

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall

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

1946. Apologies:

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

1947. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs. Mrs Jones, Snelson and Slater declared interests in 1949a.

1948. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 24 November 2021, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1949. Matters arising:

a. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Association) had contacted the Clerk and suggested that the landowners had withdrawn, it is unsure as to why. Cllr. Slater suggested no contact had been made. The Clerk agreed to contact Lesley and request she contact the landowners directly as opposed to via the agent.

A discussion was held with respect to the future should the landowner withdraw. It was agreed the scheme would probably have to be abandoned as there were few alternative sites available.

b. Unkempt properties/gardens

Cllr Burton has not seen the family to make an approach to see if any help could be offered to improve the appearance of the property. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupant, there were, however, concerns as to any precedence this may set.

1950. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

Further changes have been announced today. Infection rates are still increasing. No further assistance has been sought from Parishioners.

1951. Platinum Jubilee and Tom Butler Cup

Cllr. Burton had spoken to Mrs Crook as requested. The school currently have no plans for an event.

Cllr Snelson proposed a ticketed event in the village hall on the Friday or Saturday evening which could include live music / DJ, hog roast etc. The Chairman and all present thought this was a good idea.

The Chairman proposed an event committee for this "Bobbington Bash". Whilst the Parish Council would support the event, the committee could involve parishioners and representatives from other organisations.

A zoom meeting was suggested to progress the idea. Cllr. Snelson will circulate an invitation to various organisations to join.

Further ideas involved a beacon at the Red Lion.

It was agreed that the Tom Butler cup could be themed around the Queens Jubilee – a cake / pudding competition was proposed. It was suggested that the judging panel could consist of representatives from local restaurants. This will be developed further at the next meeting.

1952. Highway Matters

a. 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. The stretch between College Farm and Burnpit House is the worst. The Clerk was asked to update Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways.

b. Tom Lane

Following a conversation with a former Councillor, Cllr Snelson raised the concerns with respect to the visibility splays on the right-hand side of the road when heading out of the Parish. There should be two areas where oncoming traffic can be seen from a distance. These areas (near the vineyards and opposite Devon Cottage) are now overgrown and have trees on them. If cleared they could improve the safety on that road without the need for a change to speed limits or signage. The overgrown nature could also be adding to the flooding issues outside Devon Cottage as drains have become blocked. The Clerk was asked to contact Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways.

c. Virtual ward walk

Cllr. Mrs Wilson will be meeting with Dave Heywood (Chief Executive Officer, South Staffordshire Council) in the coming weeks to carry out a virtual ward walk. She requested details of ongoing issues as well as proactive / good initiatives. A discussion followed. The following are still considered to be the main problem areas – conditions of the roads, floods (partly due to the condition of the roads), fly-tipping, unkempt gardens, grass strimming (only cut what previously done, they don't clear the entire area). With respect to good initiatives, it was agreed we have CSW and that we could share our Jubilee plans.

1953. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that attendance is down due to covid-19. Four members of staff are currently absent and children's attendance is at 80%. During the last term the PTA have successfully raised funds for the school. The new nursery will be at 100% capacity following the intake at Easter.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the AGM was held on 12/1/2022. The hall has been decorated and the carpet deep cleaned. The windows are currently being replaced.

Church of the Holy Cross

There is nothing to report.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that one new volunteer had been trained and that the speed van had been in the village.

Police Crime Report

Burglary – *There were no reported incidents involving Burglaries between 12/11/21- 19/01/22.*

Vehicle Crime –

16/01/22- "A report came in at 15:12pm whereby unknown offender(s) have gained entry to two Vehicles at Tom Lane Fishing Lakes. The first vehicle being was a Silver Range Rover 11 Reg model where they have smashed the front and rear passenger side windows to gain entry. Nothing was reported by the victim as stolen from within. The second vehicle which was a Ford Transit Custom Van 63 Reg model had also been targeted whereby the unknown offender(s) have gained entry to the vehicle by using a screwdriver to open the door. The victim had his house keys, car keys and mobile phone stolen from within the vehicle.

Unfortunately, there is no CCTV or witnesses to help us with our investigation regarding this incident nor were there any forensic opportunities. We have since being advised that CCTV is being put up which will hopefully prevent any further issues at the location."

Area officers will also KIV the area going forward especially on Sundays when there are fishing competitions taking place.

Proactive news –

- Operation Anadrome patrols and joint operations/information sharing with Neighbouring Police forces have resulted in a significant decrease of Catalytic converters being stolen from within South Staffordshire.*
- A new PCSO has joined your Local Neighbourhood policing team PCSO Phillip Millichap who has just started his new role and will be covering Wombourne and the surrounding villages.*
- Also there is a new operating model which comes into effect in June 2022 which will focus on a more local policing approach, therefore response officers will be located at Codsall rather than Cannock which I think is welcome news.*

1954. Public Question Time

A member of the public raised concerns with respect to the condition of 3 Brantley Lane. There is a problem with rats and this is now affecting neighbouring properties. The property owner does not live there, hence it is overgrown. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner and District Council.

The Councillors were asked about the builders' yard on the corner of Brantley Lane and Six Ashes Road as there are now 4 containers on the land. It is unclear what is permitted. The planning application to be used as a builders' yard was approved, however, the application to build a property was refused. South Staffordshire Council should be able to provide advice.

A member of the public raised the lack of street lighting in Brantley Lane. They asked whether anything could be done to improve this. Reference was made back to October 2021 when a considerable number of police were in Brantley Lane and

the lane leading to the Severn Trent works late at night. It was not known what was going on however, the events were worrying.

A parishioner reported that a black and yellow MOD aircraft had flown straight over houses at a very low level recently, it had been reported to the Airfield. Cllrs. understood that if MOD they may have a different priority / rules.

1955. **Finance:-**

a. Precept Accounts and budget

The Clerk had prepared and circulated accounts for the period ended 31 December 2021, a draft budget for 2022-23 and a comparison of the 2021-22 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 £5,125 (i.e. an increase of 5.1%)

1956. **Planning matters**

a. South Staffordshire District Council – Local Plan

The Clerk has submitted the Parish Council's response as drafted by Cllr. Mrs Stanton and reviewed by all Councillors following circulation by email.

b. Received:- No plans received

c. Responded to: Nothing to report

d. Outcomes: Nothing to report

1957. **Airfield matters**

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that it has been the busiest year ever for the Airport with 53,000 movements. There are usually around 45,000. The fuel pumps are being replaced. There are two new privately owned aircraft housed at the airport of significant value each.

Upcoming events -

21 May Jaguar car event, expecting 200 to 300 cars.

19 June Project Propeller. This will be the last one of its kind.

2-5 June Brian is exploring what they can do for the Jubilee.

Airport Development - No update as such but there is an outstanding report required by the planners which relates to roads. Cllr. Mrs Wilson attended a confidential meeting which requires MCR to make a decision. For obvious reasons no further information could be given.

1958. **Correspondence**

SSC Open space scheme – A discussion took place it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting – two sites were suggested, the old playground and Halfpenny Green.

Locality forum 10/2/22 – virtual meeting – The clerk asked if anyone was able to attend as she had prior commitments and the Chairman was on annual leave. Cllr. Mrs Stanton will try to attend.

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 14/1/22,
2/12/21
South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 246-10, 247-11, 248-12, 248-
13, 250-14, 251-15
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin –
25/11/21, 2/12/21, 9/12/21, 16/12/21, 23/12/21, 30/12/21, 10/1/22, 17/1/22
Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways data 24/11/21, 11/12/21,
30/12/21, 10/1/22
SCC and Veolia Environmental grant
Staffordshire Commissioner – 17/12/21 – Your feedback helped shape our new
police and fire plans
Locality forum feedback 25/11/21
SSC Localities and newsletter
Happy New year from Staffordshire libraries & newsletter
SSC Register to vote campaign
Covid testing update
Staffordshire library update for February 2022
Staffordshire libraries news and update
Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Covid data – 11/12/21, 17/12/21, 22/11/21,
3/1/22, 8/1/22, 14/1/22,
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Online home safety
workshop 16/2/22
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – False activation of
smoke alarms
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Adult safe & sound
6/12/21
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Winter safety 8/12/21
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Social isolation
10/12/21
SSC Street Scene 13/1/22
Staffordshire libraries update – December, January
Staffordshire libraries e-newsletter
SSC Covid 19 stakeholder update vaccination and testing

1959. AOB

There was no other business.

Date of the next meeting 16 February 2022

Meeting Closed