

Bobbington Parish Council

Minutes of the full council meeting held on the 20th of September 2023 held in Bobbington Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Burton, Cllr Snelson, Cllr Stanton, and Cllr Hadgett.

In Attendance: Clerk – C Martin

16/23 To receive apologies for absence.

The council noted that Cllr Jones, Cllr Rees, Cllr Slater and Cllr Wilson sent apologies for absence.

17/23 To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

No declarations were raised.

18/23 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19th of July 2023 (Appendix One)

The council reviewed the minutes of the meeting dated the 19th of July 2023. Cllr Stanton proposed to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting subject to corrections. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hadgett and agreed unanimously by the council.

19/23 Matters arising from the minutes: -

No matters were raised.

20/23 Churchyard capacity

Cllr Stanton updated the council on the progress that has been made since the previous meeting. The churchyard is able to rebury/reuse land subject to certain conditions. The church has identified an area where they can create additional space before resorting to this option, but this will involve cutting back an overgrown hedge and clearing undergrowth. The Parish Council were asked if they could assist in removing and disposing of the green waste after clearance and the Chair agreed in principle that this could be done but would like to see a plan showing the location of the space. Cllr Stanton will ask the organisers to draw up an official plan for our records.

21/23 Highway Matters

Cllr Jones sent the following comments regarding highway matters; I had a call from a resident who had sustained damage to his car from a tree protruding into the road, by the Vineyard. He had contacted Highways who told him it was a matter for the landowner, not them. He had contacted me to find out who the landowner is. I explained to him the issues we have been having with Highways in resolving the visibility splays in that area and advised him to contact Victoria Wilson to get resolution. He was extremely grateful and has not contacted me since.

a. Flooding - a review of problem areas

i. The brook adjacent to the Glebelands,

Cllr Snelson summarised that the letters have been sent and there is no further action for the council to take. This item is to be removed.

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ii. Six Ashes Road

Needs to be removed, no further action can be taken in regard to this.

iii. Church Lane

Cllr Hadgett summarised that the road has been marked out some time ago and no further action has been made. Cllr Hadgett raised this as an issue to report to Cllr Wilson.

22/23 Friends of Bobbington

No meeting is planned.

23/23 Airfield Matters

Cllr Snelson read aloud Cllr Jones comments in regard to Airfield matters which were as follows: I had an anonymous call from a member of the public complaining about the destruction of trees and wildlife habitat at the airport, demanding that the parish council take action. I advised him we would report it to enforcement which Chloe has done. We have not had any further evidence to provide to enforcement of the damage. I have emailed Victoria Wilson to advise her of the complaint.

Cllr Snelson updated that the council that Cllr Slater asked the district council if there are any TPO's on trees at the airfield and there were none on record. No further actions can be taken by the council at this time.

24/23 Reports from Committee Representatives:

a. Corbett School

Cllr Burton (see the email)

b. Bobbington Village Hall

No updates have been received.

c. Holy Cross Church

Cllr Stanton reported that the church is planning a dedication of a crab apple tree that was planted for the Platinum Jubilee at the Remembrance Day service in November. The council also briefly discussed the plaque for the late Dawn Kellett, as this used to be on the bench around the old tree. The bench has not yet been replaced and the plaque will be reinstated when a new bench is put in place.

d. Community speed watch

Cllr Burton updated the council that volunteer availability has been requested so that Cllr Burton can organise future speed watch events.

e. Health and wellbeing

No updates at present.

f. Crime report

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No updates at present.

25/23 Public Question time

No members of the public were present.

26/23 Finance: -

a. Cheques (to be detailed in the minutes)

Table of Payments	
Recipient	Payment Amount
Clerk Salary & Expenses (CM)	Salary £179.36 Expenses £24.30 (Cheque Total: £203.66)
HMRC (CM)	£44.80

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

b. Any additional cheques that need to be raised following discussion of agenda items.

No additional cheques were raised.

27/23 Planning Matters:

- a. Received
No planning applications have been received.
- b. Received & responded to:
No planning applications have been received.

A planning application correspondence was received earlier today, the councillors will be given additional time to make informed decisions and the clerk will comment if necessary.

28/23 Correspondence

- a. Airport Complaint – An anonymous complaint received in regard to airport activities has been received.
This was addressed under item 23/23.
- b. Blakelands Country House – fireworks request
The council noted the correspondence.
- c. Staffordshire County Council - Concessionary Travel
The council noted the correspondence.

The clerk received correspondence in relation to the Christmas Fayre, Cllr Snelson summarised the correspondence, the PTA treasurer contacted the council to ask if they would be interested in supporting a Bobbington Light Switch on. The treasurer will be contacted to ask for further information and what they would need from the parish council.

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29 To discuss the agenda item 'any other business'.

The clerk summarised that whilst Any Other business is not illegal, it is not best practice for Councils to have this on their agendas. All agendas should be transparent so elected members and members of the public can look at the agenda and understand what business/decisions are being discussed when the agenda is published.

This enables members of the Council to ask questions/look into the agenda items before attending the meeting so they are fully informed, in addition members of the public may come to the meeting to listen to the debate and may have comments to make in public participation. If items are discussed under any other business, this clarity/right is denied. Best practice would be to have items for future agendas where topics can be raised, support for the topic can be agreed and then placed on the next agenda for discussion and a decision to be made. This ensures that members of the council and public are aware of all business to be discussed.

The council discussed the clerk's advice and decided that whilst they understood the need for clarity they would like to keep the heading but expand on the title, the clerk will henceforth label this agenda item as 'Any other business to be raised on the next agenda'.

Cllr Burton requested that the internet upgrade as discussed in the July meeting, be put on the forward action plan. Cllr Burton also updated the number of pledges necessary to ensure the upgrade has been reached but not yet validated, Cllr Burton will provide updates when further progress has been made.

Cllr Burton updated the council on the state of the bus stop, as this is in need of repair. Cllr Snelson and Cllr Burton are organising the repair of the bus stop.

30/23 To confirm the date of next Parish Council meeting to be the 18th of October 2023.

The council noted the date of the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.30.