

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall

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

2070. Queen Elizabeth II

At the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was observed in memory of HM The Queen.

It was agreed that we were all deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was one of Britain's greatest monarchs, not solely because of the achievements and length of her remarkable reign but also her utter dedication to duty and responsibility.

The events of September have given us time to reflect and we are now all the more thankful that we were able to give everyone the opportunity to join in the Jubilee celebrations and create lasting memories in June this year.

2071. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Councillor Mrs. L Jones.

2072. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. M Slater declared an interest in 2081 ai.

2073. Minutes:

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

2074. Matters arising:

a. Unkempt properties/gardens

Alison Simmons, Public Health Officer at South Staffordshire Council, had visited two properties where there are ongoing issues. She reported as follows:

Property one: There was long grass in the front garden but the driveway had been mowed. There was no obvious evidence of vermin and the situation wasn't serious from the front; I could not access the rear garden. The neighbour said there are a couple of sheds in the rear garden where they think rats might be living. I wrote an advisory letter to the owner of the property requesting him to address the problem. Thereafter, I received no further complaints, so closed the case.

Property two: Despite being seriously overgrown there is no evidence of pests and no statutory nuisance being caused to the neighbours, so we have no remit to act on those counts.

It was agreed that all available options available had been explored, nothing further could be achieved at this stage and, therefore, it was reluctantly agreed to remove unkempt properties / gardens from the agenda

b. Stiles – Public Rights of Way

Alastair Bentley, Staffordshire County Council's rights of way volunteer co-ordinator has agreed to attend the October meeting of the Parish Council to discuss how we move forward and work together in the future.

Cllrs Snelson and Slater agreed to take delivery of any tools equipment that were needed / available. Further discussions will be held next month.

c. Smartwater

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that there had been little interest in the scheme, as such, the District Council are now trying to work with local businesses.

PCSO Phillip Millichap agreed to find out if the Police could help / promote the scheme.

2075. Churchyard

Cllr. Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Hadgett have not heard anything further from the PCC. The Clerk agreed to contact the Secretary to determine whether any further discussions have been held.

2076. Highway Matters

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

The road closure was not connected to the flooding issues. It was agreed that there is not currently any running or bubbling water, however, there have been no real instances of heavy rainfall. It was agreed that Councillors will monitor the position with the changes in weather.

The Chairman raised concerns with another stretch of flooding along Six Ashes Road. He explained that he and various other people have reported the drains outside the school. Various different responses have been received; none offer a solution. Parishioners have dug out the area to try and improve the situation however, the pipework is blocked. Diane Firkins (Staffordshire Highways) has been contacted but stated there is no jetter currently available. Something needs to be done as when the road floods, it floods the school cellar which is the location of the boiler.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated there may be funding available for this type of work, especially if there is damage to a property. She will make some enquiries. To assist she requested reference numbers for the problems reported.

b. Tom Lane - visibility splays

No work has been completed in this area.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that Sir Gavin Williamson had contacted her following receipt of a letter from a Parishioner who was dissatisfied with the response she had received from the Parish and District Council. The Parishioners specific concerns were not clear. During the conversation with the Chairman of the Parish

Council the grass verges around Halfpenny Green were referred to, however, when speaking to Cllr. Mrs Wilson the visibility white railings were discussed. A discussion followed. Cllr. Mrs Wilson said the issues were complicated as responsibility for different areas lies with different authorities and it isn't always clear which council covers what.

c. Upcoming Road closures

The length of Gospel Ash Road in Bobbington, from its junction with Manor Lane for a distance of approximately 427 meters in a south easterly direction; the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to 14th November 2022. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 16th November 2022.

2077. Friends of Bobbington

Further to the last meeting, the Clerk had emailed all Councillors for suggestions with respect to storage locations for the equipment to be provided. No responses were received, however, at the meeting the Chairman agreed he should be able to store equipment. Both the Chairman and Cllr. Slater agreed that deliveries could be made to their premises.

The group had met in September and tackled the gutter and weedy drain at the end of Church Lane.

2078. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that a new Headteacher started in September, Mr Pardoe. He is currently being supported by a school improvement advisor who is working in the background, to ensure compliance with policies, procedures and other paperwork. It is not known how long this advisor will be at the school.

There are currently 96 students at the school, which is slightly below capacity as several students left last year for a number of different reasons.

The children have recently taken part in cross country and a harvest festival. Sports coaching after school is continuing and there is also now a choir, singing practice and music lessons courtesy of Mrs Hewitt. A nativity and carol service will be held before Christmas

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries the PCC Secretary had provided the Clerk with the following update.

The Parish Council kindly asked, some weeks ago, for the PCC's preference for the replacement bench to accompany the tree which it is planned to plant later in the autumn; it was discussed and a free-standing oak bench was favoured, anchored to the ground.

October 9th, Harvest Festival, 10 a.m. - a family friendly service, all welcome.
November 13th, Remembrance Day service at 10.45 a.m.

There have been no further episodes of vandalism at church.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been one session of speed watch since the last Parish Council Meeting. 2 out of 38 vehicles were found to be speeding, with a top speed of 37mph.

CSW are organising a speeding campaign in October. Cllr. Burton has emailed all volunteers with the aim of arranging one / two sessions, it is hoped the Police will attend a session.

Police Crime Report

Burglary –

- **Wolverhampton Airport - 22/07 & 28/08** – At approx. 2240hrs, offenders have gained access to a business premises on site and stolen jewellery. CCTV obtained however unable to ID offender. Forensic team attended to conduct enquiries.
- **Wolverhampton Airport – 24/09** – At approximately 13:00-15:00hrs entry has been gained to the Airfield by using an angle grinder to remove the padlock off the crash barrier gate, a Beige Range Rover has been captured on cctv taking a trailer from a business within the grounds. Enquiries are ongoing.

PCSO Millichap stated that the Airport Management were looking to improve security on the site.

ASB hotspots

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

PCSO Millichap said he was aware of issues at the Churchyard and would encourage all to report instances as they occur. To assist with crime prevention real time reporting is needed.

Community Safety Forum

Cllr. Mrs Stanton agreed to attend the meeting on 18 October 2022.

2079. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

2080. Finance:-

- a. Annual donations – Holy Cross Church re churchyard upkeep (2021 £1,000)
No information had been received from the treasurer; however, it is assumed that there's been no significant change in the costs. As such, Cllr Burton proposed a donation of £1,000, this was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Stanton.
Cllr. Mrs Wilson sought clarification as to the purpose of the funding as some local Council's have ceased to provide such funding. The Clerk stated that her understanding was that although there was no specific power, funding could be given under s137 providing it was to the benefit of all within the Parish,

however, she agreed to make further enquiries before the cheque was presented to the PCC.

b. Cheques

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

i.	Clerk	Salary & Expenses	£1,082.80
ii.	HMRC	Paye	£227.00
iii.	Holy Cross Church	Churchyard upkeep	£1,000.00

2081. Planning matters

a. Received

- i. 22/00090/AGRRES Change of use - agriculture to dwellinghouse for farm worker, Alder Farm, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, Staffordshire DY7 5BX – Cllr. Slater left the room whilst this application was discussed.

Those present discussed the application, there were no objections in principle, however, it was agreed that an agricultural tie should be requested to ensure the property remained for agricultural workers.

Cllr. Slater re-joined the meeting.

- ii. 22/00841/OTHERS The change of use of office building falling within Class E (Formerly B1(a)) to use as two dwellings within Class C3 (dwellinghouse) Office Building East of Lutley Lane Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5DE – The application was discussed. It was agreed it was unclear as to whether it was agricultural worker or market housing. Whilst there were no particular objections, it was agreed that an agricultural tie would be preferable.

b. Responded to:

- i. 22/00671/FUL – Land adjacent to Meadow View, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, DY7 5DT Conversion of existing oak framed leisure building into single detached dwelling along with the demolition of existing glass houses to allow for proposed garage block as a trade-off – objections logged

c. Outcomes:

Nothing to report

2082. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees hadn't attended the meeting, however, it was reported that independent consultants had been engaged by South Staffordshire Council to review the business case. The Airport owners have requested a meeting with the consultants and Council.

The runway repair will be completed in November 2022.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that a number of trucks will be stored at the airfield for 12 months under an agreement reached with the management. Storage fees are being paid.

2083. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 21/7/22, 19/8/22

VAST funding opportunities for SOT and Staffordshire 28/7/22

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up – 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin – 25/7/22, 1/8/22, 8/8/22, 15/8/22, 22/8/22, 5/9/22, 12/9/22, 19/9/22, 26/9/22

SSDC Streetscene update issue 16 Aug 2022; issue 17 Sept 2022

Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways bulletin 7/2022

Staffordshire libraries What's going on in your libraries South Staffordshire area this Autumn

Staffordshire libraries News & events Autumn

SCC Staffordshire Libraries – libraries and cost of living rises

20's plenty for Staffordshire

CPRE 250,000 tonnes of veg a year lost to development

SCC Highways – Road closure Six Ashes Road, 30/8/22 – 2/9/22

Report to Crow Panel 5/8/2022 LN650G 553 application

Staffordshire libraries Discover your library in August; September

SSDC Correspondence from the leader of SSC – August 2022

SSDC Community safety newsletter

Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service – outdoor safety 26/7/22

Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service – Community Safety Flash: Advice to carers

SSDC Review magazine Sept 2022

SSDC Queen Elizabeth II State funeral and bank holiday

SSDC Sign for books of condolence for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Community Foundation – funding available to rural communities across Staffordshire 26/7/22

SSDC Save the date – Parish Summit 20/10/22 9:30am – 2pm

VAST Volunteer fayre 15/9/22

2084. AOB

Concerns were raised about the brook between Glebelands and Brantley Lane. The fence over the brook is still in-situ and may again cause an obstruction during the winter months. Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to speak to the flood risk team in Stafford. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries at the Environment Agency.

Date of the next meeting 19 October 2022

Meeting Closed