

**Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7:30pm**

Present: Councillor: Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)
County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson
Councillors: S Hadgett, Mrs J Stanton M Snelson and M Slater.
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council

1917. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Cllr. A Burton and Cllr. Mrs I Rees.

1918. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs. Mrs Jones declared interests in 1920a and 1926a. Cllrs. Snelson and Slater declared interests in 1920a.

1919. Minutes:

Cllr. Stanton proposed one change to 1909 – the final paragraph should read Cllr Mrs Stanton not Cllr Hadgett. The Chairman made the change.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 15 September 2021, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1920. Matters arising:

a. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Association) instructed another architect in September, he has produced a sketch, which has been sent to the land owners' agent. If the owners are happy with the proposal, it will be shared with the Parish Councillors before submitting it for pre-planning application advice.

Lesley spoke to the agent a couple of weeks later, he is discussing the sketch with the land owner and will reply by the end of October.

b. Bobbington website

The minutes, agendas and financial returns are in the process of being uploaded to the new website.

Cllr. Slater's biography is outstanding but in hand.

c. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Clerk had sought advice from Staffordshire Parish Council's Association as requested. The following response was received:

Unfortunately, I can't point to any powers that would enable the parish council to take any action in this matter.

Clearly the responsible public bodies (SSDC and the Housing Association) have used the authority they have to the extent they feel is appropriate even though, as the Public Health Officer at SSDC concedes, the actions taken do not appear to have had the desired effect.

The PHO's suggestion that other residents might organise themselves to volunteer to undertake remedial work would appear to be the only realistic alternative should the occupiers of the properties in question fail to maintain their gardens. Nonetheless, even if third parties were willing to do this work, the approach will clearly be problematic and certainly could not be applied universally should the occupiers not wish to cooperate in such an exercise.

Unfortunately, Cllr Burton was not present to report back on the welfare check, however, a female had been seen to enter the property. It is also understood two young children also live at the premises. It was agreed to wait for Cllr. Burton's feedback before considering the next action plan.

Cllr. Snelson has contacted the owner of the third property along Brantley Lane which is need of some attention, a letter will be sent if no action is taken prior to the next meeting.

d. Telephone box – Salt Box Lane

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting for the Clerk to review the contract from BT with respect to the “agreement for sale and purchase of telephone kiosk(s) to a local authority in England and Wales”.

e. Parish online & ordinance survey website:

Cllr. Burton had hosted a zoom meeting to demonstrate the package and provide training for the other Councillors. It was agreed the session was useful and informative. Councillors can increase their knowledge by exploring the site in more detail.

1921. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

The number of covid cases is rising across the country. Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that England has the highest rates in the world currently, with the West Midlands being the highest rate in the country. Parishioners, family and friends should be encouraged to attend their covid booster vaccinations when due. Flu vaccines are also advisable this year due to the number of cases expected.

1922. Highway Matters

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

Cllrs Snelson and Slater reported that they had attended the site following the June meeting and noted that the drains and gullies were blocked solid. However, after their visit the road was subject to a week's closure. Having reattended the site the Councillors reported that the gullies had been sucked out and a really good job carried out. Two of the lids on the drains were cut out to allow cleansing. The Highways team were commended as, whilst the gullies were being done, the potholes were also filled in where possible, making good use of the road closure. The team carrying out the gully work stated they do need regular cleansing to maintain the flow of water.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated that the County Council were reviewing the cleaning routes as it was agreed rural areas need more work than urban areas, whereas currently urban areas are cleansed more regularly so the priorities aren't right.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that there does seem to be less water on the road surface now, although it is still early in the season and therefore the ground is still absorbing much water.

Cllr Mrs Wilson asked if landowners could help with the culverts. Cllr. Snelson explained this would not help along this stretch of road due to the height difference in the fields and road.

Cllr Mrs Wilson stated that Street Scene can assist but the Parish Council have to pay for this service. It was suggested that someone walks round the Parish and logs all of the problem areas, drains etc as there is currently no way of knowing which drains haven't been cleared. We have previously requested drainage maps of the Parish, however, it would seem that these don't exist. It was agreed that the Parish online system could be used to record the information

b. 20's plenty

The Chairman summarised the discussion that took place at the previous meeting where it was agreed to seek further information from Cllr Mrs Wilson.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson provided more information on the background to the scheme. It has already been agreed that the County Council will not fund the request, therefore, Parishes have to fund it. The other known issue is that 20mph limits are not enforceable by Police. It was agreed by those present not to pursue the matter, for a number of reasons.

c. Highways review – speed limits / white lines

The Clerk has emailed the Highways Department as requested. Their response is awaited. Cllr. Mrs. Wilson explained that if Police attend an accident and decide it is as a result of a road issue / concern they will speak directly to Highways. She hasn't received any feedback. With respect to the re-instatement of white lines, it was agreed to await details of the policy, then hold a discussion.

1923. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton had provided details of important dates relating to Corbett School (attached).

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the AGM will be held on 3 November 2021. As previously reported the committee are considering redecoration and replacement windows for those that are broken.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs J Humphries had informed the Clerk that the Remembrance Service will be held in church on 14th November at 10.50am. The Vicar is involved in an after-school club at school once a month.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported a new volunteer has been recruited. Two surveys have been carried out this month. Approximately 8 speeding vehicles were recorded on each outing. More volunteers are still needed.

Police Crime Report

No crime report had been received.

1924. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

1925. Finance:-

There were no finance matters to be discussed / agreed.

1926. Planning matters**a. Received**

- i. 21/00983/FUL - Owls Rest Barn Blacklands Barns Six Ashes Road Halfpenny Green Staffordshire DY7 5DP - Additions and alterations to existing dwelling and replacement outbuilding – A discussion was held, there were no objections, although it was noted that the alterations could result in the loss of character.
- ii. 21/00832/FUL - Owls Rest Barn Blacklands Barns Six Ashes Road Halfpenny Green Staffordshire DY7 5DP - Removal of remains of existing stables, relocation and erecting of new stables – A discussion was held. The only concern related to the proposed height, it was suggested the planners could be asked to consider a limitation of use for equine purposes only.

b. Received and responded to:**c. Responded to**

Nothing to report

d. Outcomes:

Nothing to report

e. Enforcement matters:

Nothing to report

1927. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that there was nothing to report from the last meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee other than the decision re the MCR planning application has been deferred again to November. Once again no one from MCR attended the meeting.

1928. Correspondence

Blakelands Fireworks notifications

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 16/9/21, 30/9/21, 7/10/21

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 236, 237, 238, 239, 240

SSDC Climate change workshop 8/9/21 feedback

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 16/9/21, 23/9/21, 30/9/21, 7/10/21

Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways data 25/9/21, 1/20/21

SPCA courses

SPCA / SCC update webinar 27/9/21

SSC Accessing the draft preferred options plan 22/9/21

SSC Locality forum 30/9/21
SSC Local plan event for Parish Councillors 7/10/21. Slides were circulated also after the meeting.
Staffordshire libraries news and update
Cllr Mrs Wilson – waste collections
SSC – meeting with the new leader and CEO of the Council
Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Covid data – 20/9/21, 4/10/21
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – speeding awareness
SSC – Covid 10 financial & business support update
Staffordshire Community fund – together we're better – Mental health survey
SSC Local plan preferred options consultation 1/11/2021 – 13/12/2021

1929. AOB

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that the preferred options local plan which is to be consulted on from 1 November to 13 December 2021 is positive for the Parish and local areas. The majority of development is in the north of the county.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that she had recently completed the 92-mile Staffordshire Way walk. She was joined by a couple of MPs / former MPs on the last stretch. They had nothing but praise for the Vineyards and believed that was the best stretch of their walk.

Date of the next meeting 24 November 2021 at Halfpenny Green Vineyards (subject to availability)

Meeting Closed