

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall

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

2038. **Apologies:**
There were no apologies for non-attendance.

2039. **Declarations of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.

2040. **Minutes:**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 18 May 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

2041. **Matters arising:**

a. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Friends of Bobbington volunteer group have successfully cleared and tidied one of the gardens on Six Ashes Road. Cllr. Burton will offer to take his lawn mower over the grass whenever he cuts his own grass, to help prevent it from becoming overgrown again. Several days later, two gentlemen were observed to be tidying the next-door property's garden.

There are no further developments with respect to the property in Brantley Lane and the District Council.

b. Stiles – Public Rights of Way

The Clerk had emailed Staffordshire County Council ("SCC") to request further stile kits as requested. They had responded to state they were waiting to hear on stock levels from their Rights of Way Maintenance Manager, Steve Holford. They also suggested an introduction to Alistair Bentley their Volunteer Coordinator

Alistair has since contacted the Clerk via email to state that currently all of his time is taken up with existing groups and he is reluctant to take on any more groups with the fear of letting them down. However, given our group is already established and already works with local landowners it could be something he could squeeze in. He had enquired as to whether any assistance was needed with tools and materials. A discussion took place, it was suggested that approaches could be made to both Alistair and Staffordshire Highways for litter pickers, wheelbarrows, shovels and hi-vis equipment. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

c. Smartwater

Cllr Hadgett asked Cllr. Mrs Wilson for an update following the meeting recently held in Trysull. Unfortunately, no-one from Bobbington was able to attend. Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that the turnout had been poor and it was unlikely the scheme could be progressed in a cost-effective manner. She went on to explain that the

District Council were looking at a mechanism to encourage the scheme in some of the wards with the highest crime rates. If these wards didn't take up the offer there was a possibility that it could be moved to other wards. A further discussion took place, it was agreed that notices could be placed on the noticeboards / website / facebook to establish whether there was any interest from parishioners.

2042. **Churchyard**

Mrs Humphries, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council ("PCC"), has suggested we attend the next meeting of the PCC on 20th July. The Chairman proposed a sub-committee of herself, Cllr, Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Hadgett to meet with the PCC and discuss the matters of concern. The proposal was agreed by Cllr, Mrs Stanton and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rees. Unfortunately the Chairman is on annual leave in July and unable to attend, however, Cllrs. Mrs Stanton and Hadgett agreed to attend and commence discussions.

2043. **"Bobbington Jubilee Bash" - Platinum Jubilee celebrations – post event review**

It was agreed that this event went very well, was enjoyed by all and exceeded expectations. Many local businesses had sponsored and supported the event, whilst the Jubilee Bash Committee have passed on their thanks it was agreed that thanks should also be sent from the Parish Council.

The Chairman and Councillors wished to record their thanks and appreciation to Cllr Snelson for the sterling job he has done in organising the event.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman / Chair of the Jubilee Bash Committee and Clerk had met with the Treasurer of the Jubilee Bash Committee earlier in the evening to review the finances and potential distributions under section 137 – the Clerk will review this and make proposals prior to the next meeting.

2044. **"Bobbington Bake off" - Tom Butler Cup – post event review**

This event also went well and had a good turnout as far as previous events are concerned. The Clerk will record our thanks to Sir Gavin Williamson and the Red Lion for taking the time to help with the judging.

It was suggested that the next Tom Butler Cup competition could involve hand-crafted items.

2045. **Highway Matters**

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

The road closure and anticipated works are still to be carried out, however, it was noted that there has been no standing water on this road for several weeks. It was agreed to wait until the works are completed to reassess the position.

b. Tom Lane - visibility splays

Nothing further to report. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to chase this with County Council.

2046. **Friends of Bobbington**

A Whatsapp group has been set up. The first outing was successfully completed. Due to it being a bank holiday a lot of apologies were received, however, there was still a good turnout.

It was agreed to set a regular date and time. After discussion, the third Saturday of every month at 10:30am, outside the Red Lion was agreed.

A further discussion was held with respect to future projects, the following were suggested: completing the pavement work between the Red Lion and school, weeding the area around post box, gutter clearing in Church Lane, clearing the alleyway between the bungalows and Red Lion, litter pick.

2047. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that the Reception teacher is leaving at the end of term, she is moving to a job closer to home. The FMNs have been to PGL. If anyone is interested in coaching the football team please contact the office.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing further to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

Reverend Fisher had emailed the Clerk with respect to the 50th Anniversary of the tragic plane crash in which Prince William and his colleague Vyrell Mitchell died. This had a very big impact on our village when it made national news headlines in 1972. The PCC would like to mark it by holding a Memorial Service either at 10am during the Morning Service or at 5pm or 6pm to remember, pray and come together as a community. They would like to invite the Parish Council, Air Scouts, Airport staff and families of William and Vyrell. Reverend Fisher wanted to ask the Parish Council what time would be best? A discussion followed, it was agreed that the families would have further to travel and therefore should be approached first, especially as it is a bank holiday weekend. The Parish Council will do their best to attend either time.

Cllr. Snelson reported that discussions had been held with Reverend Fisher with respect to CCTV following the recent episodes of vandalism. Rev. Fisher was happy to support the proposal. It is understood permission would be needed from the diocese to install CCTV. A wildlife camera had also been suggested. The Red Lion are hosting a raffle to help raise funds. It was also suggested that some funds from the Bobbington Bash could be given under s137.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been no activity. They were trying to plan an outing during the next week.

Police Crime Report

Main headlines since the last meeting: Burglary

Wolverhampton Airport – Antique Centre – 05/06 – At 22:48hrs CCTV shows three males wearing masks and gloves have gained entry into the shop by smashing a window and have smashed glass to cabinets taking jewellery from within, due to wearing masks unable to make identification, no lines of enquiry.

2048. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

2049. Governance**a. Code of Conduct**

At South Staffordshire District council's recent Annual General Meeting, members had approved the adoption of a revised Code of Conduct. This had been circulated to all Councillors in anticipation of this meeting. It is of course a matter for each Parish Council to decide if they wish to adopt the same Code as the District Council. It was proposed by the Chairman that we should adopt the updated code, this was seconded by Cllrs Mrs Rees and Mrs Stanton and supported by all present.

b. Review of Standing orders

The Clerk proposed this be adjourned until September to give everyone time to review it properly.

c. Review of Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment - Propose to adjourn as still awaiting policy number etc from Zurich with respect to the new insurance policy**2050. Finance:-****a. Internal audit year ended 31 March 2022**

The internal audit has now been completed. The Clerk will collect the books and records and upload the certificate to the website as soon as possible.

b. Cheques

There were no cheques to be approved.

2051. Planning matters

There were no planning matters to discuss.

2052. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that the final wings and propellers event will be held on Saturday.

2053. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 19/5/22, 26/5/22

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up 268, 269, 270

SSDC – Chairman's civic Sunday

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 23/5/22, 6/6/22, 13/6/22

SPCA Safeguarding 20/6/22

SCC – bunting on street lights

Staffordshire County Council ("SCC") Highways bulletin June 2022

Staffordshire libraries What's going on in June in your libraries

Staffordshire libraries news and update July/August 2022

SSDC Locality forum 30/6/22

SSDC Business networking breakfast

SSDC Correspondence from the leader of SSC 7/6/22

SSDC – Waste & Recycling update 3/6/22, 6/6/22

Severn Trent Community Fund annual review

SPCA Training bulletin June 2022

Chairman's Initials IR

Date: 20/7/22

2054. **AOB**

There was no other business to be discussed.

Date of the next meeting 20 July 2022

Meeting Closed