

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

**Present:** Councillor: M Snelson (Chairman)  
Councillors: S Hadgett, A Burton, Mrs J Stanton and Mrs I Rees  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
1 member of the public

**1975. Apologies:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Councillor Mrs. L Jones, Councillor M Slater and District and County Councillor: Mrs V Wilson

**1976. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. Snelson declared an interest in 1978a.

**1977. Minutes:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 16 February 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**1978. Matters arising:**

**a. Affordable Housing**

Lesley Birch (Housing Plus Group) has confirmed an offer has been made to the landowners. The offer letter requested a response by 18 March 2022.

A brief discussion followed with respect to the future, possible sites and the need for affordable housing. It was concluded that if the offer is not accepted the matter would be taken off the agenda.

**b. Unkempt properties/gardens**

No responses have been received from the letters sent to property owners / tenants.

A response has been received from South Staffordshire Council who will ask an officer to investigate.

**c. SSC Open space scheme**

Cllr Burton had carried out a site visit to consider what might be appropriate, however, he was struggling for ideas given the size and space.

It is also unclear whether a third party landowner would be open to such a scheme. A response from South Staffordshire Council is awaited before further consideration.

**d. Environmental destruction in Bobbington**

It was noted that all work on the site appears to have stopped. There has been no update from South Staffordshire Council or other third parties.

**1979. "Bobbington Jubilee Bash" - Platinum Jubilee celebrations**

Cllr Snelson reported that he had conducted a site visit. Confirmation of availability / usage is still awaited from MCR. Details of insurance may be needed

for this. The Clerk was asked to speak to Zurich again, the Airport Manager is keen for them to understand that the event is "airside".

The site needs to be cleared by early the following morning. It is anticipated that much of the clearing up can be ongoing leaving minimal amounts for the end of the night / following morning.

Two grant applications have been submitted. The Community Foundation have requested further information, but no decisions have been made to date. Sponsorship is being considered in case these applications are not successful, this will help to ensure the ticket prices can remain low and accessible to all.

The competition to design the tickets has concluded, with Harriet Wooldridge winning first prize. It has been agreed that the runners up designs will feature on the reverse of the tickets.

There has been a good response to the call for young talent to play during the afternoon / early evening.

The committee will be meeting again next week

#### 1980. **"Bobbington Bake off" - Tom Butler Cup**

The Clerk agreed to progress this for the next meeting. It was agreed details could be placed on the back of the Bobbington Bash flyer to spread the word.

#### 1981. **Highway Matters**

##### a. **Flooding - Six Ashes Road**

Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways responded to state there are no outstanding tasks for this road. Therefore, she will raise an enquiry so that the Reactive Inspector can attend site and raise any necessary works if there is a leak along this section.

This response was met with frustration given this has been an ongoing problem for a number of years. Although the gully cleansing did help matters, the issues are by no means resolved. The Clerk was asked to contact Staffordshire Highways and request copies of the job reports for the period when the traffic lights were in situ and the gullies cleansed.

##### b. **Tom Lane - visibility splays**

Diane Firkins at Staffordshire Highways responded to note that some clearing work had been carried out here just over a year ago, however, there are no outstanding tasks or enquiries regarding this. It will need to be reported via the SCC website. A Highway Inspector can then attend site and raise any necessary work and categorise it in accordance with the safety risk. The Clerk agreed to report it as requested.

A discussion took place in which Councillors recalled work being undertaken with respect to the flooding issues at this site, but not with respect to clearing overgrown visibility splays.

**c. Pot Holes - A449 Springhill Island to Wombourne Island**

The Clerk had received an email from Lower Penn Parish Council asking if we are familiar with the above road and its current condition and if so, would the Parish Council be happy to be included in a letter to Staffordshire Highways? Cllr. Mrs Rees confirmed that the road was in a very poor condition, others also confirmed this. It was agreed that we could provide our support to the letter.

**1982. Reports from Committee Representatives****Partner Discussion Forum - Your Community Safety Forum - Locality 5**

Cllr Hadgett had attended this virtual forum where crime issues for each parish were discussed.

A representative from Smart Water was present. This is a forensic liquid that assigns your valuables with their own unique forensic code, allowing them to be traced back to you. Kits are £10 each, however, there is currently a scheme where the Council can match fund the household, so they each pay £5. 70% of residents need to sign up to make the project worthwhile.

There is a residents' forum at the end of April, Cllr. Hadgett will attend and report back.

**Corbett School**

Cllr Burton reported that a pupil had come first in the Cross Country and will now represent the school in the final. The first whole school assembly has been held, there are no longer any bubbles and staff attendance is back up to 100%.

**Village Hall**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing to report.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that Revd. Paul Brown, Team Rector for 24 years of the Smestow Vale group of churches, including Holy Cross, will be retiring at Easter.

The P.C.C. wish to thank Cllr. Snelson for his help in taking down the pear tree in the car park.

Cllr. Snelson reported that the memorial plaque from the tree has been removed for safekeeping. It was suggested that a new tree could be planted as part of the jubilee celebrations (The Queen's Green Canopy) and the bench reinstated. The Clerk was asked to contact the PCC to gain their thoughts.

**Community Speed Watch ("CSW")**

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been no activity since the last meeting, however, plans were in place to recommence this week.

**Police Crime Report****Theft –**

- *Wolverhampton Airport - We have had 3 reports of entry being gained to the airport grounds in the early hours by forcing the gates open. On one occasion the wheels*

*were removed off a Transit van. CCTV footage shows males in balaclava's but nothing to identify them.*

*Other Notable Incidents –*

- *RTC - A458 B'NORTH ROAD / SIX ASHES ROAD – On Saturday 12/03/2022, there was, most regrettably, a fatal Road Traffic Collision at the above location. A motorcycle travelling from the direction of Bridgnorth collided with a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction, entering Six Ashes Road. Despite the best efforts of all officers and ambulance staff on scene, a young man from the Rowley Regis area sadly lost his life. The family are being supported by specialist officers.*

*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. The next Operation Cable is due to take place on 25/03/2022.*

**1983. Public Question Time**

The member of the public raised concerns with respect to the trees along the brook between Glebelands and the end of the gardens on Brantley Lane. A number of trees are leaning into the brook. High winds could result in them coming down into the adjacent gardens. There is another tree which leans the other way and could damage properties in Glebelands.

It was agreed that ownership of this land was uncertain. Whilst it is understood ownership should have transferred upon completion of the Glebelands development this does not appear to have happened as the developer was insolvent.

It is unclear who is responsible for these trees. It was agreed the Parish Council would look into ownership of the land and, therefore, responsibility for the trees. The property owner would obtain some quotes for making the trees safe and speak to neighbours, who may be willing share the costs. It was noted that the Parish Council cannot assist with the cost of completing the work.

A further question was asked with respect to the metal post erected on the pavement between Brantley Lane and Glebelands. No sign has been placed on the pole in the last couple of years. The councillors were asked if they knew what had happened and if the pole will be used. A discussion concluded that the pole was in situ for the SID (speed indicator device) that was to be rotated between parishes in the locality, the Clerk agreed to make some enquiries and establish the current position.

**1984. Finance:-**

**a. Annual donations:****i. Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton reported that there will not be a High Fives tournament this year, although the football tournament will take place. It was agreed to adjourn this to the next meeting. Cllr. Burton will speak to Mrs Crook with respect to the annual donation.

**ii. Halfpenny Green Air Scouts**

It was agreed to adjourn this to the next meeting and obtain relevant information from the Air Scouts with respect to the number of members etc.

**b. Cheques:**

The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Hadgett and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanton.

i. SPCA Annual renewal	£147.46
ii. Clerk	£359.30
iii. HMRC	£ 89.20

**1985. Planning matters****a. Received:**

**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 – These plans had been circulated by email due to the closing date for comments, however, only one Councillor had commented, therefore, further discussion was required. It was concluded that there were no objections in principle, because it is a rebuild of the burnt out building. However, there is an error on the document, Phase I Desk Study and Site Investigation Report, it states that at the time of the Report, November 2021, there was no known other Planning Applications. This is incorrect, because there is the outstanding Planning Application 21/00429/FUL for the garage conversion. There was also a Planning Application 20/00964/COU for the domestic annexe to be converted to a separate building. All of these should be reviewed together, as they all impact the site.

The application form indicates permission is being sought for external lighting (LED's) around the perimeter of the development. We have complained about the bright light source on many occasions to enforcement, so we should object to having this obtrusive light source being replicated on the new house.

*Post meeting update: This response could not be submitted as the consultation period had concluded.*

**b. Responded to:** Nothing to report

**c. Outcomes:** Nothing to report

**1986. Airfield matters**

Nothing to report.

**1987. Correspondence**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 24/2/22, 15/3/22

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 256-20, 257-21, 258-22, 259-23

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 21/2/22, 28/2/22, 7/3/22, 14/3/22

Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways data 23/2/22, 1/3/22

Staffordshire libraries news and update March 2022, April 2022

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Covid data – 14/2/22

SSC Virtual Locality forum 7 April 2022

Parish online survey

SCC Start of New Years Honours 2023

SCC Climate prize

SCC Energy Intervention factsheet

SCC Road closure – Enville Road, Kinver 24/2/22 – 2/3/22

Richard Painter – Transport to Kinver High school

SCC Holiday activities and food programme

SSC Correspondence from the leader of SSC

Correspondence from the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson

SCC – Correspondence from the Secretary of State for levelling up housing and communities

NALC Briefing – Ukraine

SSC Perton Library science fair 19/3/22

#### 1988. AOB

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reminded the meeting of the Boundary Commission for England's consultation on boundary changes in South Staffordshire; the consultation closes on the 4 April 2022. A discussion took place as to the purpose of the changes and the effect it would have on Bobbington. It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs Stanton would draft and circulate a response for further discussion.

Cllr. Hadgett noted that a number of stiles were in poor condition or blocked by trees / overgrown. He agreed to look into this and make reports to the County Council where needed.

**Date of the next meeting** 20 April 2022

Meeting Closed