

**Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7:30pm in the Jubilee Room at**  
**Bobbington Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillor: Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)  
District and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson  
Councillors: A Burton, Mrs J Stanton, M Slater, M Snelson, Mrs I Rees and  
S Hadgett  
PCSO Wilkes and Sergeant Dorrington  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
2 members of the public

2129. **Apologies:**

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

2130. **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Slater declared an interest in 2139b and 2139c.

2131. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED that the amended minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 18 January 2023, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

2132. **Matters arising:**

**a. Nominations for the Civic Award**

Mr Craig Snelson has accepted the award and will attend the meeting on the 17 May 2023.

2133. **Churchyard**

The Secretary of the PCC had confirmed that finding information on the churchyard had stalled over the winter, but fresh efforts were now being made. The Councillors discussed this given concerns that burial space is limited and needs to be considered prior to the churchyard being declared full.

The Clerk was asked to confirm that PCC meetings are open to the public and if so to obtain the next meeting date.

2134. **Highway Matters**

**a. Flooding – a review of problem areas**

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

The Clerk sought clarification as to whom should receive a letter from the Parish Council with respect to keeping the brook clear since it became apparent during the last meeting that not all properties adjacent to the brook had received a letter from the County Council.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should revert back to the County Council to seek clarification as to why not all properties had been contacted. A follow up letter can then be sent to the property owners acknowledging that an improvement has been seen in recent months, but requesting they continue to be considerate to others and maintain the area in a good state of repair to ensure the brook remains clear and the water flowing.

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

No further update.

iii. **Six Ashes Road**

No further update.

iv. **Devon Cottage**

No further update.

v. **77-79 Six Ashes Road**

The Clerk asked Cllr. Mrs Wilson if anyone had updated the property owners with the outcome of the County Council's enquiries, as the email stated they would send a letter. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to make enquiries and follow it up if needed.

**b. Tom Lane - visibility splays**

Nothing further to add to the above discussion. Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to raise this with the Highways team.

**c. SSDC SID Poles**

It was noted that since the last meeting the Speed Indication Devices have been installed in Bobbington, however, they don't appear to be working consistently. It was agreed that the position between Brantley Lane and Glebelands was not the best place given most cars would have slowed down around the preceding bend.

The Clerk was asked to enquire whether any statistics would be provided following the period of use.

**d. Pavements Brantley Crescent**

The Clerk had received an email from a parishioner in Brantley Crescent raising concerns over pavement surface defects in front of gates leading to the house at 12 Brantley Crescent.

They had explained that due to the lack of parking spaces on the road, people use pavement parking and leave their cars on the grass. As there is no hard surface the pavement gets very muddy. There are huge boggy trenches that have been caused from the car wheels spinning trying to get on the grass. This wheel spinning is flicking mud everywhere, the pavement is terrible and it looks horrible. This surface is also not safe for pedestrians to use, as it's very slippery and uneven.

The problem was reported to Staffordshire County Council in 2018 and 2019 but nothing has been done since.

The Clerk had forwarded the information to County Cllr. Mrs Wilson, who passed the concerns onto Staffordshire Highways. They responded to say unfortunately, this is not uncommon throughout Staffordshire. It is something they are unable to enforce. Ultimately, they can only rely on the public parking sensibly and with respect, but do appreciate that this is not always the case.

They don't provide the verge posts any longer as they are often hit, or removed and thus become a high on-going maintenance issue. Whilst they are not

something that they wish to provide, it is something that the County Councillor's DHP budget can fund.

Consideration can be given for the Parish to do a letter drop to the residents to ask them if they would consider parking sensibly.

Our Highway Inspectors do look at verges when they carry out the routine inspections, and if a verge is considered dangerous, they will look to raise any necessary work to remove the hazard, but other than this there is little that can be done unfortunately.

A discussion followed during which Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated that due to broadband fibre works the County Council were not intending to carry out any routine work to pavements, however, evidence of accidents at the location would make the work higher priority. She went on to inform those present of a "place" pilot which is currently underway. Following the discussion, the Clerk was asked to request a routine inspection.

- e. **Road closures** - Highgate Common from junction with Mere Lane to junction with Morfe Lane due to a golf event – 4 -5 days from 27 April 2023

2135. **Friends of Bobbington**

The first event of 2023 will be held on 18 March 2023. The main activity will be the stiles.

2136. **Reports from Committee Representatives**

**Corbett School**

Cllr. Burton reported that the number of children officially on roll remains the same at 84 pupils. Three children from the same family have left school this term due to family circumstances, however, two families have been shown around in the past week so they will hopefully be filling those places almost immediately.

Mr Craig has shown 11 candidates around school so there has been a good level of interest for the headteacher post. The deadline for submitting applications is the end of February half term and shortlisting will take place during the first week back in March. The interviews will take place on March 17 and 20th.

The children have been involved with a number of activities and events for safer internet week and children's mental health week. After the half term break, we will be undertaking whole school positive playtime training for staff and pupils so that the children have access to much better provision at break time and lunchtime. An Olympic athlete will also be visiting school and working with the children on a range of sporting activities.

From a teaching and learning perspective, a colleague will be joining Corbett on secondment for 2 days a week to help develop the curriculum and to provide staff development. She is also a specialist SEND teacher so she will be particularly upskilling all staff with the strategies needed to better support SEND pupils in all year groups.

The other things to note in March is that the school has partnered with the Little Sutton English Hub. As part of our working partnership, we will be accessing free funded support from the DfE to help improve our phonics and early reading programmes. We will also be working with specialist maths and English consultants throughout the next half term to continue our focus on improving literacy and numeracy across school.

PCSO Wilkes stated that they have selected Corbett School to take part in their year 6 cadet course – they have contacted the school and are awaiting their response. They would also be happy to go in and speak to all the children.

### **Village Hall**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing of any significance to report. New advertising signage has been made and should be in-situ by the end of March.

The Councillors asked where the sign was to be positioned, as looking at the size it may need planning permission. Cllr. Mrs Stanton agreed to make enquiries. She was also asked to request the jubilee room be cleared out, given there appears to be a number of items being stored in there, which is decreasing room capacity.

### **Church of the Holy Cross**

Mrs Humphries, the PCC Secretary, had informed the Clerk that the PCC had looked into CCTV installation and it was very involved. Furthermore, the vandalism problem has settled down since last summer so it was decided that they would just monitor the situation. The Councillors discussed their concerns with this approach and asked the Clerk to raise these with the PCC. The PCSO and Police Sergeant agreed that in their experience anti-social behaviour increases with lighter nights.

The Crab Apple (Malus) tree has been planted, so they can now think about the bench.

### **Community Speed Watch (“CSW”)**

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

The first monthly CSW update (January 2023) had been circulated to all.

### **Police Crime Report (17/01/2023 – 15/02/2023)**

#### Burglary (residential):

None reported

#### Burglary (business):

None reported

#### Vehicle crime:

19/01 – At approximately 20:30 a male was seen running from a driveway on Six Ashes Road where a Range Rover was securely parked the passenger window had been smashed, the male got into a grey Land Rover Discovery, no lines of enquiry from the CCTV.

#### Anti-social behaviour:

Nothing reported

It was noted that there is an increased number of Range Rover and BMW thefts currently.

### **Feedback from SSDC's Parish Summit on Community Health**

Cllr Hadgett and Cllr Mrs Stanton had attended the summit at the District Council. Both reported that it was useful. They had been provided with various statistics and the impact that some of the figures that are higher than the national average are having on local resources. There is an overall concern that the population is living longer but not healthier. They had attended different workshops, so both reported back.

People & Communities: Parish Councils were asked to consider how they can support the wellbeing agenda. This could be done by having health and wellbeing in a parish plan.

Cllr. Mrs Stanton referred to Support Staffordshire (a charitable organisation who provide sign posting and help facilitate regular events) and SCVYS.

### Prevention – Everyone Health

Cllr Hadgett explained services that are available to provide health checks, weight management, smoking support for example. He proposed that the health check bus be invited to our parish. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. It was suggested that if available on 4 March it would be a useful addition to the Friends of Bobbington coffee morning.

Cllr. Mrs Jones proposed that a health and wellbeing committee representative provide feedback and suggestions at our meetings. Cllr Mrs Rees seconded this proposal. Whilst the role will be formally adopted at the next AGM, Cllr. Hadgett agreed to act as representative until this time.

### **2137. Public Question Time**

A member of the public wished to raise two matters:

- Following the letter in respect to property owners' responsibilities towards the brook, the parishioner asked for advice with respect to tree protection orders ("TPO"). It was agreed there was unlikely to be any TPOs on the elder trees, however, Gavin Pearce at the District Council would be able to confirm this.
- Green bins – how much do these cost? and are there any local areas where charges are not incurred? Cllr. Mrs Wilson confirmed the current cost was £43.60 per annum. Different areas have different charges / specifications, the District Council determine these.

The second member of the public present raised the issue of speeding around Halfpenny Green and Gospel Ash Road. It was noted that there had been an accident at the end of January. Cllr. Burton explained about CSW. There are currently no approved sites outside of the main village, however, this is partly due to a lack of volunteers. The parishioner was willing to complete the training and join the CSW team. Cllr Burton will make the necessary arrangements.

Sergeant Dorrington explained that the PCSOs have undertaken training to work with the CSW teams. PCSO will liaise with Cllr. Burton to see if they can assist with activities.

The parishioner also raised the issue of the white give way signs at the former Royal Oak junction and the visibility splay from Telford to turn right is also obscured by over growth. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of this land and request the visibility splay be cleared.

**2138. Finance:-**

No matters to be discussed.

**2139. Planning matters**

**a. Kinver Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 16 Consultation**

It was agreed that the plan looked good. An official response to the consultation was not deemed necessary.

**b. Received:**

- i. 23/00100/OFFRES - Office Building East Of Lutley Lane, Bobbington DY7 5DQ; The change of use of office building falling within Class E (Formerly B1(a)) to use as two dwellinghouses within Class C3 (dwellinghouse) in association with the existing use on site – A discussion was held, it was agreed that the Council's response should be in line with that made to the application in September 2022 which was subsequently withdrawn.

**c. Responded to:**

- 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 – No objections

**d. Outcomes: Nothing to report**

**2140. Airfield matters**

Cllr. Mrs Rees confirmed a zoom meeting of the Consultative Committee was held on 8 February 2023. There were 53,000 movements last year and activity is being maintained. There was one complaint concerning a property on the east side. Runway EW is not quite complete, however, once the CAA have signed it off and the control tower completed training, it should become active, this will mean there are three runways in operation.

Events planned for the year include a vintage fly in, jagfest and 1940's weekend.

A questionnaire from the Department of Transport was mentioned, however, due to sensitive information there was no further discussion.

An accident had occurred in December, the pilot crashed on their second solo flight, they were not hurt, however, the aircraft was a write off. The previous day the road had been closed without warning, this raised concerns as to how the emergency services would have gained access.

**2141. King Charles III's Coronation**

The Air Scouts are keen to organise an event like the Bobbington Bash held in 2022. It was agreed that the Parish Council could support another organisation but would not be directly involved in such a large-scale event.

Cllr. Burton suggested a low-key picnic in the park event, that could be held on the school field. The Scouts could host a BBQ. It was suggested that the school and scouts may work together. The Parish Council could provide support if needed.

The Clerk was asked to confirm our intentions to the District Council and Police who were currently reviewing requirements across the County.

2142. **South Staffordshire Parish and District Elections**

Various emails have been circulated since the last meeting. The first candidates briefing is due to be held tomorrow evening. As it was unlikely anyone could attend Cllr. Mrs Wilson agreed to provide feedback on anything important. Emails should follow the event with more information.

2143. **Correspondence**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 2/2/23, 12/2/23

VAST Training and Events – February 2023

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up – 296, 297, 298, 299

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin – 23/1/23, 30/1/23, 6/2/23, 12/2/23

Staffordshire libraries news and events March 2023;

Staffordshire libraries Business start up drop in session – Perton library 30/3/23

Street Scene – issue 22

CPRE news for Parish Councils February 2023, star count is coming

VAST funding opportunities for voluntary groups 26/1/23

SSDC waste & recycling collection update 6/2/22

SSDC Boundary changes

SSDC King Charles III coronation – Community is the best medicine fund

SSDC Dog poop bags offer following locality meeting

Kinver neighbourhood plan – regulation 16 consultation

SSDC 106 report locality 5

Community fund – grants available for mental health groups

SSDC Voter ID

SPCA SCC Boundary changes briefing 16/2/23 6pm

SSDC Commonwealth day – ceremony 13/3/23 11am

SSDC Mandatory training for s106 requests and spends

Staffordshire County Council - (SCC) letter from Michael Give re Kings Coronation arrangements

SPCA safeguarding course 20/6/23

2144. **AOB**

The Chairman reported that she was in receipt of the Clerk's letter of resignation. A leaving date of 5 June 2023 was proposed as this will permit the Clerk to complete the election and year end processes, including the accounts to 31 March 2023. The Clerk wished to thank the Councillors for their support and stated it has

Chairman's Initials

Date:

been an honour to work with the Parish Council over the last 16 years, however, the time is now right to focus on her family and main employment.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a job description and advert, which could then be sent to SPCA for circulation as well as being put on the noticeboard and posted on the website and social media.

**Date of the next meeting** 15 March 2023

Meeting Closed