

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall

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

1960. **Apologies:**
There were no apologies for non-attendance.

1961. **Declarations of Interest:**
Cllrs. Mrs Jones, Snelson and Slater declared interests in 1963a.

1962. **Minutes:**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 19 January 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1963. **Matters arising:**

a. Affordable Housing

Lesley Birch (Housing Association) had contacted the Clerk, she has tried to contact the landowners, however, it hasn't been convenient when she's called. She was asked to call back on 16 February 2022.

Cllr. Slater confirmed he had spoken to Lesley earlier in the day. A copy of a drawing of the proposed development was circulated. The landowners still have concerns with respect to other Housing Association properties in the village, however, they will discuss this and the plans with Lesley. An offer for the purchase of the land is due imminently.

A brief discussion followed with respect to access, the position in the village and the proportion of social properties v joint ownership.

b. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Clerk has written to the occupant on Six Ashes Road.

The Clerk has written to the property owner on Brantley Lane and contacted the District Council due to the nature of the concerns.

c. SSC Open space scheme

The Chairman reminded the Councillors of the scheme and asked if there were any suggestions to consider. A number of ideas (e.g. a play area, allotments, seating area) were discussed, however, the only plausible land is at the end of Brantley Crescent. This land is owned by the Housing Association.

The Clerk was asked to make contact with Andrew Aston at South Staffordshire Council to confirm that they are able to work with third party land owners. Cllrs Snelson and Burton agreed carry out a site visit to consider the possibilities.

Some concerns as to the initial costs and costs of upkeep / maintenance were raised. Sponsorship or grant funding could be considered.

1964. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

No further assistance has been sought from Parishioners. It was agreed that with further restrictions being lifted in the coming weeks this long-standing agenda item could now be withdrawn.

1965. "Bobbington Jubilee Bash" - Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Cllr Snelson reported on the zoom meeting held after the last meeting and the organising committee formed as a result. He then gave a brief summary of activity to date, in summary:

- The committee consists of members from the Parish Council, Air Scouts, PTA, School, Village Hall and a couple of members of the public
- Entrance will be by ticket only, with tickets being sold in advance. Up to 400 tickets will be available (based on insurance)
- Budgets have been considered. The event needs to be accessible to all, therefore, it has been suggested £10 per adult, £5 per child
- The event will run from approx. 4pm – late
- A headline band has been booked, another main act is being considered. Young and upcoming talent are also welcome to play from 4pm.
- Initially, two grant applications will be made to help fund the main bands. Depending on the outcome, business sponsorship may also be considered
- The Airport has offered a hangar free of charge for the location of the event
- The Air Scouts are keen to be involved and have offered to run a BBQ
- The PTA of Corbett school are also keen to be involved and will run a sweet stall
- A parishioner will run a paid bar
- Whilst this is not a fundraising event, any profit / surplus funds will be split 50:50 between the Air Scouts and Corbett school
- The school are hosting a competition to design the tickets
- There were some uncertainties with respect to paying for expenses in advance and claiming these back, taking them from ticket sales. The Clerk was asked to speak to a locality enabler for advice / guidance.

1966. "Bobbington Bake off" - Tom Butler Cup

It was agreed that this should be open to all to enter. A combined flyer for the Bobbington Bash and bake off can be circulated to all houses in the Parish as well as promotion on social media / word of mouth. All entrants will be required to enter a "cake"

The Clerk will contact local eateries and ask if they can provide a "judge". It is anticipated that judging could take place on Friday 3rd June or Saturday 4th June subject to availability, with all entries being taken to the hangar for onward sale

1967. Highway Matters

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

The Clerk has updated Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways.

b. Tom Lane - visibility splays

The Clerk has contacted Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways.

1968. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that staff absence has hit Corbett very hard since their return in January, with attendance at 78%. This has meant a lot of cover from Mrs Crook and supply. Covid cases are down to zero across the school, which is great and trips etc are in full swing with Poppy and Daisy Class out at the Gurdwara yesterday. Key dates for Spring 2 are attached.

There have been lots of developments in the EYFS outdoor area, with screening and AstroTurf to enhance the outdoor facilities. The PTA have purchased lots of things for school including resources for Maths and Humanities.

PTA continue to raise money through events such as Movie Night and a parent disco which is coming up soon.

The school is looking for quotes for a new playground surface and outdoor equipment, so any recommendations would be gratefully received.

The school is also in the process of sorting out the drainage on the field, which has been an issue for some time.

New Chair of governors - Rachel English

New parent governor - David Hancox

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported the windows have been replaced.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that the after-school club will be resuming after half term. There are two baptisms planned and three weddings booked for this coming year.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been no activity since the last meeting, however, the camera van has been in attendance several times over recent months. Cllr. Burton had requested details of the statistics for these visits; on the first occasion there were 4 offences, 5 offences on the second occasion and 4 offences on the third occasion. The fastest speed reported was 43mph.

Locality Forum

Cllr. Snelson had kindly attended this meeting. He reported on a discussion that had taken place with respect to planting verges with wild flowers. A number of issues were raised and the majority were not in favour. The various parishes had also reported on the events being held to mark the Queen's jubilee.

Police Crime Report

Burglary –

Crab lane – 26/01 – Unknown offenders have entered a property and stolen firearms, beer from an out-house and meat from a freezer. Please see the below force statement for further details. Investigation ongoing:

“Police are appealing for information after various firearms were stolen during a burglary in Bobbington, yesterday (26 January). At 2:30am, officers were called to a residential property on Crab Lane, following reports of a burglary. At some point between 6pm (25 January) and 2.30pm yesterday, unknown offenders have gained entry into the property. Once inside, they have opened a firearms cabinet and taken a Winchester Rifle, two 12 bore shotguns, a .410 shotgun, a .22 air rifle and a Diana pellet gun. No ammunition was taken from the property. It is believed the offenders left the scene in an unknown vehicle. Anyone who has any information or relevant CCTV/dashcam footage of the area is asked to contact us on Facebook, Twitter, or call 101, quoting incident 361 of 26 January. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111”

ASB hotspots –

No repeat hotspots however we have been made aware of gatherings of persons and vehicles on WATERY LANE, BOBBINGTON. All local officers aware and will pay passing attention to the area. Any further issues to be reported via 101 / digital 101.

Suspicious incidents –

We have received reports of suspicious behaviour across the village and surrounding areas and have, and will continue to, assess every one. Some are innocent or misinterpreted incidents however some provide us with invaluable information. Thank you to the residents who take the time to contact us; it is much appreciated.

Proactive news –

Operation Cable targeting ASB hotspots and Operation Lightning targeting vehicle crime are up and running frequently, with officers utilising both marked and unmarked vehicles. Up-to-date information regarding these operations can be found on Twitter and Facebook. Neighbourhood teams conducted Operation Cable 14/01/2022 and 28/01/2022 visiting locations in Perton, Wombourne and Kinver – no issues reported. The next Operation Cable is due to take place on 25/02/2022. NPT shift 3 conducted Operation Lightning on 04/02/2022 – no issues to report.

Staffordshire Police are currently in the early stages of a working model restructure. This is set to see a number of response officers be based permanently in South Staffordshire on rotating shifts meaning better coverage for the local communities. We will update you when the transformation is due to go live over the coming months.

1969. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

1970. Finance:-

There were no finance matters to be discussed.

1971. Planning matters

a. Received:

- i. A consultation letter has been received today with respect to Brelades (see below). To permit this to be fully reviewed, the letter will be circulated to all for consideration and discussion via email.

PA 21/01250/FUL Brelades, Long Common, Claverley, Staffordshire WV5 7AX; The proposed development is to rebuild a severely damaged 2 storey dwelling in the same position, size, layout and visual appearance as the existing. The only remains of the existing building is the steel frame which has been declared beyond repair by the structural engineer.

b. Received and responded to:

- i. Application No: 21/00429/FUL Proposal: Proposed garage conversion for use as a separate dwelling. Location: Brelades, Long Common Claverley Staffordshire WV5 7AX - Objections with respect to greenbelt and the impact to the surrounding area, i.e. trees and wildlife.
- ii. 21/01353/VAR Proposal: Application Reference Number: 17/01140/FUL Date of Decision: 18/05/2018 Condition Number(s): 2 (Approved Plans): Proposed amendment to height of structure an increase in the building structure is required to accommodate the proposed internal activities and new drawings have been prepared which reflect the new arrangements. Location: Karter Farm New Road Swindon Staffordshire DY3 4PP - no objections in principal, request a condition be placed upon the approval to ensure it does not become a residential dwelling in future
- iii. 22/00033/COU Proposal: Change of use from restaurant to C3 residential including the erection of 2 storey side extension and removal of existing structures. Location: Six Ashes Tea Room Six Ashes Road Six Ashes Staffordshire WV15 6EN - No objections

c. Responded to: Nothing to report

d. Outcomes: Nothing to report

1972. Airfield matters

Nothing to report.

1973. Correspondence

Email received on behalf of residents in Bobbington, Leaton Lane and Church Lane and specifically Leaton Hall re Environmental destruction in Bobbington greenbelt. This email had been copied to the Parish Council and was specifically sent to the planning enforcement team at South Staffordshire Council, the Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Express & Star and Bridgnorth Journal.

It is understood that the land is privately owned and the majority of what has been cleared would be deemed self-set regrowth as the land was originally part of the chip factory. A lot of clearance work has taken place over the last couple of years as an attempt has been made to tidy up the area, however, it was noted that over a couple of weekends the adjacent area (which is understood to be owned by another party) has also been cleared. Given the planning enforcement team has already been made aware there is little the Parish Council can do.

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 28/1/22;
10/2/22

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 255-19, 252-16, 254-18, 253-17
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 24/11/21, 31/1/22, 7/2/22
Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways data 23/1/22, 25/1/22, 14/2/22
Queens jubilee celebrations email from Airport re using airfield
Staffordshire libraries news and update March 2022
Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Covid data – 16/1/22, 24/1/22, 31/1/22, 4/2/22
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – Deliberate fire setting 2/22
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue – Community Safety Flash – living alone campaign SSC Street Scene 7/2/22
SSC Locality forum – community events and celebrations 10/2/22
SSC Small grant for the Queens jubilee
Locality 5 breakout group session
Staff joint health and well being strategy 22-27
CSW – open meeting Chief Constable Chris Noble and Ben Adams 27/1/22
Queens Baton reay – Commonwealth games 2022
SSC EV charging points – requesting information re parish owned car parks

1974.AOB

Cllr Hadgett noted that the structure for the proposed café at Highgate Farm had been demolished, it is understood that there were structural deficiencies.

Date of the next meeting 16 March 2022

Meeting Closed