

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 7.30pm at Halfpenny Green Wine Estate, Bobbington.

Present: Cllr L. Jones (Chair), Cllr M. Snelson (Vice Chair), Cllr A. Perry, Cllr A. Burton, Cllr M. Slater, Cllr J. Stanton, Cllr S. Hadgett

Guests in Attendance: 3

Public in Attendance: 3

Minute Taker & Clerk: Kate Pritchard, clerk@bobbington.staffslc.gov.uk

24/094. Apologies: None

24/095. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: Cllr R. Reade declared an interest in agenda item 24/104 due to his role on the planning committee.

24/096. Minutes: It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2024, having been circulated, be confirmed, and signed as a correct record.

24/097. Matters arising from the Minutes: Matters were NOTED.

Tom Lane hedge update: Cllr V. Wilson has been chasing the street scene team for an update. **ACTION:** Parish Council have requested a formal complaint is filed. Cllr V. Wilson to provide complaints officer details. Clerk to draft a complaint letter and circulate to the Parish Council for authorisation.

Bus shelter – the structure has been repaired. Further work to be done on the roof. **ACTION:** Cllr A. Perry and Cllr M. Slater.

Style – the style in the field requires installation. **ACTION:** Cllr M. Snelson

24/098. Highway Matters:

- a) The update for the damaged road sign on Six Ashes Road between 97-103 was NOTED.
- b) Pot hole on Six Ashes, reference number: was NOTED.

Further Highways Matters Raised:

Highways update from Cllr V. Wilson: Tom Lane sign to be replaced and is ordered. Bobbington signs to be cleaned, and the area outside the post office to be tidied.

Cllr V. Wilson provided a list of work that has been done in Bobbington since January 2024: Six Ashes road has been completed, 11 pot hole works completed on Halfpenny Green, 23 pot hole works carried out on Six Ashes road, 10 jetting jobs, 1 CCTV sent out, lining work on 1 carriageway, 3 dig down drainage works, 3 footway patches, 9 jetting jobs, 1 replacement gully cover, and 3 replacement manhole covers. **ACTION:** Clerk to post the “report it” website on face book and the website.

Cllr S. Hadgett advised the car debris on the verge of Crab Lane, has been reported as littering.

24/099. Friends of Bobbington: The Council RESOLVED to postpone until January 2025 meeting.

24/100. Airfield Matters: Cllr A. Perry advised normal operations continue. **ACTION:** Clerk to compile a list of Local Parish Council Clerks, to be circulated to Councillors.

24/101. Reports from Committee Representatives:

Corbett School: Nothing to report.

Bobbington Village Hall: The drainage has been repaired and the village hall door was replaced after car damage.

Holy Cross Church: The Church has sent the following planned services:

- Sunday 8th December Christingle service 10am - Air scouts in attendance, school to be invited to join if they wish
- Tuesday 10th December Community Carol and lessons service 7.30pm. Refreshments after service
- Sunday 22nd December 10.00am Holy Communion service
- 24th December, Christmas eve crib service 3pm - will be followed by shortened Holy communion for those who wish to stay.

Residents attended the church meeting in October. Another meeting to be held on 2nd December. Ongoing issues were discussed. Church requires 15 members of the congregation to attend, around 5 people currently attend. Members of the public raised ideas to bring more people to the church and services.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate the relationship between the Parish Council, diocese and the Church.

Community Speed watch: At present, Mandy Hales is the contact for Community Speed Watch as Michelle is currently off work and will hopefully be returning in the New Year. Mandy checked the stats for the Bobbington Community Speed Watch and this year to date there have not been any community speed watch sessions in the area. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward email to Cllr A. Perry.

Health and Wellbeing: Nothing to report.

Crime Report: Nothing to report. **ACTION:** Clerk to request the personal alarms from SSDC.

Parish Summit: Cllr S. Hadgett attended in November 2024.

South Staffordshire Locality Forum: Thursday 28th November 6pm, link sent to Cllrs on 17/10. **ACTION:** Clerk to send the link to Cllr J. Stanton. Next Locality forum is Thursday 27th February 10:00-12:00

National Network - Micro Councils: The selection for the second chair for 2024-25 was opened, however there were no volunteers. Interested candidates should email chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk. The network then received a verbal update on Rural Services Network initial views on the new government's rural programme and its potential implications for services in rural areas. There was a section of sharing good practice and an open forum where the network chair received any relevant updates or queries of interest from attending network members.

24/102. Public Question Time:

A resident raised the issue of large farming vehicles eroding the roads around Bobbington and passing the school during drop off and pick up times.

A resident raised the issue of fly tipping, electric bikes and anti-social behaviour along Watery Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to report to community police & advise proximity to the airport and suspected County lines activity.

24/ 103. Financial Matters:

- a) The Council RESOLVED to approve the accounts and bank reconciliation to 31st October 2024.
- b) The Council RESOLVED to move the draft budget 2025 – 2026 approval to the January meeting. It was RESOLVED to approve £250 to be added to the election fund instead of £500. £2,250 to be set as an Election Fund Earmarked Reserve. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact Holy Cross Church to request a copy of accounts for the Parish Council to understand how the grounds maintenance donation is used. It was RESOLVED to approve S137 budget to be reduced to £350.
- c) The Council thanked the auditor for volunteering to audit the accounts, and as a token of the Council’s appreciation the council asked the clerk to buy a thank you gift (bunch of flowers/ bottle of wine) for his time as he won't accept payment. This was NOTED.
- d) The Council RESOLVED to review the annual S137 contribution for the booking clerk Sarah of Bobbington Village Hall in January 2025.
- e) The local government, pay award for 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 was NOTED.

24/104. Planning:

a) To consider new application/s:

Reference	Address	Details	Bobbington Parish Council comment	SSC decision
24/00825/FULHH	The Summer House Long Common Claverley WOLVERHAMPTON WV5 7AX	Proposed demolition of existing domestic outbuildings and replacement with new detached garage.	No objection. Comment submitted 14.10.24 The Parish Council do not object to the application for a detached garage. However, the Council would object if this was to be used as a residential dwelling in the future.	Awaiting decision

b) To report decisions on previous applications:

Reference	Address	Details	W&H comment	SSC decision
24/00645/TTREE	Sundown Church Lane Bobbington STOURBRIDGE DY7 5DH	TPO 60.1981: Ash (G1) - dismantle and remove	No objection.	Awaiting decision

24/105. Clerk Report: The Clerk Report was NOTED.

24/106. Correspondence: The Correspondence list for September/ October/ November 2024 was NOTED.

24/107. Code of Conduct Training: The Council NOTED the code of conduct training has been completed by the following Councillors:

- Cllr L. Jones

- Cllr A. Burton
- Cllr J. Stanton
- Cllr S. Hadgett

ACTION: Cllr M. Slater, Cllr M. Snelson and Cllr A. Perry to complete the training.

24/108. Civility and Respect Pledge: To review the NALC pledge and the criteria as follows:

- a) The Council RESOLVED to agree that it will treat all Councillors, Clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.
- b) The Council RESOLVED to put in place a training programme for Councillors and Staff.
- c) The Council RESOLVED to sign up to Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- d) The Council RESOLVED to have good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and Dignity at Work policy to be adopted January 2025.
- e) The Council RESOLVED to commit to seeking professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- f) The Council RESOLVED to commit to calling out bullying and harassment if it happens.
- g) The Council RESOLVED to continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model.
- h) The Council RESOLVED to support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

ACTION: Clerk to ensure Bobbington Parish Council is added to the NALC list of Organisations who have made the pledge and upload to the website.

24/109. Policies:

- a) It was RESOLVED to approve the Scheme of Delegation.
- b) It was RESOLVED to adopt the Lone Working Policy.
- c) It was RESOLVED to approve the Standing Orders once the amendments raised in meeting had been actioned. **ACTION:** Clerk to amend pronouns to gender neutral.

24/110. Any other business discussion:

The defibrillator at the Red Lion was discussed.

The maintenance of the brook was discussed.

24/111. Items for future meeting: To approve the draft budget and precept 2025 – 2026, Policy reviews: Publication Scheme (previously social media policy), Policies to be adopted: Financial Regulations, Statement of Internal Controls and an annual review of the effectiveness of internal controls. Items were NOTED.

24/112. Date of future Parish Council meeting: Dates were NOTED.

Wednesday 15th January 2025, 7:30pm, Bobbington Village Hall

Wednesday 19th March 2025, 7:30pm, Bobbington Village Hall

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:17.

..... Signed

..... Date

DRAFT