

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall

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

2023. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by District and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson

2024. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

2025. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 20 April 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

2026. Matters arising:

a. Unkempt properties/gardens

Cllr. Mrs Wilson had spoken to Housing Plus with respect to the possibility of a volunteer group assisting the occupants of the Six Ashes Road properties with their front gardens. Permission is not needed from Homes Plus, however, we should get their customers' permission and possibly undertake a simple risk assessment.

Cllr. Burton confirmed that he has spoken to the first property and they are happy to accept help. We have not been able to contact the second, however, it was hoped we may be able to offer help on the day.

The Clerk had advertised for volunteers on Facebook and will set up a WhatsApp group. Cllr. Burton agreed to look into a news / events page for the website.

A discussion followed to determine the activities to be competed, date and time. The first outing will be Thursday 2 June at 10:30am. The Chairman asked for a volunteer to look at the risk assessment.

With respect to Brantley Lane and Brantley Crescent, a representative from South Staffordshire District Council ("SSDC") visited both properties in April and has requested land registry searches. Whilst the Brantley Lane property is overgrown there was no sign of anything that would necessarily attract or harbour vermin. Strong evidence of vermin would be needed to justify an environmental health intervention.

The Brantley Crescent property is more of a challenge. SSDC propose to write to the owner/occupier and ask to meet them at the property if possible.

It was agreed nothing further could be done, however, if the volunteer group was successful, we could offer help in the future. Cllr. Snelson will try to seek permission from the owners / occupiers.

b. Replacement tree in church grounds

The Clerk had contacted the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") who stated that the bench is rotten. They have delayed the planting of the tree, due to it being the wrong time of year to plant new trees. The Clerk had looked into replacement styles and funding, however, needed further clarification as to the Councillors wishes.

A discussion followed. It was concluded that the main objective was to ensure the memorial plaque for Mrs D Kellett was in use. It was suggested that a bench could be made once the tree had been planted. The volunteer group could potentially help with this. It was agreed to adjourn this matter until 2023.

c. SID poles

Maggie Quinn at SSDC had confirmed the SIDs are going to be deployed, the management of them is being discussed by SSDC.

d. Stiles – Public Rights of Way

A stile kit has been delivered to Cllr. Slater for the stile previously discussed with the County Council ("SCC"). He confirmed this has now been erected. However, the direction signs were brittle so new ones are needed. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

Cllr. Burton has spoken to the landowner of the other area of concern. She was happy for the broken stiles to be removed, therefore, this has now been done.

All broken stiles have been reported via the website. Given the success with the above stile, the Clerk was asked to request stile kits for all those requiring replacement in the parish. Cllrs Slater, Snelson and the Friends of Bobbington group could then position them.

Cllr. Hadgett raised the footpath in between the Red Lion and the bungalows. He drew attention to the footpath charter. It was agreed this may be an activity for the Friends of Bobbington group in due course.

e. Brian Edwards MBE South Staffordshire Awards 2022

The Clerk asked for suggestions with respect to information to be included in the submissions to be made. A long discussion followed. As a result, it was agreed to change the 2022 nominee with the original nominee being put forward next year.

f. Smartwater

Further information had been provided on this scheme. A meeting had been held locally, however, no one was available to attend. Cllr Hadgett agreed to contact Cllr. Mrs Wilson for an update.

2027. Churchyard

Mrs Humphries, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") has circulated the Clerk's email to the PCC – a meeting date is awaited.

2028. "Bobbington Jubilee Bash" - Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Cllr Snelson reported that the first 500 tickets have been sold, an additional 30 tickets for entry after 8pm have also sold. 70 after 8pm tickets are still available.

Everything is now organised. A discussion followed wherein further details were discussed. Sponsorship has gone well; it's lessened the risk factors and made it easier to pre-book things.

The committee and volunteers will have access to the site from approx. 4pm on Friday 3 June 2022 – additional help will be needed on this day and Saturday morning.

2029. **“Bobbington Bake off” - Tom Butler Cup**

The Clerk had updated the poster following the last meeting, however, the date and timings needed to be agreed. After discussion it was agreed the event will be open to entries from 11am on Saturday 4 June 2022 with judging to take place at 12 noon.

The Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Mrs Stanton will set the hall up from 10am. Teas, coffees and squash will be provided.

2030. **Highway Matters**

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

Notification of a road closure has been received for 1/7/2022 between 8am and 4pm for highway drainage works – it is assumed this is connected to the flooding issues as it concerns Six Ashes Road from the Bridgnorth Road to Church Lane and states “jetting of culvert under carriageway required”.

b. Tom Lane - visibility splays

Nothing further to report.

c. Local Road closures –

“Close the following lengths of that road and its entirety Morfe Hall Lane Enville, Morfe Lane Enville, Morfe House Lane Lutley, Gospel Ash Road Halfpenny Green, Birds Barn Lane Wolverley, Kingsford Lane Wolverley, Sheepwash Lane Kinver Edge for a period of no more than 5 days from 0800hrs on 16th May 2022 AND 16:00hrs on 20th May 2022”

Provisional road closure – Tuck Hill, Six Ashes approx. 50m eastwards down Six Ashes road – Openreach works to provide safe working zone for overhead cabling 26-27/7/22

2031. **Reports from Committee Representatives**

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that the school had received 22 applications for places in reception, so all 14 places are full. To celebrate the jubilee the children will partake in a picnic and play old fashioned games. The PCSOs have been into school today to talk about road safety. Parents have been reminded not to park on the zig zags outside school, there have also been some issues with parking in disabled bays.

Unfortunately, the Governors/Trustees have been unsuccessful to date in their search for a new Headteacher, however, they are hopeful a replacement can be found for

September. An advert is to be placed for a teacher to cover Mrs Langford's maternity cover.

All SATS exams have been completed. Two year 5 students have recently completed in the cross-country final. Several further sports fixtures are planned before the end of the school year. A Summer school is planned for August.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing further to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries had informed the Clerk that originally the plan was to plant the Jubilee tree over the Jubilee weekend with a prayer to Her Majesty the Queen and to drink a toast. However, they have received advice that the time to plant trees is between November and March, so the PCC are looking for a new date.

Church services – The pattern of services has changed and a service will be held at Holy Cross on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Swindon will hold a service on the first and third Sundays. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month a service will be held at one of the churches in the Team ministry, which sometimes would be at Bobbington.

Vandalism – Since the last meeting there have been further instances of vandalism. These have now been reported to the PCSOs. The PCC hope this situation will be resolved so that the church can be left open again. The Councillors discussed recent events and agreed that CCTV may be helpful, however, data protection laws and permission to mount the camera in church may be complicated. It was agreed to make the suggestion to the PCC. The Clerk was asked to approach SPCA for advice with respect to CCTV.

Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)

Cllr. Burton reported that the Deputy Police Commissioner had visited Bobbington, Swindon and Wombourne to assist with a CSW session. Only twenty-one cars passed through Bobbington with one speeding. She confirmed that the police will have a greater presence at these sessions in the future.

Police Crime Report

Main headlines since the last meeting:

Vehicle Crime –

- Six Ashes Road – 03/05 – Between 1800hrs 02/05 and 0545hrs 03/05, unknown offenders have cut the padlock from the gate to a yard and stolen a Mitsubishi L200 from the location. No CCTV and no witnesses.
- Six Ashes Road – 15/05 – At approx. 1800hrs 15/05, unknown offenders have stolen a Range Rover Sport SVR from the car park of a public house. *Investigation ongoing.*

Criminal Damage –

- Six Ashes Road – 02/05 – Overnight, damage has been caused to plant pot at location. Evidence of persons urinating in porch of Church. It is also stated that

there have been previous similar problems around the Easter holidays. Local officers are aware to pay attention to the location of an afternoon / evening.

ASB hotspots –

- **No repeat hotspots**
 - 0 x ASB reported this month.

2032. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

2033. Finance:-

a. Insurance

Despite taking out separate events insurance for the Jubilee Bash, our current insurance policy and new insurance policy favoured at the last meeting are based on statements of fact that we do not have certain types of events. Therefore, it is a quirk of this type of package insurance that the insured's activities have to comply with the statements of fact in order for the policy to apply, therefore, holding the Jubilee event would still contradict the policy. Zurich understand that that what we are asking them to insure has not changed, and therefore they have quoted for a bespoke policy and retained the previous premium. It was agreed there was little choice, the cover appears to be in line with the current policy, although slightly less than the policy favoured at the last meeting. It was agreed to adopt the bespoke policy.

b. Clerk's annual salary review

The Chairman explained that she had reviewed the SLCC and NALC information, however, given a pay scale has not been previously agreed it is difficult to determine the correct level. The pay scales are based on SCPs (Spinal column point) the Clerk has found and completed an evaluation sheet which suggest SCP16/LC1, however, as time is not strictly recorded it's difficult to apply the scale. The Clerk has agreed to record her time for the next 6 months to ensure the pay is appropriate. Historically the increase has been based on CPI.

The Chairman had sent an email to all Councillors and asked them to consider the information available prior to this meeting. Cllr. Burton proposed an increase to the annual salary by 9% based on current CPI, this was seconded by Cllr. Hadgett.

c. Certificate of Exemption

The criteria was reviewed and agreed, as such, the certificate of exemption was signed, ready for submission.

d. Governance statement annual return 31 March 2022

It was agreed that this statement would be signed at this meeting and reviewed by the Chairman and Clerk once the internal audit has been completed, as such the statement was reviewed and completed.

e. Accounting Statements 2021/22

The Clerk provided copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. No questions were raised. It was proposed and seconded, that they be taken as read, this was agreed by all present. The Chairman and Clerk signed the annual return.

f. Review of Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment

It was agreed to adjourn this review to the next meeting.

g. Cheques

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

i.	Zurich	Annual insurance	£257.60
ii.	CPRE	Annual membership	£36.00

2034. Planning matters

There were no planning matters to discuss.

2035. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that there had been a meeting of the Consultative Committee on 4 May 2022. The Airport Manager, Brian Rawlings had stated the airport was doing well. All hangars are full. The damaged runway has been repaired as materials and manpower were gifted to the airport by a pilot, this will allow the traffic to spread over two runways. There were four complaints in the last quarter, one of which was offensive resulting in Brian and Sir Gavin Williamson MP meeting with the complainant.

Brian has been asked to assist with a review of the business case alongside outside consultants.

Upcoming events:

- 21 May 2022 – Vintage Jaguar event;
- 4 June 2022 – Bobbington Jubilee Bash;
- 19 June 2022 – Project propeller

The Clerk was in receipt of an email from Kerry McNaney, Receptionist / Administrative Support at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport seeking to confirm our representative on the Consultative Committee, the email also attached the terms of reference for the committee – this will be circulated to all.

2036. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 21/4/22, 5/5/22

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news 264-28, 265, 266, 267

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 25/4/22, 2/5/22, 9/5/22, 16/5/22

Notes from the Community Safety Forum 10/3/22

Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways bulletin 12/5/22

Staffordshire libraries e-newsletter April 2022

Staffordshire libraries news and update May 2022, June 2022

SSDC Andrew Aston – wood chip for allotments and other projects

SSDC Correspondence from the leader of SSC 3/5/22

SCC Foster care fortnight

SCC What's on in your local libraries in May and June 2022

The Community Foundation Spring 2022 update

Smartwater Village scheme

Chairman's Initials

Date:

SPCA Training bulletin May 2022
SSDC Commonwealth games 2022 cycling time trial event

2037. AOB

Cllr Hadgett had obtained a land registry search for the brook on Six Ashes Road, this confirms SSDC's comments that the land is unregistered.

The Clerk has been contacted by a parishioner who wished to express concerns over vehicles parking by the telephone exchange. It was noted that these concerns have already been logged with local Police.

Date of the next meeting 15 June 2022

Meeting Closed