

Chairman's Initials



Date: 15/6/22

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
Wednesday 18 May 2022 at Bobbington Village Hall at 7.30pm**

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

2004. APOLOGIES:

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

2005. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

2006. MINUTES:

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had previously been approved and signed.

2007. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report attached.

2008. CORBETT SCHOOL REPORT

Cllr. Burton reported that the school is covid-19 free for the first time since last year! There has been a lot of disruption in the last year for both staff and pupils. They returned for several months after lockdown before breaking up for the Summer holidays. They then returned in September 2021 and whilst the journey has been smoother, there have been a number of staff and pupils off with the virus. However, there are no longer any bubbles and all activities are back to normal with sports fixtures starting to resume. Unfortunately, Mrs Crook, the Headteacher has handed her notice in and will leave at the end of the July term. A replacement is sought to hopefully start in September.

2009. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Report attached

2010. HOLY CROSS CHURCH

The Clerk reported that face to face services resumed in time for Easter 2021. In September 2021 it was reported that there had been another small fall of plaster this time from high up in the chancel roof. Over the last 18 months, the condition of the church has deteriorated. Lockdown caused moisture to build up and cause damage. A survey was carried out which confirmed there are bats in the belfry.

Unfortunately, the pear tree had to be taken down, the P.C.C. hope to replace this tree later in the year.

The annual Remembrance Service was held with the Air Scouts and there is a "family, faith and friendship" after school club on the last Tuesday of each month. Several baptisms and weddings have been booked in for this year.

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The congregation consists of a faithful few. As a result, services have recently been reduced. They will be held on just two Sundays in the month. Special services will still be held on other Sundays when they occur. Revd. Paul Brown, Team Rector for 24 years of the Smestow Vale group of churches retired at Easter 2022.

Diminishing space is available for burials in the churchyard. There are an estimated seven plots remaining. The Parish Council will be working with the PCC to plan for the future.

In recent weeks there have been several attacks from vandals in the church and churchyard. These have been reported to the police and parishioners made aware and be extra vigilant.

2011. WOLVERHAMPTON HALFPENNY GREEN AIRPORT REPORT

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that the Consultative Committee meetings had all been held over zoom and were very brief, she wished to note that no-one from MCR attends these meetings. Activity has returned to pre-pandemic levels. The café is open and doing well. The development plans appear to be on hold following the request for further information from SSDC.

2012. TREE WARDEN REPORT

Cllr Slater reported that the only activity during the last year relates to the replacement oak tree in Brantley Lane. The tree has now been re-positioned and is in leaf.

2013. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH REPORT

Cllr Burton reported that two new volunteers have been trained this year. A number of activities have taken place and Cllr. Burton wished to thank all those that contributed. There haven't been as many activities this calendar year to date, but it is hoped some more will be planned in the coming months.

2014. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING arranged for 17 May 2023.

The meeting was closed.

Bobbington Parish Council: Chair's Report, May 2022

Following a period of online meetings due to the Covid lockdowns, it was good to be able to meet again in person in May last year and we continue to have socially distanced meetings in the village hall. The support provided by the community to those residents in need during the pandemic has continued and thanks to Cllr Burton for continuing to provide this. We are now looking to extend this work to set up a volunteers group, if we can garner sufficient interest.

We have continued to work with Housing Plus on affordable housing however we have exhausted available and suitable pieces of land, without any success of acquisition. Despite there being an increased need identified in the survey undertaken in 2020, we have taken the decision to not pursue the construction of affordable housing in the village at this time.

The council has continued to deal with issues regarding flooding, state of the roads and unkempt gardens and have liaised with South Staffs council on these matters, some of which have yet to reach a satisfactory solution. There have been a number of road traffic accidents during the year, and sadly there have been two fatalities as a result. We continue to work with South Staffs on trying to make our roads safer.

We have been excited to launch a new website for the parish council which is more fitting for our times. Thanks again to Cllr Burton for leading on this and chivvyng us to provide the necessary information.

We were saddened by the passing of Cllr Brian Edwards MBE in August 2021. Brian has been a big supporter of the parish's work and we took the opportunity to offer our condolences to his family and colleagues.

To celebrate the contribution of those who live and work in the parish, we were delighted to give our 2020/21 civic award to Mrs Margaret Southall MBE to recognise the many years she led Corbett school and the impact she has had on the lives of families both within and beyond the parish. The 2021/22 civic award was presented to Mrs Jill Humphries to recognise the work she has done for the PCC, the parish council and the wider parish community. Given the restrictions presented by Covid we took the decision to defer the Tom Butler cup competition to 2022 and combine this with our Jubilee celebrations.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the parish councillors who always energetically contribute to village life and who add focus and fun to our council meetings. Thanks also to Victoria Wilson, our District and County Councillor for her continued support and engagement at our council meetings. And as always, a special thanks to Victoria, our clerk who does an amazing job of keeping us all on track.

Village Hall

During the recent Pandemic the village hall was actively encouraged to apply for grant funding to help with the loss of revenue.

More recently the Local Authority South Staffs Village Hall Association stated that any fund monies that were received should be spent on the general upkeep of the hall.

To date the village has been redecorated internally. New windows have been fitted and new blinds. The flat roof, which was leaking, has now subsequently been repaired.

As we exit the Pandemic village hall booking are starting to increase and the committee hope that normally activities will return

Roger Lewis

Village Hall Secretary

