

**Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillor: Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)  
Councillors: A Burton, Mrs J Stanton and M Slater  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
Alastair Bentley - Staffordshire County Council Rights of way, volunteer  
Outreach

**2085. Apologies:**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Councillors M Snelson, Mrs I Rees, S Hadgett and District and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson

**2086. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr. Slater declared an interest in 2095b & c.

**2087. Minutes:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 28 September 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

**2088. Matters arising:**

**a. Stiles – Public Rights of Way (ROW)**

Alastair introduced himself and gave a little background to his role. Due to reductions in funding and a significant increase in the number jobs to be completed, there is a need to rely on volunteer groups. We discussed the type of work groups can help with and resources / support that is needed.

Following discussion Alastair agreed to:

- look into how many ROW jobs are reported on their system for Bobbington
- check if there are any tools available
- drop some stock including way markers to Cllr. Slater.

**2089. Churchyard**

The Clerk had contacted the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council who confirmed that there hasn't been a meeting since July. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2022.

**2090. Highway Matters**

**a. Flooding –**

**i. Corbett School, Six Ashes Road**

There was no update with respect to this issue. The Clerk agreed to contact Cllr. Mrs. Wilson.

**ii. The brook adjacent to the Glebelands, Six Ashes Road**

Cllr. Mrs Wilson had informed the Clerk that a letter was sent to the homeowner encouraging them to remove the fence. The only other recourse would be legal action, however, given the flooding has been monitored and there have been no further issues to date, this may not be a viable option.

The Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency for advice as requested, their response is awaited.

**b. Tom Lane - visibility splays**

The Clerk reported that it has been agreed that she will carry out a site visit with Diane Firkins (Staffordshire Highways) and Cllr. Mrs Wilson as there appears to be confusion as to the areas of concern.

The Clerk asked if anyone had any old photos of Tom Lane which may help explain how it looked. It was agreed that any activity could be recorded on Parish Online for future reference.

**2091. Friends of Bobbington**

There haven't been any outings since the last meeting. The next planned activity is 19 November 2022, the Clerk agreed to add details to the Whatsapp group.

**2092. Reports from Committee Representatives****Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton reported as follows:

- There are currently 91 pupils at the school;
- The Harvest festival generated donations that went to Black Country food bank;
- The Worship Council went to St James' Church to give the school greater exposure;
- After half term the nativity production preparations will start with a vengeance KS1 will do a nativity, whilst KS2 will do a concert of sorts with acting;
- The young voices choir are working towards a concert in February at the NEC;
- Mr Mantle will oversee sports coaches and PE;
- Year 6's have been looking at secondary schools and where they are going next September;
- There is a spooky disco on Thursday evening.

**Village Hall**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that there will be an increase in the hourly hire rates from £15 to £20 to help with increasing overhead costs.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Mrs Humphries the PCC Secretary had informed the Clerk that the Remembrance Day service will be held on Sunday 13 November 2022 at 10.50 a.m. There is nothing further to report.

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

Cllr. Burton reported that there has been no activity since the last meeting.

**Police Crime Report**Vehicle Crime

- *Six Ashes Road* – 03/10 – Between 09:30 – 18:00hrs entry was gained to a Ford Ranger securely parked on Pub car park having an amount of cash taken from within, no cctv, no lines of enquiry.

Burglary of Businesses

- *Halfpenny Green Golf Club* – 04/10 – At approximately 00:00hrs 4 unknown offenders have accessed the site on foot wearing dark clothing and balaclavas cutting a wire to the alarm in the machinery room and to an automatic light sensor outside, nothing taken, no lines of enquiry as not able to identify the offenders.

Burglary

- *Six Ashes Road* – At approximately 20:45hrs unknown offenders have approached a secure property which was unoccupied due to the homeowners being on holiday. Offenders have approached the rear of the property via an insecure wooden side gate and using a breeze block have thrown it through double glazed upvc French door leading into the kitchen, offenders have entered the property and carried out an untidy search throughout, their presence has activated the house alarm alerting a neighbour who disturbed them, they left in grey/silver hatchback.

ASB hotspots

- No repeat hotspots

**Community Safety Forum**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had tried to log into the meeting on 18 October 2022, however, her attempts were unsuccessful.

**2093. Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

**2094. Finance:-****a. Annual donations**

As requested at the last meeting the Clerk had carried out some research into donations to churches. This information was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting for review. A discussion followed. It was noted that there is no clear, definitive and unambiguous legal position regarding the powers of Parish Councils to fund 'Church Maintenance' activities (rather there are a number of differing views, but not an unambiguous legal judgement). Given the significant amenity, beneficial ownership and value to the Parish of these activities, a continuation of historic practice could be acceptable until such point a clear and definitive legal determination is made.

It was agreed that the upkeep of the Churchyard is in the interests of all parishioners given the Church is in the centre of the village. It helps to attract weddings and visitors which help local businesses. It was agreed that details of the costs incurred were important to continuing discussions, a copy of the accounts would also be beneficial. The Clerk also agreed to look into correspondence from local parishes a number of years ago. A further review will be undertaken at the next meeting, until such time the Clerk will hold onto the cheque raised at the last meeting.

**b. Cheques**

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

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

**2095. Planning matters**

- Received:  
Nothing to report
- Responded to:

- i. 22/00090/AGRRES Change of use - agriculture to dwellinghouse for farm worker, Alder Farm, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, Staffordshire DY7 5BX - No objections in principle, however, it was agreed that an agricultural tie should be requested to ensure the property remained for agricultural workers.
- 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 – No particular objections, however, an agricultural tie would be preferable.
- c. Outcomes:
  - i. 22/00090/AGRRES Change of use - agriculture to dwellinghouse for farm worker, Alder Farm, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, Staffordshire DY7 5BX – Approved with conditions

#### 2096. **Airfield matters**

Cllr. Mrs Rees had informed the Clerk that there was nothing to report. The next Consultative Committee meeting was due to be face to face, however, has been changed to a zoom meeting.

#### 2097. **Correspondence**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 13/10/22  
 VAST funding opportunities for SOT and Staffordshire 13/10/22  
 South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up – 282, 283, 284  
 SSDC Review magazine issue 80  
 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin – 3/10/22, 10/10/22, 17/10/22  
 20's plenty for Staffordshire 25/10/22 7:30pm  
 CPRE National Hedgerow week  
 Staffordshire libraries Discover your library in November  
 SSDC Correspondence from the leader of SSC – September 2022  
 SSDC Parish Summit 20/10/22 Agenda 9:30am – 2pm  
 SSDC Make a difference be a Councillor 17/10/22  
 SSDC Housing & homelessness strategy 2023-27 consultation  
 SSDC Locality 5 section 106 quarter 3 report  
 SSDC Waste & Recycling update 29/9/22  
 SPCA Free civility webinars offered by LGA  
 SSDC Avian flu risk  
 CSW upcoming speeding campaign cancelled  
 SPCA Cemetery memorial safety online webinar 17/10/22

#### Lower Penn Parish Council – local plan letter to SSDC

Cllr. Hadgett had requested the Chairman discuss this matter at the meeting. In email correspondence he proposed that we support Lower Penn Parish Council given the combined authorities have many hundreds of hectares of derelict brown field sites which should be developed before any greenbelt land in South Staffordshire is used for development to meet their housing needs. A discussion followed. It was agreed the Clerk would send a letter of support.

Update post meeting: on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 the Clerk received and forwarded a letter from SSDC in response to Lower Penn's letter. It was agreed that no further action would be taken in light of this letter, instead we would await the local plan consultation period next month.

Kinver Neighbourhood Plan – Statutory consultation on Kinver's draft Neighbourhood plan.

Cllr Mrs Stanton confirmed she had reviewed the plan and stated it looked good. It was agreed that the Clerk would offer the Parish Council's support.

**2098.AOB**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton mentioned an article in the recent NALC bulletin on low carbon heating for village halls. She will forward the information to a committee member.

**Date of the next meeting** 23 November 2022

Meeting Closed