that SSDC have raised the matter of their untidy gardens, and requesting them to tidy them up in order to meet their tenancy contract

conditions, which have been outlined. A request has also been made to remove "abandoned vehicles".

Whilst the tenant adjacent to Cllr. Burton has strimmed the grass at the front and back of the property, nothing else has been done, for example the weeds along the fence remain and with the current weather have grown exponentially.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Public Health officer and explain that little action has been taken and to enquire as to the next steps.

d. Telephone box – Salt Box Lane

The Clerk had undertaken research and looked into English Heritage assets. It appears that the Parish Council would be responsible for the upkeep. There is also a clause with respect to selling the asset on. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council would adopt the kiosk for £1. It was suggested that the Air Scouts or school may be interested in helping to maintain it. The Clerk will report the intention to adopt it and await instructions as to the next steps.

1893. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

No additional help has been sought by any Parishioners.

1894. Highway Matters

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

Work is due to be carried out next month. It was noted that water was again running down the road last week and bubbling out of the drain. It was agreed that Cllrs Snelson and Slater would attempt to take a look and obtain photos of the road.

1895. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr. Burton provided the following report to the Clerk:

The school is running at 106 capacity at the moment. The Nursery which is now under the jurisdiction of Corbett has increased from 3 in November 2020, to 13 now. They are looking forward to welcoming Mr Tart as a new member of staff in September. Mr Tart previously taught at the school under Mrs Southall and comes highly recommended. He will be teaching the FMN's class.

Mrs Crook would like to recognise Kinver Rotary Club, they are running a climate change competition which Corbett children have been participating in. They also buy dictionaries for the year 6 leavers and are doing so again this year. Finally, they are also fundraising on behalf of the school and the monies raised will go to purchasing an iPad.

The school have also been having debating societies re the proposed development of the airport. Mrs Crook will forward some of the feedback. Year 5/6 will be having a residential trip to Boraton Park. Year 1/2 will be going to Warwick Castle.

From next year Forrest school will be on the curriculum for all years.

Mrs Crook is looking for help with regard swimming. The local authority SLA with the school ended during lockdown and will be re-applied. Therefore, they are looking for transport solution coach/mini buses to get the children to the swimming pool. If anyone can offer any suggestions, then Mrs Crook would be grateful.

Following on from the last 15 months of Covid, Mrs Crook reports huge mental health issues within the school, both children and teachers alike. Mrs Weston is being appointed as mental health ambassador and will conduct ½ day sessions once a week. Each year group will have a student representative, a go-to person who they can share their issues within their bubbles.

Litter pick and bench painting is still planned in this summer term. The school will also have an enterprise day whereby small groups of children are presented with £20.00 and encouraged to find ways to make the money work for them and generate more money.

Village Hall

Nothing to report

Church of the Holy Cross

Since Easter Sunday services have resumed again at 11.15 a.m. Revd. Richard Fisher would like to invite Parish Councillors to join in especially on the 2nd Sunday of each month, at the All Age Service lasting 40 minutes. He is very keen to come and meet with the Parish Council. It was agreed that it would be good to welcome Revd. Fisher, the Clerk agreed to make contact.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton provided the following report to the Clerk:

Still no activity has been performed. An email inviting members to a meeting next week has been sent in the hope that we can start again. We are still only working with 4 people.

Police Crime Report

No report received

1896. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

1897. Tom Butler Cup

With the restrictions still in place, it was agreed to defer this competition to 2022. We could then combine it with celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

1898. Finance:-

a. Internal audit year ended 31 March 2021

The review is currently underway and is anticipated to be complete prior to the deadline. No questions or concerns have been raised so far.

b. Certificate of Exemption

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

1901. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 25/5/21
South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 219, 220, 221, 222
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin –
20/5/21, 27/5/21, 3/6/21, 10/6/21
Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways data 17/5/21, 31/5/21, 7/6/21,
SPCA courses
Staffordshire libraries update SCC e-newsletter – June 2021,
Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Covid data 18/5/21, 24/5/21, 31/5/21, 7/6/21
Staffordshire Community Foundation spring update
The Local Boundary Commission for England – Have you say on the ward
boundaries for SSDC
SSDC - Local Government Boundary Commission - Community Briefing Session
– 17/6/21
CPRE Staffordshire - new initiative to promote the Staffordshire Way.

1902. AOB

There was no other business.

Date of the next meeting 15 September 2021

Meeting Closed