

BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at Bobbington Village Hall.

Name :	Present
Cllr M Snelson (Chair)	✓
Cllr A Burton	✓
Cllr S Hadgett	✓
Cllr L Jones (joined at 19.50)	✓
Cllr R Reide	A
Cllr M Slater	A
Cllr V Wilson	✓
Cllr J Stanton (Acting as Clerk)	✓
One member of the public	
✓ = Present A = Apologies X = Absent	

46/23 Apologies for Absence

As recorded above.

47/23 Declarations of Interest in Accordance with the Local Government Act 2000

None raised

48/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Parish Council, were accepted as a true record. Proposer Cllr S Hadgett, motion seconded by Cllr A Burton.

49/23 Councillor Resignation and Appointment to Vacancy

The Chair reported that Cllr I Rees had resigned her position on the Parish Council on 24 November 2024 and in accordance with the Local Government Act, the Clerk had advertised the vacancy. The closing date for nominations had been set as 20 December 2023, but as yet it was unknown if there had been any interest registered. Cllr V Wilson suggested that the Clerk contact the Returning Officer at South Staffordshire Council to check if any nominations had been received and if not, then the Parish Council could go ahead and co-opt a suitable candidate to the role.

An expression of interest was received from a Parishioner in attendance at the meeting and it was agreed that if the Returning Officer confirmed no other nominations, then Mr Perry could be co-opted to the vacancy at the February meeting.

50/23 Matters Arising From the Minutes

a. Bobbington Parish Council Standing Orders

It had been noted at the previous meeting that a copy of the Standing Orders was not available on the Parish Council website. A copy of this document had subsequently been circulated to Councillors by the Clerk, but this still needed to be uploaded to the web.

b. Open Reach Update

A communication had been received from the Partnership Manager of Openreach, details as follows.

As it currently stands, we have achieved our target which is excellent so a big thank you to everyone who has supported the scheme.

In terms of build, we have started to survey the area so you may have seen our engineers and contractors out and about recently. Our build will continue in the new year and we hope to have the first premises enabled with ultrafast full fibre services in the summer. Once the surveys are returned, we'll have a better picture in terms of timescales.

Our pledge site [Connect My Community \(openreach.com\)](https://openreach.com) is still open so anyone who hasn't pledged can still do so. Whilst we have started to build the network, a key part of the build is to make sure that no one is left behind so therefore a pledge confirms that people want the service and a commitment for Openreach to build. This is especially important for any properties that live on the edge/fringe of the exchange boundary so it would be great if you could reach out to any people you might know in those areas.

Another key element is getting people to validate their voucher once they receive the Government email. So far, we have only received 75 validations out of the 116 pledges received so again grateful if you could help remind people to check their emails and verify their vouchers.

c. Localities Forum Tier 3

The next Virtual Locality Forum has been scheduled for 29 February 2024 at 18.00 hours via Microsoft Teams. Cllr V Wilson reported that the agenda for the meeting has not yet been set, so it was agreed that this item should be carried over to the next Parish Council meeting, when it will be decided who will attend on behalf of Bobbington.

51/23 Churchyard Capacity

As requested at the previous Parish Council meeting, the Clerk had prepared a formal response to the PCC confirming what is believed to be the agreed position in regard to creating additional burial plots. This letter had been circulated to Councillors for comment, but Cllr M Snelson summarised its content.

It was agreed that the letter addressed all of the salient points and that other than changing the signatory to that of Cllr L Jones, Chair of the Parish Council, it should be forwarded to the PCC for them to review and confirm. Cllr L Jones advised that she would make the amendments and send out the letter and associated hand drawn map using the Clerk's e-mail account.

52/23 Highway Matters

a. Flooding

There had been significant flooding from surface water on Six Ashes Road during the heavy rainfall of early January. As on previous occasions, water had been observed bubbling up through the tarmac and flowing fast down the road towards the village. Here it had overwhelmed drains and necessitated residents to take action to prevent damage to property.

As this only happened when it rains, Cllr M Snelson thought that the cause was due to an old drainage system with inadequate capacity and maybe a collapsed pipe. Cllr V Wilson said that she would report this to Highways and look in to work possibly being carried out through DHP funding. She would also contact the flood risk team to find out if they were aware of where the drains are in this area.

b. Church Lane

It was noted that Church Lane was currently closed for road repairs. However it was unclear whether the pot holes at the junction of Church Lane and Six Ashes Road were to be included in the work. Markings on the junction appeared to suggest that they would not. These potholes had been filled only a few weeks previously, but the repair was poor and had already broken down. Cllr V Wilson indicated that this may have been a temporary repair and that the work would be undertaken as part of the Church Road programme of repairs.

c. Visibility Splays Tom Lane

Cllr M Snelson advised that he had received no response from the owner from whom the land was compulsory purchased by the Council in the 1980s to create the splays. Cllr V Wilson suggested that he speak with Cllr Robert Reade, as he too had recently been looking into land that had been compulsory purchased by the Council and he may be able to provide some assistance.

Cllr L Jones reported that the section of Tom Lane near to the Vineyard had developed several large potholes, one of which was particularly deep and a safety hazard for motorists. There followed a discussion on the general poor state of the roads around the village. Cllr V Wilson encouraged Councillors and the public to report any issues via the online system and repair work would be scheduled according to the category of the defect.

53/23 Friends of Bobbington

No further meetings of the Friends of Bobbington are planned until March 2024.

54/23 Airfield Matters

Since the airport was taken over by the Pegasus Group in August last year, there had been no meetings of the Consultative Committee. Cllr M Snelson said it was his recollection that it was a statutory requirement that these meetings be held on a regular basis, attended by Council representatives and other relevant stakeholders. It was agreed that these meetings were invaluable for providing an overview on airport activity and Cllr V Wilson was asked to investigate with the Local Authority if indeed these meetings were compulsory.

55/23 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 is being replaced this week.

Events: Christmas was a very busy time last half term with our Nativity, led by our EYFS and KS1 children, as well as a pantomime, performed by our KS2 children. This was for one year only in appreciation of them not being able to perform a Nativity during Covid times when they were in Y2. The children made us very proud, performing confidently and with great enthusiasm.

We also enjoyed carols on the playground with our parents and carers, and a lovely visit from the Rotary Santa. Our PTA ran parties for all of the children and we had a delicious Christmas dinner together. The PTA also fully funded a

whole school visit to see Snow White at the Wolverhampton Grand which was very enjoyable for all ages.

Our parent led toddler group meets on a Thursday morning and is growing in popularity. 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 are very keen to promote the school more widely and raise our profile.

The PTA have signed up to the ambitious project of resurfacing and resourcing our main playground as the surface is in need of attention. As we have invested in new books for our library, the playground has become our more urgent focus for all of the children to enjoy longer term. They are preparing to share their fundraising strategy and I am sure we will be keeping you updated!

We are looking forward to the choir attending the huge Young Voices event in Birmingham in February, and we are also looking forward to a pentathlon event on Monday which is being organised by our small school's sports representative. We will also be taking part in an athletics event in February.

We have parents' evenings coming up at the end of February and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our parents and carers to support the children's progress. Many thanks to everyone for their ongoing interest and support for the school.

b. Bobbington Village Hall

Cllr J Stanton reported that the Village Hall Committee is actively looking for a new Booking Clerk, as the current Clerk wishes to resign the post. The Committee is also seeking new members to join the management team.

c. Holy Cross Church

No 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

No updates at present.

f. Crime Report

The Committee received a verbal update from PCSO Paula Wilkes detailing crime and anti-social behaviour in the Bobbington area between 20 November 2023 to 15 January 2024.

Burglary (residential)

- On 2/12/2023 offenders accessed a property on Manor Lane via unknown means. Vehicle keys were taken, however no vehicle stolen. Forensic team attended – investigation ongoing.
- On 13/01/2024 tools and equipment were stolen from an outbuilding at a property on Lutley Lane. Locks had been broken from the outbuilding and chainsaws and other power tools were taken.

Burglary (business)

- None

Vehicle Crime

- On 13/12/2023 a Ford Ranger Wildtrak in grey was stolen from Six Ashes Road. The vehicle was located on West Midlands Force area on 14/12/23 and has been forensically examined by Staffordshire Police.
- On 13/12/2023 between 14.45 hrs – 15.15 hrs offenders accessed a secure unattended Land Rover Defender parked in Six Ashes Road. Offenders took a wallet containing £1,500 from within. Believed linked to the theft of the Ford Ranger Wildtrak.

Anyi-social Behaviour

- None

Policing Operations of Note

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

56/23 Public Question Time

No questions raised.

57/23 Finance

a. Cheques

Table of payments	
Recipient	Payment amount
Clerk Salary and Expenses (CM)	To be confirmed
HMRC (CM)	To be confirmed
Staffordshire Council – Web site hosting fee	£125.00

The Clerk salary, expenses and payment to HMRC was unresolved and carried over to the February meeting, as the Clerk was not in attendance to confirm the amount.

Payment to Staffordshire Council for the Website hosting fee was proposed by Cllr L Jones and seconded by Cllr A Burton

b. Budget 2024/25

The Clerk had prepared and circulated accounts for the period ending 31 December 2023, together with a draft budget for 2024-25 and a comparison of the 2022-23 budget with actual expenditure.

The draft Precept Accounts and proposed Budget were reviewed and discussed. Doubts were raised as to whether the Parish Council should continue to subscribe to Parish Online, as there had been no recent activity on the site. Questions were also asked around the mechanism for payment of the Village Hall Booking Clerk and the potential reduction in the support for the maintenance of the churchyard. It was agreed that the Budget documents should be updated and re-presented for approval

58/23 Planning Matters

a. Received

23/01023/FUL – Change of Use of office building east of Lutley Lane, Bobbington, Stourbridge DY7 5DE falling within Class E (Formerly B1(a)) to use as two dwelling houses within Class C3 (dwelling house) in association with the existing use on site.

b. Received and Responded to

23/00929/FUL – Brantley Lane, Bobbington

Objection on the grounds that the reasons for dismissal of the previous application remain relevant.

Outcome – Refused.

23/01023/FUL – Lutley Lane, Bobbington

No objection, but restriction on use by farm workers only

c. Plans Received after Publication of the Agenda

None

59/23 Correspondence

List of correspondence distributed to Councillors via email:	
Correspondence received from	Subject of correspondence
Sabrina Dalvair (South Staffs)	Warmer Homes Scheme leaflet
Charlotte Billingham (South Staffordshire Council)	Validated Planning Applications
Gavin Williamson (MP)	Staffordshire update
Ian Cruise-Taylor (SPCA)	SPCA bulletin – December and January
Victoria Wison (South Staffs)	Community Strategy survey
Traffic and Network Management (South Staffordshire Council)	Temporary Road Closure Order - Six Ashes Road, Bobbington - School Road, Trysull
VAST	Funding Opportunities for the Voluntary Sector
Scott Whitehouse (Staffordshire Library and Arts Service)	South Staffordshire Libraries Newsletter
Robert Rowan (Openreach)	Openreach work in Bobbington update
Ben Long (South Staffs)	General Election recruitment
Scott Whitehouse (Staffordshire Library and Arts Service)	What's happening at your library in the new year
Bob Taylor (Street Scene, South Staffs)	Annual shrub prune order
Michelle Shaker (Staffordshire Police)	Note of thanks for CSW

60/23 Any Other Business to be Raised in Next Agenda

Co-option to the vacancy of Parish Councillor.

61/23 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Bobbington Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.05 hours.