

**Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council**  
**held on Wednesday 19 April 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: Mrs J Stanton, M Slater, S Hadgett and M Snelson  
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council  
Mr Craig, Interim Headteacher Corbett School (Part of meeting)

2145. **Apologies:**  
Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Cllr. A Burton and Mrs I Rees.

2146. **Declarations of Interest:**  
There were no declarations of interest.

2147. **Minutes:**  
RESOLVED that the amended minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 15 March 2023, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

2148. **Reports from Committee Representatives**  
**Corbett School**

Mr Craig, Interim Headteacher, attended the meeting. He was pleased to report that a new Headteacher, Mrs Jones, has been appointed. It is hoped that she will be able to commence in June 2023 (subject to notice periods). Mr Craig has worked with Mrs Jones before. She has previously worked in a Church school, so it is hoped that the Christian ethos at Corbett School can be re-established.

There has been a lot of change this term including a new curriculum, however, many of these changes have been in conjunction with the new Headteacher to prevent any further change. Mr Craig will continue with the school during the transition period. It is anticipated that he will continue to support the school beyond September in his original role as School Improvement Advisor for one day per week.

Staffing issues have been resolved. Pupils are as prepared as they can be for SATs.

An event will be held on the school field to celebrate the King's Coronation. This will be held on 5 May 2023 and will be open to the Community.

Links have been made with similar like-minded schools to share ideas and it is hoped that they can develop more community links. Mr Craig would welcome any ways in which the school could work with the Parish Council. Friends of Bobbington and Community Speed Watch were briefly discussed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Craig for taking the time to attend the meeting. Mr Craig left the meeting.

**2149. Matters arising:****a. Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer vacancy**

Three applications had been received. It was agreed to interview all three candidates. The Clerk was asked to join the interview panel agreed at the last meeting. Interviews will be held on 26 April 2023.

Cllr. Mrs Jones proposed that the Councillors on the interview panel (Cllrs Burton, Snelson and Stanton) be given the power to make a decision on behalf of the full council following the interviews. Cllrs Hadgett and Slater seconded the proposal. The Councillors on the interview panel consented and will report back to the meeting on 17 May 2023.

**2150. Churchyard**

The next meeting of the PCC is on Monday 15 May 2023 at 7pm. Cllr. Mrs Stanton will try to attend. Cllr. Hadgett is now unable to attend.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson gave an update on the position in Kinver. A review of the District Council's policy is likely.

**2151. Highway Matters****a. Flooding – a review of problem areas****i. The brook adjacent to the Glebelands, Six Ashes Road**

Cllr. Mrs Wilson has received a response from the County Council, however, she is not happy with it so is awaiting further information. She will revert to the Clerk once received.

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

The Clerk is awaiting further information from Cllr Mrs. Wilson / Staffordshire County Council – nothing further to report.

**b. Tom Lane - visibility splays**

The Clerk is awaiting further information from Staffordshire County Council Highways Team – nothing further to report.

**b. SSDC SID Poles**

The Clerk had received an email response from Andrew Aston at SSDC:

*The SID is due again on July 16 2023. The information off these currently still sits with Maggie but we are gathering data to share at the end of the year I was told. Yes, they operate all day.*

The Clerk had responded with concerns over the long wait for data collected. Mr Aston acknowledged it was a long time but stated he was trying to get information a lot sooner than this.

**c. Pothole repairs**

Cllr. Mrs Wilson reported that £4.6m will be spent on potholes over the next two years. This won't be sufficient to resolve all of the issues but it will help. They will be looking at sections of road as opposed to the current policy of filling single holes. She will have a meeting with Highways to discuss particular sections of roads where there are ongoing problems, therefore, any such areas can be sent to her in an email.

Cllr. Snelson noted that many repairs do not last, so asked if there was ever any follow up with Contractors once work had been completed. Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated this was difficult due to the large area and volume of work. If members of the public report it they can look into it, but otherwise they are consumed with fire-fighting emergency repairs. Their future plan is, however, to move some of the services back in house, including contractor inspection works.

It was noted that there were a lot of potholes and the road sides are breaking away in Church Lane. Tom Lane and Six Ashes Road by Burnpit College are also problem areas. A manhole cover is off by Bannockburn, it is thought a pipe is sticking up, but a further review will be undertaken.

**2152. Friends of Bobbington**

The next meeting is due to be held on Saturday, however, due to the health and wellbeing event the focus will be on the coffee morning. It was agreed that volunteers would meet at the Village Hall at 9:30am.

**2153. Reports from Committee Representatives**

**Village Hall**

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing of any significance to report. The AGM is due to be held at the end of the month.

It was noted that the Jubilee room had not been tidied / cleared and the radiator was blocking the rear access door.

**Church of the Holy Cross**

Mrs Humphries, the PCC Secretary, had provided the following report:

The Revd. Julia Codey has been appointed Team Rector.

The Architect carrying out the Quinquennial Inspection will now be coming on 25 April.

Revd. Richard has had some response from the Archdeacon regarding re-use of burial ground but no details yet.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in church on Sunday 28 May after morning service.

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

There was nothing to report.

**Health & Wellbeing**

Cllr Hadgett reported that everything is in place for the Healthcheck event on Saturday. Emma Morgans at Everyone Health had stated that it is looking to be a fantastic event!

Two deputy service managers and the trailer health checker will be on duty. At least two of them are fully booked with the third on hand for any walk-in appointments. The trailer bookings are also getting booked up for the other days where they will be on the pub.

**Police Crime Report 16/03/23 - 17/04/23****Statistics:**

Burglary (residential):

- None reported

Burglary (business):

- None reported

Vehicle crime:

- None reported

Anti-social behaviour:

- None reported

Policing operations of note:

PCSO's and Officers on the neighbourhood Policing Teams have been trained to use the speed gun in conjunction with Community Speed Watch, we will be conducting speed checks around the location and will add to the reports.

**2129. Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present

**2130. Finance:-****a. Insurance – renewal 1 June 2023**

The Clerk is in receipt of the renewal notice. A premium of £257.60 is quoted - the same as last year. Zurich refer to an alternative online option. Given there was no increase in the premium and no changes to be made to the policy, the Clerk asked the Council if they required any alternative quotes. It was agreed the Council should remain with Zurich. The Clerk was asked to check the online option and report back next month.

**b. Accounts year ended 31 March 2023**

The Clerk had prepared the year end accounts and gave a brief overview to those present. No questions were raised. The Clerk will now pass these to the internal auditor and present the internal audit report and AGAR to the next meeting.

**c. Clerk's salary and minimum wage**

On 1 April 2023 the national minimum wage (NMW) increased to £10.42. Based on hours for the last 12 months, the Clerk's current salary will fall just below NMW (£10.38). Cllr. Snelson proposed the Clerk's salary be increased by 10% in line with the increase to the NMW. This was seconded by Cllr. Stanton and agreed by all.

**d. The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanton and seconded by Cllr. Hadgett:**

a. Mr C Snelson	S137 Civic Award	£50
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**2131. Planning matters****a. Received:**

- i. PA 23/00314/FULHH – 2 Brantey Lane, Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5DA; Two storey side, single storey rear and front extension – No objections
- ii. PA 23/00236/FULHH – Farthingdale, Crab Lane, Bobbington, DY7 5DZ; Demolition of conservatory and extension to provide dining room, bedroom and bathroom – No objections

**b. Outcomes: Nothing to report**

**2132. Airfield matters**

The Councillors became aware of a notice on the fence of the airport. A number of Parishioners also raised this with the Parish Council. Upon further investigation it became apparent that a New Premises Licence application had been submitted to the District Council for events to be held at the Airfield.

Due to the tight timescales, Cllr. Hadgett attended the District Council offices to review said application and details were forwarded to all Councillors who corresponded with the Clerk to submit the following response to the licensing team.

*Bobbington Parish Council have no objection in principle to the granting of licencing activities at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, but the hours of operation being requested are unsuitable for the location and designation of the premises. Therefore, we wish to object to the licence application on the following grounds:*

***The prevention of crime and disorder***

*Largescale events of up to 5,000 people will significantly increase the footfall through the Parish of Bobbington. There is a concern that even much smaller volumes of people (500+) will have a detrimental effect on our relatively low crime and anti-social behaviour rates.*

*We understand the licence permits events to be held from 09:00 on Friday to 17:00 on Sunday. Given the small population in the parish there is currently little activity overnight. There is also not a huge police presence in the area. There is a concern that large events attract people to the area and highlight what is available. There were thefts from a business on the Airport site shortly after the Queen's jubilee events, whilst there is no known connection there remains a concern that crime rates will increase.*

*Highgate Common is an area which is prone to anti-social behaviour. There is a concern that due to its proximity to the Airport an increase in such behaviour will result when events are held.*

***Public Safety***

*There is no public transport in Bobbington, therefore, attendees to events will need to drive, walk or use taxis who are unfamiliar with the local roads. We understand the licence permits events to be held from 09:00 on Friday to 17:00 on Sunday.*

*Many of the roads surrounding the airfield are unlit, narrow and do not have white lines making them more hazardous to drivers who are familiar with them at night and in the early hours of the morning.*

*The airport is surrounded by unlit roads and no pavements posing a danger to pedestrians walking late at night.*

*Given the lack of public transport there is a concern that drink driving may be encouraged – this poses an increased danger to all road users, pedestrians and objects / buildings.*

***The prevention of public nuisance***

*The application states that live music will end at 23:30 on Saturday and 17:00 on Sunday, there is no mention of an end time with respect to Friday. This is of particular concern given the application is for a licence from Friday 09:00 to 23:59 and Saturday 00:00 to 23:59, making live music or a similar event possible for over 24 hours. As a parish we know that the live music from the Jubilee celebrations could be heard from beyond Six Ashes Road. It would be unreasonable and create a public nuisance for music to be played late at night. As a minimum we would request an end time to live music on Friday evenings.*

*Whilst there is an end time for live music, there is no end time for recorded music or film which can equally create a noise nuisance. We are conscious that sounds travels far and in an open and quiet area such as Bobbington any loud noise is likely to create a public nuisance and will require restriction.*

*Given the lack of public transport and the roads around the airport not being "pedestrian friendly" most attendees will need to drive, this will increase the volume of traffic. Given the location of Bobbington there is currently little traffic throughout the night. Regular events will increase the volume of traffic and noise created to local parishioners.*

*The application permits alcohol to be taken from the premises. This could encourage attendees to leave the premises with alcohol and attend local landmarks e.g. Highgate Common, creating a public nuisance and encouraging anti-social behaviour. We would not support the application for alcohol to be taken away from the premises.*

*We understand the licence permits events to be held from 09:00 on Friday to 17:00 on Sunday, this seems excessive for the events we believe the Airport wish to host. The overnight licence will encourage people to stay out later which could lead to an increased nuisance from noise and traffic. We would kindly request the hours be restricted in line with other local venues.*

We understand that a copy of our letter will be passed to the applicant for consideration and they may reach to try to mediate and save the application going before the licensing sub-committee in accordance with the Licensing Act. If a common ground cannot be reached, the application will go before the Licensing sub-committee to which objectors and the applicant shall be invited to attend.

**2133. King Charles III's Coronation**

Following a review of the bunting and flags remaining from the Queen's jubilee event it was agreed there was not enough to line Six Ashes Road. There are some big flags that could be used. Cllr. Snelson agreed to speak to Cllr. Burton with respect to this.

**2134. South Staffordshire Parish and District Elections**

Various emails have been circulated since the last meeting. Six candidates put themselves forward for Bobbington, as such there is an uncontested election with one vacancy on the Parish Council. The District Council election is contested.

The Clerk had looked into co-option. Given there will be a quorate council, members may co-opt any person to fill unfilled vacancies.

The parish council can start advertising the vacancies for co-option once they are aware of the number of vacancies following the notice of uncontested result. However, no decision on who is co-opted can be made until the new councillors have taken up office and can make decisions on behalf of the council - so from 9 May.

**2135. Correspondence**

*Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-*

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 16/3/2023, 13/4/23

South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up – 304, 305, 306

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin – 3/4/23, 13/3/23, 20/3/23, 27/3/23

What's going on this April in Staffordshire libraries;

SSDC Election Notices / Notice of election x3

SSDC District & Parish elections update re preparations

SSDC District & Parish Election – second candidate and agent briefing

SSDC District & Parish Elections – candidate and agent briefing 6/4/23

SSDC South Staffordshire Council and Resources Committee representation

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Road closures – Watery Lane, Bobbington

SCC Road closures – Camp Hill Road, Enville

Gavin Williamson MP – South Staffordshire Budget update

SSDC Youth provision in South Staffordshire

SSDC District & Parish Council elections 2023

May update from Staffordshire libraries

Parish Online Digital mapping can help your neighbourhood plan

CSW Monthly update March 2023

SCC Preventative carriageway treatment – various roads in County of Staffordshire

CPRE Get ready for hedgelife help out

Blakelands Country House Fireworks 27/5/23 & 29/6/23 at 10:30pm

**2136. AOB**

Cllr. Hadgett reported that there are several streetlamps that have not been replaced, he has raised this with Eon who have explained this will be done at a different date due to the location / equipment needed.

**Date of the next meeting 17 May 2023**

Meeting Closed