

Minutes of Bobbington Parish Council full council meeting held on the 22nd of November 2023 in the Halfpenny Green Vineyard

Present: Cllr L Jones, Cllr M Snelson, Cllr A Burton, Cllr J Stanton, Cllr M Slater, and Cllr S Hadgett.

In Attendance: Chloe Martin (Parish Clerk)

Chairperson of Bobbington Parish Council Cllr L Jones chaired the following meeting.

31/23 To receive apologies for absence.

The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr I Reese sent her apologies; the council noted her apologies.

32/23 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

No declarations were raised.

33/23 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20th of September 2023

The council reviewed the draft minutes provided by the Clerk; Cllr J Stanton proposed to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on the 20th of September 2023. This motion was seconded by Cllr A Burton and agreed unanimously by the Council.

The Chair queried whether it had been correct to cancel the meeting in October as councillors had been advised that the meeting was not quorate. Three councillors had been in attendance and the Clerk confirmed that attendance by three councillors would have been ok, in line with standing orders. It was noted that the standing orders were not available on the Bobbington PC website. The Clerk agreed to issue the standing orders to councillors and to upload to the website.

34/23 Matters arising from the minutes: -

Proposed Christmas Light Switch on - Cllr M Snelson summarised the correspondence received from the PTA Treasurer in the last meeting, the Council has not received further information.

35/23 Churchyard capacity

Cllr J Stanton summarised that she had a meeting with a Church representative, they pointed out areas where they can maximise available space for up to 20 further burial plots; it is estimated that this will be sufficient space for the next 10 years. The church representative asked for assistance in clearing the debris, which needs to be cleared from the area. After the available space has been used, the church will be able to reuse the very old burial sites, but this is not a necessity at the present time.

It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the PCC confirming the agreed position with the Church and obtain a formal response to for the Council's records. The letter will also confirm that further debris can be placed in the adjacent field where the Friends of Bobbington will arrange for its removal.

36/23 Highway Matters

a. Flooding - a review of problem areas

iii. Church Lane

Cllr L Jones updated the Council that the Clerk had been in contact with Diane Firkins in relation to the road markings who reported:

‘This work is independent from our routine maintenance work and is carried out by an outside contractor. But I can see that this road is down to have some patching carried out next year in preparation for the road to be surface dressed the following year’.

Cllr J Stanton updated that the work had been done but it was noted by multiple councillors that the work has been conducted poorly. It was agreed the Clerk will report the issue to Diane Firkins.

iv. Cllr M Snelson updated the Council that he met with the victim’s (of a crash on Tom Lane 2 years ago) family and the investigator of the crash, following a discussion they agreed that the lack of the visibility splays is a concern to their investigation. It was requested that the Clerk establish whether the coroner’s report can be made available to the council.

37/23 Friends of Bobbington

No friends of Bobbington sessions are planned at present, the Friends of Bobbington will resume in March when the weather is better.

Cllr L Jones queried the costs incurred by the Councillors and asked if the Councillors can be reimbursed for the items they have brought. The Clerk recommended that the Council use companies that can send invoices to the Council where possible and will check if councillors can be reimbursed as individuals.

38/23 Airfield Matters

Cllr L Jones summarised that Kerry McNaney has notified the Council that she will be resigning as the Clerk of the airport committee from the 11th of November 2023.

The Clerk informed the council that she has not received an update regarding the airport’s receptionist and manager. It was requested that the Clerk contact Cllr Rees to gain any further updates on airport activity.

39/23. Reports from Committee Representatives:

a. Corbett School

Cllr L Jones summarised the report provided to the council in October by Corbett School which is as follows:

Grounds:

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the issue with our soft tarmac flooring on the playground to be resolved but we continue to chase.

We have held a phonics workshop for parents to introduce our new phonics scheme, Little Wandle, which promises to yield great results. We are looking forward to working closely with the Little Sutton English Hub as we work closely to implement the new phonics scheme. We have also enjoyed our Harvest service in Holy Cross church and the Village Hall, when the children and parents made donations to support the Black Country food bank. The children sang Harvest songs and led prayers and our Bible reading.

We raised awareness of the importance of looking after our mental health by wearing yellow on Mental Health awareness day.

We have enjoyed visits from our Diocesan advisor, EYFS advisor, English and Maths consultants who are all supporting us in our ongoing journey of school improvement. Mrs Smith (EYFS TA) has undertaken speech and language intervention training, and Mr Madeley continues his emotional literacy support assistant training. I have also been building supportive networks within our SEND provision and meeting with parents.

Poppy and FMN classes have enjoyed trips to enrich their history topics, respectively. Poppy class went to Hartlebury museum to investigate the history of childhood and FMN class went to Compton Verney as part of their topic on the Chang Dynasty when they got to hold artefacts that were thousands of years old. Both classes made us very proud by asking great questions and behaving impeccably.

We have begun a programme of sporting events with our girls' football team taking part in a local schools' tournament at Codsall High School on Thursday this week. All of the children also had the opportunity to have a go at archery earlier this half term.

The choir has also begun and is looking forward to taking part in a Young Voices concert in February at the Resorts World Arena. Music lessons are ongoing, offering drums, guitar, and trumpet lessons.

We will be holding parents' evenings next week to talk to parents about how well children have transitioned into their new year groups and how best parents can support their children moving forward. Parents evenings will be held termly.

The 'glow disco' will be taking place on the 20th of October. We will also be holding a Remembrance assembly on the 10th of November led by the children and taking part in Children in Need on the 17th of November. I can also confirm the Christmas Fayre will be going ahead on the 2nd of December - all welcome. Details of further events can be found on our website and in our weekly newsletters. I have also just launched our official school Facebook page - this will be used frequently to celebrate our vibrant school once permissions are collated.

We have an INSET day on the 27th of October.

Mr Tarte will be leaving us at the end of this term, and we are in the process of recruiting a new full-time teacher to begin working with us in January.

A design was created for our new library space over the Summer which will be the main focus for our fundraising efforts this year with our target of raising £10,000. Our dedicated PTA have a plan and I am sure we will be in touch soon to enlist the community's support! Thank you in advance.

We do have some spaces still available in our EYFS class (Nursery and Reception) - we would appreciate you letting anyone know who may be looking for a new school either this year or from next September. We will be holding two open mornings in November which we will be advertising soon.

b. Bobbington Village Hall

Cllr J Stanton informed the council that a meeting is planned for the 29th of November 2023.

c. Holy Cross Church

Cllr L Jones summarised the report from Cllr J Stanton in October regarding the Holy Cross Church which is as follows:

After last month's meeting, as requested I contacted the Church Warden and asked if she could help in providing a plan of the area proposed for the new plots. Unfortunately, she is too busy to draw up a plan for receipt at this month's meeting, so we went for a walk around the churchyard, and she pointed out to me the areas they had identified. I have drawn up a rough sketch of the areas they propose to use, and this is attached. There are two areas where they believe they can create two extra rows, potentially providing a further 20 spaces. This would alleviate the problem of a lack of burial plots for around ten years. After these are used up, then they will re-use existing burial ground using the lift and deepen method. The Diocese will permit the re-use of the old burial ground, as it has not been used for over 75 years and has no gravestones.

I was informed that the grave diggers have been consulted on the areas they have identified and confirmed that these are appropriate. The Church gardener is willing to make a start on clearing the trees against the boundary fence to open up the space, but as I reported last month we have asked if we can assist in moving and disposing of the green waste. If we can confirm that Mitch or Mike can help with disposing of this waste, then the work can get underway. We will be provided with a better plan than the rough sketch I have drawn for next month's meeting.

d. Community speed watch

Cllr A Burton updated that no further sessions have been planned and the number of volunteers is low.

Cllr L Jones updated that the district council has sent correspondence relating to Neighbourhood Speed Check asking for councils to nominate a location for assessment for speed checks. Cllr Burton proposed to nominate Six Ashes Road for the Neighbourhood Speed Check. This motion was seconded by Cllr Hadgett and agreed unanimously by the council.

e. Health and wellbeing

No updates at present.

f. Crime report

Cllr L Jones summarised the crime reports provided by South Staffordshire police detailing crimes reported from August to November. The Parish Council noted the information.

40/23. Public Question time

No questions have been raised.

41/23. Finance: -

a. Cheques (to be detailed in the minutes)

Cllr J Stanton proposed to accept the schedule of payments, this was seconded by Cllr S Hadgett and agreed unanimously by the council.

Table of Payments	
Recipient	Payment Amount
Clerk Salary & Expenses (CM)	Salary £179.36 Expenses £7.20 (Cheque Total: £186.56)
HMRC (CM)	£44.80

Halfpenny Green Vineyard in Lieu of room hire	£30.00
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b. Any additional cheques that need to be raised following discussion of agenda items.

No additional cheques were raised.

c. To receive an update on the councils switch to online banking.

The Clerk has updated that the online banking facility is now up and running. The Clerk confirmed that monthly bank statements would be provided to the council as validation of approved payments.

g. Message of thanks to our internal auditor.

Cllr L Jones thanked Mr Alan Dudley for conducting the internal audit.

42/23. Planning Matters:

a. Received

23/00929/FUL – Cllr L Jones summarised the application and read the short statement that was prepared by Cllr J Stanton, this detailed the grounds of the previous applications dismissal remaining relevant. Cllr J Stanton proposed to use the prepared objection, the motion was seconded by Cllr L Jones, and was agreed unanimously by the council.

It was requested that future planning applications in relation to Bobbington PC would be emailed separately to councillors for comment, with a deadline for returns.

b. Received & responded to:

No planning applications have been received.

43/23. Correspondence

All relevant correspondence distributed by email to the Parish Councillors are detailed below.

List of correspondence distributed to Councillors via email:	
Correspondence received from	Subject of correspondence
Thomas Reynolds (South Staffordshire Council)	Residents' Survey
Charlotte Billingham (South Staffordshire Council)	Validated Planning Applications- 16th- 22nd October 2023
Gavin Williamson (MP)	My Westminster Update
Dylan Murray (RBL)	Final Reminder: Last chance to Order for Remembrance 2023
Traffic and Network Management (South Staffordshire Council)	Temporary Road Closure Order - Lutley Lane, Bobbington
Charlotte Billingham (South Staffordshire Council)	Validated Planning Applications- 23rd- 29th October 2023
Gavin Williamson (MP)	Staffordshire Update
Traffic and Network Management (South Staffordshire Council)	Temporary Road Closure Notice - Six Ashes Road, Six Ashes
Caroline Firkins (Staffordshire Fire and Rescue)	Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service - Support the Launch of our Safety Plan Consultation
Lindsay Beddows (South Staffordshire Council)	Remembrance Day 2023

Gavin Williamson (MP)	When it comes to housing, local communities know best
Charlotte Billingham (South Staffordshire Council)	List of validated applications - 30 Oct - 06 Nov 2023
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association	Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023
Charlotte Billingham (South Staffordshire Council)	Validated Planning Applications- 6th-12th November 2023

44/23. Any other business to be raised in the next agenda.

No items have been raised.

45/23. To confirm the date of the next meeting to be the 17th of January 2024.

The council confirmed the date of the next meeting to be the 17th of January 2024

The meeting was closed at 20.19.