

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 7:30pm at Halfpenny Green Vineyards

Present: Councillor: Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)
Councillors: S Hadgett, A Burton, Mrs. I Rees, Mrs J Stanton M Snelson and M Slater.
PCSO A Rathbone
6 Members of the Public
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council

1930. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson.

1931. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs. Mrs Jones, Snelson and Slater declared interests in 1933a.

1932. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 20 October 2021, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1933. Matters arising:

a. Affordable Housing

There has been no update from Lesley Birch (Housing Association). Cllr. Slater confirmed the landowner had seen a plan and discussions were ongoing.

b. Bobbington website

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

c. Unkempt properties/gardens

Cllr Burton has seen the family living at the property opposite the Red Lion, however, not yet spoken to them. It was agreed an approach could be made to see if any help could be offered to improve the appearance of the property.

d. Telephone box – Salt Box Lane

The Clerk had reviewed 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”. She raised several issues which the Parish Council needed to be aware of for example: relocation of the box, electrical supply / disconnection, maintenance, permission for certain uses.

A discussion was held and it was concluded that the potential risks, responsibilities and costs outweighed the potential benefits mainly due to the location of the kiosk. As such it was agreed to withdraw from the acquisition.

1934. Civic award presentations

a. 2020-21

Mrs Margaret Southall MBE was presented with the Civic award for 2020-21 in recognition of many years service to Corbett Voluntary Aided C of E Primary School and for ongoing support to other organisations in the Parish.

b. 2021-22

Mrs Jill Humphries was presented with the Civic award for 2021-22 in recognition of many years service to the Parish, its organisations and clubs.

1935. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

Vaccination sites are now giving booster vaccines, parishioners should be encouraged to have the vaccine. There are no additional requests for assistance from parishioners at the current time.

1936. Platinum Jubilee and Tom Butler Cup

The Platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrated in 2022. To celebrate such occasions in the past, the Parish Council would normally join with the school and village hall to hold one event for the Parish. It was suggested that the Tom Butler Cup competition theme could run in line with the Jubilee.

Cllr. Burton agreed to speak to Mrs Crook with respect to any plans the school have. It was also suggested we contact the Air Scouts. Cllr. Snelson agreed to speak to his contact.

All Councillors were asked to bring ideas / suggestions to the next meeting e.g. plant a tree, afternoon tea, fayre etc...

1937. Highway Matters

a. Road closures:

- B4176 – junction with Tom Lane to junction with Wombourne Road – 29 November 2021 – 3 December 2021
- Six Ashes Road – 5 days - 6 -10 December 2021 – new water connection
- Whittimere Lane – 9:30 – 15:30 16 December 2021

b. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

Cllr. Slater confirmed that despite all the work completed over recent months there is still water bubbling up from the road surface along Six Ashes Road.

Cllr. Burton stated that the road outside the school is also still flooding when there is heavy rain.

c. Highways review – speed limits / white lines

The Clerk had contacted Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways as requested. She had responded as follows:

“Staffordshire County Council do have a dedicated road safety team who analyse all personal injury accident data we receive from the Police, each accident must be taken on its own merits and not all could be prevented by engineering measures, for example the accident could have been contributed by a medical episode, impaired by alcohol or drugs, use of a mobile phone, driver error. These types of accidents unfortunately we can never prevent.

Once there is a clear pattern of cluster of accidents at a specific location then we will always look to address the issues with engineering measures for example rear shunt, right turn manoeuvre issues, these we can look for improvements.

These reviews are carried out frequently by our Road Safety Team, by analysis as the data is received. I do not know the circumstance myself of the unfortunate fatality, however I have asked our Road Safety Team if the cause has triggered any measure that we are able to put in place.

We have in the past enhanced the give way signs at Tom Lane with larger yellow backed signs. There are no current plans to look at reducing any speed limits in the area.

The Parish may wish to consider reporting any signs in the vicinity if you feel they are obscured by vegetation our Reactive Inspector can then look at each location individually and raise any necessary jobs. Our Highway Inspectors will also raise covered sign jobs on the routine inspections.

With regards to the white lining in the centre of the carriageway these are Governed by Central Government, Department for Transport guidelines so that there is a uniformed approach which drivers will become aware of when driving from County to County, which forms part of the Highway Code so drivers become aware of the differing markings to know about hazard perception on a road.”

1938. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported as follows:

- PTA events involving community & wider community –
 - o Christmas Craft Fair
 - o Harvest - raising money for Haven and Gunner
 - o Children in Need raising £906.65
 - o Shoe Box Appeal, supporting 26 boxes to be sent to Liberia
 - o PTA paying for all of our children to go to the pantomime
- Staff Absence and the huge impact that Covid etc has had on the school.
- Links with other schools - Graiseley an inner-city school joined Corbett virtually for Diwali and there will be a joint School Council meeting also.
- Sports fixtures are up and running again.
- School visits - every class has been on or has a visit booked in the next few weeks.
- Peter Odemwingie will be visiting the Key Stage 2 children

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the AGM will be held on 12 January 2022. The hall has been decorated throughout. There is a plan in place to review / replace the windows in 2022.

Mrs Southall, Chair of the Village Hall committee, invited anyone wishing to join the committee to contact her or Lucy through the school.

Church of the Holy Cross

Reverend Fisher introduced himself to those present and thanked the Parish Council for the recent donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

A survey has recently been carried out which confirmed there are bats in the belfry, a watchful eye is being maintained due to potential issues e.g. cleanliness.

Over the last 18 months, the condition of the church has deteriorated. Whilst locked and unused during lockdown, moisture built up and caused damage. Given 2022 is an important year for the Church it is hoped some decoration can be carried out.

Links with the school are going well, there is a "family, faith and friendship" after school club on the last Tuesday. The Church have also worked well with the Air Scouts resulting in a successful Remembrance Service.

The congregation consists of a faithful few. They are aware they need to branch out. The Sunday service is at 11:15am it is acknowledged that this is not the best time therefore is under review. The PCC are also seeking to work more closely with other members of the Smestow Vale team.

A Christmas card will be delivered to all homes shortly detailing the upcoming advent and Christmas services.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported two successful outings have taken place since the last meeting. 11 out of 137 vehicles were found to be speeding. The highest speed recorded was 41mph. There are two possible new recruits.

Police Crime Report

PCSO Rathbone had provided a report to the meeting.

Vehicle Crime –

- Tom Lane – 02/10 – Whilst parked at a business premises, a silver VW Golf has been approached by unknown offenders. They have prised the back window and removed a coat valued at £350. No CCTV / No witnesses.

ASB –

- No ASB reported.

Proactive news –

- Staffordshire Police have recognised the dramatic increase in the theft of Catalytic converters. This type of crime is not unique to Staffordshire or the Midlands and is countrywide. Officers have been working alongside neighbouring forces cross-border to target this type of crime. They have also been working behind the scenes to launch a pilot scheme, working alongside vehicle manufacturers, to offer free 'SmartWater' marking for Staffordshire residents at participating dealerships – more can be read at – <https://orlo.uk/Jw1ED>

1939. Public Question Time

A concern was raised with respect to the 30mph sign along Gospel Ash Road, heading to Halfpenny Green – part of this sign is obscured. Cllr. Mrs Rees agreed to take a look.

1940. Finance:-

- a.** Message of thanks to our internal auditor
Mr Alan Dudley was thanked for completing the internal audit.
- b.** Annual donations
 - i. Bobbington Village Hall booking clerk (2020 £500) – Mrs Southall confirmed that whilst the bookings are now under the control of Lucy Timmins of Corbett School, it is a separate arrangement and therefore a continued donation would be appreciated. Cllr. Snelson proposed £500, this was seconded by Cllr. Burton and agreed by all present.
- c.** Cheques
 - i. Bobbington village hall £500
 - ii. Clerk Salary & expenses £533.88
 - iii. Clerk Paye £89.20
 - iv. Geoxphere Parish online £72.00
 - v. Halfpenny Green Vineyards In lieu of room hire £30.00

1941. Boundary Commission review

Cllr. Mrs Stanton has reviewed the proposals and considers them to have a negligible effect on the parish. The plan proposes to extend the wards to make them more equal in size. It was agreed no further action was needed.

1942. Planning matters**a. South Staffordshire District Council – Local Plan**

The Chair asked Cllr. Mrs Stanton to share her knowledge given she had recently attended the CPRE webinar and had reviewed the plan in detail.

Bobbington is a tier 4 settlement, therefore, there is very limited windfall housing for us in this plan. Most of the development is proposed in the North of the county.

In the draft plan the airport was ring-fenced, however, this is no longer the case. It had been suggested that this be noted in any response from the Parish Council.

Cllr. Mrs Stanton agreed to draft some comments for submission. These will be circulated to all for comment, prior to submission.

b. Received:- No plans received**c. Responded to:****d. Outcomes:**

- 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 - refused
- 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 – approved with conditions

e. Enforcement matters:

Nothing to report

1943. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that there was nothing further to report on the planning application, it is understood that it had again been deferred

1944. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 21/10/21, 4/11/21, 10/11/21

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 241.4, 241.5, 243.6, 244.8

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 21/10/21, 28/10/21, 4/11/21, 11/11/21, 18/11/21

Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways data 24/10/21, 8/11/21, 11/11/21, 18/11/21

SPCA courses

SSC Locality forum 25/11/21

Staffordshire libraries news and update

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Covid data – 16/10/21, 24/10/21, 25/10/21, 13/11/21, 1/11/21, 12/11/21

Financial assistance for businesses in South Staffordshire

Queens’ jubilee – the bug lunch and jubilee beacons

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Halloween and bonfire night

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Cooking related fires

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Carers

SSC Local plan preferred options consultation

SSC preferred options – Parish Council briefing notes

SSC preferred options FAQ updated

SSC Draft recommendations re draft wording proposals – boundary commission

SCC Volunteer to feel good

SSC Street Scene 12

SSC Commonwealth games 2022 Cycling time trail event

SPCA – invite to planning event 9/11/21

Staffordshire Commissioner for police, fire, rescue & crime – have your say on policing and fire and rescue.

Healthwatch Staffordshire e-bulletin

SSC Code of Conduct public consultation

SPCA AGM 6/12/21

1945. AOB

A lessons and carols service will be held on Sunday 19 December 2021 at 3pm.

Date of the next meeting 19 January 2022

Meeting Closed