

BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at Bobbington Village Hall.

| Name : | Present |
|--|----------------|
| Cllr L Jones (Chair) | ✓ |
| Cllr A Burton | ✓ |
| Cllr S Hadgett | ✓ |
| Cllr A Perry | ✓ |
| Cllr M Slater | ✓ |
| Cllr M Snelson (Chair) | ✓ |
| Cllr J Stanton (Acting as Clerk) | ✓ |
| Cllr V Wilson | A |
| ✓ = Present A = Apologies X = Absent | |

62/23 Apologies for Absence

As recorded above.

63/23 Declarations of Interest in Accordance with the Local Government Act 2000

Cllr M Snelson and Cllr M Slater – Agenda item 13.a.i. Planning Application 24/00050/COU

Cllr A Perry – Agenda item 12.ii Halfpenny Green Air Scouts

64/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Parish Council, were accepted as a true record. Proposer Cllr A Burton, motion seconded by Cllr S Hadgett .

65/23 Appointment to Councillor Vacancy

No nominations had been received in response to the advertisement for the vacancy of Parish Councillor, therefore it was agreed that Mr Adrian Perry could be co-opted to the post. The motion for his appointment was proposed by Cllr A Burton and seconded by Cllr S Hadgett. Details of his appointment are to be forwarded to South Staffordshire Council (SSC), together with the completed and signed documentation.

66/23 Matters Arising From the Minutes

None identified

67/23 Churchyard Capacity

As discussed at the previous meeting, a formal response had been sent to the PCC outlining what was believed to be the position around the creation of additional burial plots. This communication had been acknowledged and the following response received.

Thank you for your email of 26th January sent to Revd. Richard regarding the churchyard capacity, and I confirm that you are correct in the details you describe passed on to you from Jane. However, although a possibility, it cannot be a foregone conclusion that the old area of the churchyard can be used as it will depend on results of 'rodding' and whether old bones are encountered, as described in the Diocesan guidance notes.

The P.C.C. is very grateful for the help offered with disposal of cutting back the overgrown area.

Whilst writing, the suggestion of a nature camera rather than CCTV is still on the agenda for the churchyard and it's been suggested I enquire if any Parish Councillor has any knowledge or expertise in this direction which they could pass on please?

Cllr J Stanton advised that since this communication a further e-mail had been received reporting that work had now started on clearing one of the areas identified and as agreed, the green waste had been thrown over the wall for removal by the landowner. Cllr M Slater asked the Clerk to contact the PCC to explain that the waste would be removed in the spring when the ground had dried sufficiently to allow access.

In regard to providing assistance in the identification of a suitable nature camera, Cllr A Perry indicated that he was aware of a local resident that had some expertise in this area. It was left that Cllr Perry would speak with his contact and ask if he could liaise directly with the PCC on this issue.

It was agreed that these issues had been satisfactorily resolved and could now be considered as closed.

68/23 Highway Matters

a. Flooding

Following further heavy rainfall there had been significant flooding again from surface water on Six Ashes Road. Highways were aware of the problems, including water rising up through the tarmac surface, and investigation work was expected to take place. However, the continual running water was contributing to more potholes opening up along the length of the road.

b. Church Road and Crab Lane

The recent heavy rainfall had also resulted in extensive flooding in Crab Lane, near the junction with Leaton Lane. Following several dry days, the water had still not receded and Cllr M Snelson advised that he had been to look at the problem and found that the drains had become blocked with mud. The extent of the flooding posed a hazard to motorists and Cllr Snelson reported that a car had become stuck on the grass verge when trying to traverse the water. The flooding in this area had been reported to Highways.

The road works on Church Lane had now been completed, but it had been observed that the patches where new tarmac had been laid were not sealed and therefore liable to break down again from water ingress.

c. Visibility Splays Tom Lane

Cllr M Snelson reported that he had been in conversation with the owner of the Vineyard in regard to the visibility splay near the estate and he had advised that no information could be found on the compulsory purchase of the land. In order to resolve the situation, Cllr Snelson had verbally agreed with Mr Vickers that he would arrange for clearance of the verge, whilst Mr Vickers would cover the cost of the chipper to dispose of the waste.

d. Speed Indication Devices

An e-mail had been received from SSC advising that the sites put forward by Parish Councils for the deployment of speed indication devices was being

evaluated and a priority list drawn up. The Chair was doubtful whether the original request for nomination of deployment sites had actually been received and requested that the Clerk contact the SSC to ask for clarification if Bobbington was included.

69/23 Friends of Bobbington

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Friends of Bobbington would go ahead in March and that a message should be circulated on the WhatsApp group to alert members to the proposed date of Saturday 23rd March.

70/23 Airfield Matters

No information had been received from the new owners of the airport to indicate whether the Consultative Committee meetings would be reinstated. Cllr V Wilson had been asked to investigate with South Staffordshire Council if these meetings were compulsory, but as yet no response had been received. It had also been observed that an area of the airport was now being used for caravan storage and it was questioned whether this was permitted, as it was not aviation related business. The Clerk was asked to follow up with Cllr Wilson on both of these issues.

71/23 Reports from Committee Representatives

a. Corbett School

Cllr A Burton read out a report received from the Headteacher of Corbett School.

Grounds: The damaged soft tarmac ground covering by the trim trail has been replaced and the children are very pleased to be able to use it again.

Events: Our KS2 children enjoyed a pentathlon event led by our small schools' sports coach.

One of our parents has also been in to talk to the children about her Sikh faith which the children thoroughly enjoyed - asking her a lot of questions related to their learning. We were proud of how much they had learnt and how curious they were to know more.

Safer internet day was marked by age appropriate lessons all about online safety across the school - this is a very important area for us to teach the children about as part of our safeguarding curriculum.

The local 'Open the book' team of volunteers from local churches has led our collective worship, acting out Bible stories for us which the children really value. We are enjoying reflecting on a different positive action to try and do each day during Lent.

The PTA have been busy selling Easter crafts and pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and have a lot of Easter themed events planned for us to look forward to. Details of further events can be found on our website and in our bi-weekly newsletters.

We do have a few 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 are very keen to promote the school more widely and raise our profile. We have had some new children to the school community indicate they will be joining us in Reception in September which is lovely.

We are looking forward to the choir attending the huge Young Voices event at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham this Friday! It has come round quickly and the children are getting very excited.

We have parents' evenings coming up next week and we are looking forward to welcoming parents into school.

b. Bobbington Village Hall

Cllr J Stanton reported the Village Hall Committee had organised for a drain survey to be carried out to investigate a historic issue with drainage. It was hoped that this would take place in the next couple of weeks.

c. Holy Cross Church

No further update received.

d. Community Speed Watch

Cllr A Burton reported that no activity has taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

e. Health and Wellbeing

Cllr S Hadgett advised that there was nothing of note to report. However, he would follow up on an e-mail received from SSC advising of grants available for projects via a Community Wellbeing Fund.

f. Crime Report

The Committee received a Police Report detailing crime and anti-social behaviour in the Bobbington area between 16 January 2024 to 20 February 2024.

Burglary (residential)

- None.

Burglary (business)

- None

Vehicle Crime

- Between 01/12/2023 – 24/01/2024, unknown persons have stolen ignition keys and technical logs from airplanes stored at the airport. Sadly, no witnesses and no CCTV.
- On 09/02/2024, a male is alleged to have thrown a tool (possibly a garden rake) at a passing motorist driving along Six Ashes Road, causing damage to the motorists' van – enquiries ongoing.

Anti-social Behaviour

- None

Policing Operations of Note

- Due to the vehicle crime reported within the locality, our Bormus team have been covering Wombourne and the surround areas over the past month. The team will continue to support local patrols over the coming weeks

g. South Staffordshire Locality Forum

The Agenda and electronic link to the next Virtual Localities Forum on 29th March had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr M Snelson indicated that he would try to attend to represent Bobbington.

72/23 Public Question Time

No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting

73/23 Finance

a. Annual Precept and Budget 2024/25

The draft Precept Accounts and Budget, having previously been circulated to each member of the Parish Council for review, were approved. The uplift for 2024/25 was agreed at 4.9%

Proposer, Cllr A Burton, motion seconded by Cllr S Hadgett.

b. Clerks Salary

Following the resignation of the Clerk in January, her final salary as detailed in the Table of Payments below, had now been made.

Proposer Cllr M Snelson, seconded by Cllr J Stanton.

c. Data Protection Fee

Notification had been received that the Data Protection renewal fee of £35.00 due for payment on or before 13 March 2024 was to be collected via Direct Debit.

d. Annual Donations

Annual donations made under section S137 to

- Corbett School
- Halfpenny Green Air Scouts

It was agreed that for now only the donation to Halfpenny Green Air Scouts would be made and that to Corbett School would be reviewed at a later date.

e. Cheques/Payments

Payments were approved as follows

Clerk Salary and HMRC – proposed by Cllr M Snelson, seconded by Cllr J Stanton.

Data Protection Fee and Halfpenny Green Air Scouts – Proposed by Cllr M Snelson, seconded by Cllr A Burton

| Table of payments | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Recipient | Payment amount |
| Clerk Salary and Expenses (CM) | £179.36 |
| HMRC (CM) | £44.80 |
| Data Protection Fee | £35.00 |
| Halfpenny Green Air Scouts (S137) | £250.00 |
| | |

74/23 Planning Matters

a. Received

- (i) 24/00050/COU Former car park south off Crab Lane The application is for the reuse of a former car park to be used as use B8 (storage and distribution) and for the siting of storage containers to be used for storage only by third parties.

No objections in principle to this application. It is noted that the site is within the Green Belt, but the storage facility will be sufficiently screened by trees and therefore it should not have a detrimental effect on the area. However, there are concerns about security, because of the remoteness of the site. The Parish Council request that the facility is well secured and covered by 24 hr CCTV.

- (ii) 23/01010/FUL Reconfiguration and refurbishment of airport tower and replacement and extension of first floor balcony and walkways/external staircase.

No Objections

b. Received and Responded to

None

c. Outcomes

23/01023/FUL – 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.
Decision- Approved with conditions.

75/23 Correspondence

| List of correspondence distributed to Councillors via email: | |
|---|---|
| Correspondence received from | Subject of correspondence |
| SPCA (Ian Cruise Taylor) | S137 uplift |
| SS Council (Narinder Reehal) | Parish news roundup 338 |
| Gavin Williamson | My Westminster Update: Boosting Staffordshire Transport |
| SPCA (Ian Cruise Taylor) | SPCA staffing update |
| Gavin Williamson | My Staffordshire Update 12 Jan |
| SS Council (Narinder Reehal) | Parish news roundup 337 |
| SS Council (Narinder Reehal) | Parish news roundup 339 |
| Gavin Williamson | My Staffordshire Update 25 Jan |
| SS Council (Thomas Reynolds) | Focus group sessions |
| Society of local council clerks (Helen Quick) | Engage everyone in your community themed summit |
| SSC (Scot Whitehouse) | What's on in February Staffordshire Libraries |
| SSC Traffic and Network Management | 4357624 - Temporary Road Closure Order - Gospel Ash Road, Halfpenny Green |
| SPCA Ian Cruise-Taylor | Model Contract of Employment for Councils |
| SPCA Ian Cruise-Taylor | 2024 Royal Garden Party Allocations |
| SPCA Ian Cruise-Taylor | Be a Better Councillor Training |
| SPCA Ian Cruise-Taylor | Clerk and Councillor Training Courses, Feb 2024 |
| SPCA | New 24/7 advice line to access hospice care |
| D Jackson, INPD Training | Resilient Leader Programme CMI7 |
| Information Commissioners Office | Data Protection Fee |
| SPCA | Best Kept Village 2024 |
| Andrew Aston | Speed Indication Devices |
| SSC (Narinder Reehal) | Parish Council Roundup 340 |
| SSC (Charlotte Billingham) | Validated Planning Applications 29 Jan-4 Feb |
| NFP Workshops | NFP Workshops February 2024 |
| SSC Planning | Consultation Letter 24/00050/COU |
| Ordnance Survey UK | Survey |
| Gavin Williamson | My Westminster Update 05 February |
| Jane Southall | Holy Cross Churchyard Capacity |
| SSC (Alex Evans) | Request for Parish Events Information |

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| Community Foundation for Staffordshire | New Grants Available Across Staffordshire |
| SSC Traffic and Network Management | 4351990 - Temporary Road Closure Notice - Six Ashes Road, Bobbington |
| SSC | Residents Roundup 341 |
| SSC (Thomas Reynolds) | Discover South Staffordshire |
| SPCA Ian Cruise-Taylor | Update of SPCA Records |
| SPCA Ian Cruise-Taylor | SPCA Bulletin 14 Feb |
| Cllr David Williams Staffordshire CC | Poor Control of Highway Maintenance |
| Alison Long SSC | Virtual Locality Forum 29 Feb |
| Gavin Williamson | My Staffordshire Update 15 Feb |
| SSC (Narinder Reehal) | Parish Council News Roundup 342 |
| SSC Traffic and Network Management | 4365235 Temporary Road Closure Notice -Tuck Hill |
| SSC (T Reynolds) | Community Wellbeing Funding |

76/23 Any Other Business to be Raised in Next Agenda

Appointment of new Clerk.

77/23 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Bobbington Village Hall.