

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 7:30pm at Halfpenny Green Vineyards

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

2114. **Apologies:**
There were no apologies for non-attendance.

2115. **Declarations of Interest:**
Cllr Slater declared an interest in 2124bi.

2116. **Minutes:**
One error was noted as follows; 2103a - The stiles have been delivered, however, none have been installed to date. As such, the Chairman removed the sentence "Cllr Slater confirmed that 5 stiles have been installed, he will send details of their locations."
RESOLVED that the amended minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 23 November 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

2117. **Matters arising:**
a. Stiles – Public Rights of Way (ROW)
It was agreed that the stiles should be installed in the Spring when the ground is softer. Cllr. Snelson proposed adding this item to the list of activities for the Friends of Bobbington. It was agreed to initially allocate it to the meet up on 18 March 2023.

2118. **Churchyard**
The Secretary of the PCC had confirmed that there was no update, however, there is a PCC meeting on the 9 February 2023.

2119. **Highway Matters**
a. Site visit with Diane Firkins, Staffordshire County Council
The Clerk reported on a productive site visit with Cllr. Mrs. Wilson, Diane Firkins, from Staffordshire Highways and Craig Snelson. During the morning they had visited:
Six Ashes Road – Burnpit Cottage
Six Ashes Road – Brook adjacent to The Glebelands
77-79 Six Ashes Road
Six Ashes Road – Corbett School
Tom Lane – Devon Cottage
Tom Lane – visibility splays
Gospel Ash Road / Manor Lane

Diane agreed to the following actions:

- Craig Snelson to dig out the verge area opposite Devon Cottage but not to remove the kerb stone because the gullies (when clear) run into this area to the outfall pipes.
- Diane to list the site for the additional drainage investment resource
- The manhole outside the school to be jetted when the drainage crew are in the area
- Six Ashes Road - Raise a job for the gully crew to attend to the gully that is surcharging water, to investigate why this is occurring as potentially there may be a blockage further down, this is near the previous dig down location.
- Ask the question about parishioners offering to lift the lids on any gullies that the crews may have difficulty in opening
- Seek information from our Land Charges team, with regards to the small water leak in the driveway of 77 Six Ashes Road, to ascertain if there is a highway improvement line here, and therefore land ownership,
- To consider some reflective bollards along the grass verge opposite the school to try to prevent vehicles overrunning the area given the new drainage in here. This will need to be considered via Cllr Mrs Wilson's Divisional Highway Program budget. The cost for each one is approx. £250.
- The brook that runs along the back of Brantley Lane as discussed is for the riparian land owner responsibility to clear, our Flood Risk team have written to all of the residents in regards to the fence over the brook.

Diane had omitted the second visibility splay from her actions, so the Clerk had raised this with her.

Since the meeting Diane has further reported that:

- The gully and manhole outside the school was jetted on 6 January 2023. Unfortunately, there was a blockage and a suspected broken pipe, therefore, a different crew will have to attend and carry out further works.
- The gully team will attend w/c 16 January 2023 and carry out works opposite Devon Cottage and on Six Ashes Road where there is a surcharging gully.
- It is not within Amey's policy to allow members of the public to work within their work-space, therefore, parishioners are unable to assist crews when they attend to gullies / jammed lids. However, if the lids are free prior to the crews arrival to cleanse the gullies this is all the better.
- 77-79 Six Ashes Road – following investigation, Diane can confirm that there is not a prescribed improvement line or prescribed building line status. It does appear that there was an improvement to the road by way of a 'dedication of land' but this is on the opposite side of the road and does not affect this property. Therefore, this water leak is within the land owner's private property and a matter for them to resolve.

Cllrs. Snelson and Slater confirmed that they had lifted all but one of the manhole covers in anticipation of Staffordshire Highways visit this week. The gullies team attended the area yesterday and jetted those identified and some additional ones.

A discussion took place with respect to the proposed reflective bollards.

b. Flooding –

i. Corbett School, Six Ashes Road

Nothing further to add to the above discussion. Further work is awaited to investigate the blocked / broken pipe.

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

There is no further update with respect to this area.

Clerk's note – see public question time for further discussion.

b. **Tom Lane - visibility splays**

Nothing further to add to the above discussion.

c. **SSDC SID Poles**

It was noted that the Speed Indication Devices have not yet been installed in Bobbington as suggested. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

2120. **Friends of Bobbington**

The Clerk handed over hi-vis tops, gloves and black bags which were donated by Diane Firkins at Staffordshire County Council.

The Clerk will circulate a list of meeting dates in February. The first event of 2023 will be held on 18 March 2023, the main activity will be the stiles.

The Chairman was in receipt of an email from a volunteer who had suggested a tea/coffee morning be held in the Village Hall prior to the first outing of the Friends of Bobbington. The Parishioner thought this may help to recruit volunteers, whilst also providing companionship to those who are alone. A discussion followed. It was agreed that the Parish Council could support an initial event then review the position. The event should be organised and hosted by the "Friends of Bobbington", however, the Council agreed to fund refreshments to a maximum of £25 and pay for the hire of the Village Hall for a couple of hours.

2121. **Reports from Committee Representatives**

Corbett School

Cllr. Burton reported that the Headteacher Mr Pardoe resigned from his position prior to Christmas. Mr Craig, who was previously shadowing Mr Pardoe, has now taken temporary Headmaster status, until a replacement can be found. The new job spec and advert should be released this week.

Mr Craig stated it is important for stability that the new Head is carefully chosen and the school are absolutely sure they are the right person for the job. The interview panel will include an independent education consultant, the head of the local Education Authority and a member of the Diocese.

The children have recently performed at young voices at the NEC. This week an author has spent a day at the school, inspiring the children to write and illustrate.

Swimming has started again this term, as has the toddler group, with a view to children transitioning to Corbett when they are old enough. Mr Craig is also re-initiating some of the groups that previously existed and will be having meetings with their representatives over the coming days e.g. the social council, Anti-bullying ambassadors and ethos/worship council.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

Mrs Humphries, the PCC Secretary, had informed the Clerk that there was nothing to report.

It was noted that there had been no update on the CCTV. It was acknowledged that Reverend Richard is looking after more of the Smestow Vale Group due to retirements, therefore, no meetings have been held. The Clerk agreed to request an update.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

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

Police Crime Report

Burglary (residential):

07/01 – Early morning, unknown offenders have attempted to access a garage at a residential property on Six Ashes Road. Offenders were disturbed and left empty handed – possibly travelling in a white Transit van.

15/01 – Farm outbuilding accessed by offenders – nuts have been removed from locks to gain access. Security light also tampered with. Stolen items include a bike, petrol mower, strimmer, chainsaw and socket set. Sadly, no witnesses and no CCTV.

Burglary (business):

None reported

Vehicle crime:

22/12 - A silver Land Rover Discovery was stolen from a property near to Manor Lane, Bobbington between the hours of 17:00 and 21:30hrs. Enquiries are ongoing and advice and re-assurance given to the victim.

Anti-social behaviour:

09/01 - The forest school which belongs to Corbett Church of England Primary School was targeted whereby equipment was damaged and thrown over the fence. CCTV enquiries were made but there is no evidence to suggest who was responsible for this. This area will be closely monitored with high visibility patrols.

Policing operations of note:

Force wide Operation Calibre has been running throughout December, aimed to raise awareness and provide advice to residents of how best to prevent instances of personal robbery, theft and burglary especially around Christmas time.

A new dedicated team has been assembled with their primary objective of tackling serious acquisitive crime, this includes a targeted approach to residential and commercial burglaries and encompasses thefts of and theft from motor vehicles. The team have commenced Operation BORMUS carrying out pro-active patrols throughout the locality, working in conjunction with neighbouring forces to target

cross border criminals utilising arterial road networks to carry out their criminality. To date the operation has yielded a number of positive arrests and enquiries and investigations remain ongoing.

2122. **Public Question Time**

The member of the public present asked for more information with respect to the brook adjacent to the Glebelands and the responsibilities of riparian land owners. His property backs onto the brook, however, he had not received a letter. A neighbour had made him aware. He was aware that a number of adjacent land owners have thrown rubbish into the brook, however, he has previously cleared a stretch out to ensure it is clear. A discussion followed.

It was suggested that the Parish Council send a letter to landowners acknowledging the letter that has been sent by the County Council and requesting that they keep their area of the brook clear and respect their neighbours

2123. **Finance:-**

a. Precept accounts and budget for 2023/24

The Clerk had prepared and circulated accounts for the period ended 31 December 2022, a draft budget for 2023-24 and a comparison of the 2022-23 budget with actual expenditure.

The draft precept accounts and proposed budget were reviewed and discussed. The Clerk asked whether the Councillors wished to budget for the King's Coronation. A discussion was held. Following the event last year the Councillors were keen on a low key event - an afternoon tea in the Village Hall was suggested. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at the next meeting, in the meantime, a budget of £250 was proposed and seconded.

The accounts and budget were approved. It was agreed the precept should be set at £5,385 (i.e. an increase of 5.07%).

b. Cheques

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

i.	Clerk	Salary	£476.21
ii.	HMRC	Paye	£ 97.20

2124. **Planning matters**

a. South Staffordshire Local Plan Review

Cllr Mrs Stanton and Cllr Hadgett compiled the following response on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk was unable to submit the comments through the portal, however, had emailed a copy to the District Council:

The SWOT analysis (p13) sets out the issues and challenges facing South Staffordshire in the time frame 2018 -2039. This enables the Plan to set a vision and framework for future development needs and to seek to address the strategic priorities for the area (p10) 3.1 This framework aligns with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and acknowledges the importance of tackling climate change and adopting sustainable development strategies.

The overall spatial strategy is sound, with greatest levels of development concentrated around larger villages and urban edge locations. This will ensure new homes have good access to facilities, infrastructure and public transport, thus reducing car dependency.

Strategic Objective 2 (p21), highlights the duty to cooperate, 'Meet the housing and employment needs of the District, whilst making a proportionate contribution towards the unmet needs of the Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area'. The Plan complies with the Duty to co-operate, as evidenced in Policy DS4 Development Needs. A contribution of 4,000 homes towards unmet housing needs of Greater Birmingham and Black Country area has been included.

MODIFICATION: (P28) 5.14 - An additional comment needs to be considered here, to emphasise the importance of using Brownfield sites first, before green belt land is made available.

Paragraphs 11.5 – 11.7 and Policy EC10 Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport sets out what the Council will support in terms of development related to general aviation on the site. This detail is welcomed.

MODIFICATION to the wording of Policy EC10 so that it specifically states that the airport is situated within the Green Belt and development proposals are subject to Green Belt policies.

South Staffordshire District Council's letter asking for clarity on the government's proposals was also discussed. It was agreed it was a well written letter.

b. Received:

- i. 22/01109/FUL Bobbington Mills, Mere Farm, Lutley Lane, Bobbington, Staffordshire Proposal: Erection of a steel frame extension to existing portal frame building for general purpose storage for the purpose of agriculture – the plans were discussed and it was agreed there were no objections.

c. Responded to:

- i. 22/01044/FUL Proposal: Conversion of existing oak framed leisure building into single detached dwelling along with the demolition of existing glass house Location: Land Adjacent to Meadow View Cottage Six Ashes Road Bobbington Staffordshire DY7 5DT – Objections to be raised based on greenbelt and inappropriate development.

d. Outcomes:

- i. 22/01044/FUL Proposal: Conversion of existing oak framed leisure building into single detached dwelling along with the demolition of existing glass house Location: Land Adjacent to Meadow View Cottage Six Ashes Road Bobbington Staffordshire DY7 5DT – Approved

It was brought to a Councillor's attention that there is a static caravan in the garden of 16 Brantley Lane. A discussion followed concluding that it is understood that planning permission is not required. It is expected to be a temporary situation.

2125. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees confirmed there had been no meeting of the Consultative Committee. The next meeting is due to be held on 8 February 2023.

2126. Nominations for the Civic Award

The Clerk had circulated a list of previous winners with the agenda to aid discussions. Councillors were reminded that Councillors could not be nominated. The Chairman asked for nominations. Cllr. Burton proposed Mr Craig Snelson, this was seconded by the Chair, who had also proposed to nominate Mr Snelson. There being no further nominations it was agreed to invite Mr Snelson to accept the award for Services to the Parish and Environmental adaptations.

2127. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) Dec 2022, Jan 2023

VAST Training and Events - January 2023, December 2022

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up – 289, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin – 28/11/22, 5/12/22, 19/12/22, 9/1/23, 16/1/23

Staffordshire Commissioner – Have your say on the amount you pay towards policing and fire and rescue services in Staffordshire

Staffordshire libraries news and events January 2023; This winter; February 2023

NHS info for Parish Council Newsletters / bulletins

Street Scene November 2022

Lower Penn PC Open letter to SSDC re Local Plan

SSDC's letter to Parish Council's re Lower Penn PC open letter

SSDC asks for clarity on government proposals (re local plan)

Staffordshire Highways Road closure notification – Leaton Lane 8-14 Dec 22

Staffordshire Highways Road closure notification – Leaton Lane 14-16 Dec 22

Staffordshire Highways Road closure notification – Crab Lane 8-14 Dec 22

CPRE news for Parish Councils 13/1/23, 2/12/22

PSGA Communications – register for the OS Webinar for local councils

PSGA – recordings re virtual event available on website

PSGA Changes to members licence

CPRE – sign up for star count

Staffordshire Fire & Rescue – Community newsletter South Staffordshire winter edition & December 2022

VAST fundraising opportunities for voluntary groups 11/22

SSDC Waste & recycling Christmas and New year collections communication plan

Notification of external auditor for 2022/23 financial year and for the 5 year period until 2026/27

SSDC Six month rule casual vacancies

SSDC Platinum jubilee funds for Villages halls

The Community Foundation – Winter 2022

Introduction to Parish.UK Network

SSDC Parish Summit Community Health 10/2/2023 – various emails received – Cllr Mrs Stanton and Cllr Hadgett agreed to attend this event on behalf of the Parish Council.

2128. AOB

Cllr. Slater asked if there was any update on when the telephone box at Halfpenny Green was to be removed / sold as he was aware of a party who were interested in buying it and relocating it to another area of the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk would provide details of the team dealing with the telephone box as the Parish Council had turned down the offer to take it on due to the restrictions and legalities. It was noted that we were previously informed that the box could not be relocated.

Date of the next meeting 15 February 2023

Meeting Closed