

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 held remotely through Zoom at 7:30pm

Present: Councillor: Cllr. Mrs. L Jones (Chairman)
County and District Councillor: Mrs Victoria Wilson
Councillors: M Snelson, A Burton, Mrs I Rees, S Hadgett and Mrs J Stanton, M Slater
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
Lesley Birch – Housing Plus Group
1 Member of the public

1840. Apologies:

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

1841. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Snelson declared an interest in 1849c. Cllrs. Mrs Jones and Slater declared interests in 1852a.

1842. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 20 January 2021, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

1843. Matters arising:

a. Tree Update (Brantley Lane / Crescent)

Cllr. M Snelson reported that the tree is still to be moved, given the national lockdown it was not deemed essential travel/work. Cllr. Snelson raised concerns with respect to the repositioning of the tree. Whilst the position has been agreed with the occupier of the property, she appears to be unconvinced that it is the most appropriate place. Cllr. Snelson expressed concern that they will need to deal with any confrontation.

If not moved in the next month, the tree will be in leaf and will have to remain in situ until later in the year to ensure its survival.

b. Affordable Housing

This matter was left until the end of the meeting to enable a confidential discussion to take place as a result of a further possible site being identified.

c. Bobbington website

Cllr. Burton reported that the County Council have raised a number of queries, following their review of the draft site. Cllr Burton and the Clerk will review these and provide responses as appropriate. Once resolved the site can go live.

Cllr. Burton has asked about the domain name and confirmed that the County Council haven't set one aside. Cllr. Burton has had a look at the format of other Parish Councils and reviewed what is currently available. He asked for a decision on the future domain:

1. Continue with www.bobbington-village.co.uk
2. Acquire www.bobbingtonparish.co.uk
3. Acquire www.bobbingtonparishcouncil.co.uk

It was unanimously agreed to acquire www.bobbingtonparish.co.uk.

d. Unkempt properties/gardens

The Environmental Health officer dealing with this on behalf of the District Council is no longer contracted to the Council. Victoria Wilson had kindly agreed to make enquiries as to who has taken over and has now chased the relevant officer. She will endeavour to obtain an update. The Chairman expressed concern that the matter was initially raised several months ago, but little progress appears to have been made.

e. Parish online and Ordinance survey website

Cllr. Burton had attended two remote training sessions which were very informative. He will now allocate logins to all Councillors and suggested a short session to demonstrate the system and share the fundamentals. The Chairman suggested this may be possible at the next meeting.

Once familiar with the system, the Council will need to discuss how to develop the maps, as items can be added at a Parish Level to assist the Council going forward.

1844. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Isolation / community assistance

No additional help has been sought by any Parishioners. Cllr. Burton is still assisting one parishioner with shopping. They have also requested assistance with grass cutting. The Chairman offered her services if needed as did a number of other Councillors.

1845. Highway Matters

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

Whilst the road has been closed a couple of times since the start of the year, no work is evident. Cllr. Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Mrs Wilson confirmed they had not received any updates. Cllr. Mrs Wilson stated that she assumed the work had been completed and will, therefore, contact Staffordshire Highways on behalf of the Parish Council.

b. Anonymous letter re Gospel Ash Road

The Chairman had received an anonymous letter with respect to a potential obstruction on Gospel Ash Road. The concrete block is at the end of a driveway. The Chairman had carried out a site visit and was able to confirm that the obstruction was not in the road, it was to the edge, however, when she attended the road was not flooded and the letter specifically makes reference to the object being a hazard when the road is flooded, given it appears to protrude into the road.

Having considered the location, the Councillors could understand why the object had been placed where it was as it discourages people from using the end of the driveway. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that no action would be taken at the current time.

- c. Cllr Hadgett had reported several potholes / loose drain covers. These had subsequently been marked with paint. He had also reported fly-tipping near Blacklands.

1846. **Reports from Committee Representatives**

Corbett School

Cllr. Burton reported that the school reopened to all pupils on 8 March 2021. To reduce congestion and ease social distancing classes have staggered start and finishing times, which is working well. Parents are also wearing masks when dropping off and collecting.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton reported that the village hall is closed until further notice.

Church of the Holy Cross

An Easter Sunday church service is planned as the first to be held after lock down, and Sunday services will continue from then in a Covid secure and safe environment.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported CSW is still stood down due to lockdown.

Police Crime Report

There has been one report of Burglary at Halfpenny Green. Happened overnight, three units were broken into and a set of vehicle wheels stolen – approx. value £1000. Forensics attended. Investigations are ongoing.

1847. **Public Question Time**

The member of the public asked what progress had been made with the airport planning application. The Chairman summarised the position to date. She explained that we had held a public meeting in January to discuss the application and gather parishioners' thoughts, there were plenty of objections. The Parish Council's response had been submitted to South Staffordshire Council, prior to the deadline. It is understood that all objections are now being logged and reviewed. Cllr. Mrs Stanton was asked to summarise the main objections.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson added that she had heard nothing with respect to the application.

The public member asked when the outcome was likely to be received. It was agreed that the process will probably take longer due to the current pandemic – timescales were not known.

1848. **Finance:-**

a. Annual donations

i. Corbett School

Cllr Burton confirmed there were no events currently planned. It was agreed that we would wait until an event had been arranged before considering a donation.

ii. Halfpenny Green Air Scouts

It was agreed to wait until an update was received – several attempts had been made last year, but no responses received.

b. Clerk's annual salary review

The Clerk had calculated the percentage increase based on CPI as historically used, this equates to a 0.79% increase. The Chairman had reviewed this and spoken to all Councillors. A 2% annual increase was proposed and agreed.

c. Cheques

The following cheques were proposed by Cllr. Mrs Stanton and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rees

i.	SPCA – Annual membership	£142.00
ii.	SPCA – Effective representations training course	£30.00
iii.	Clerk Salary and expenses	£350.25
iv.	HMRC Paye	£87.40

1849. Planning matters**a. Received****b. Received and responded to:**

- i. PA 21/00063/FUL 103 Six Ashes Road Bobbington, Stourbridge, DY7 5EA - Upstairs extension resubmission of planning approval 12/00791/FUL. Also, home office/gym in side garden – No objections

c. Responded to

- i. PA 20/00893/OUT Wolverhampton Airport Crab Lane, Bobbington, DY7 5DY - Mixed use development comprising the erection of three new hangar buildings, the refurbishment of existing airport infrastructure, the provision of new hard standing for external plane and fuel tanker parking, additional grassed informal plane parking; the demolition of up to 7 existing single storey commercial / retail buildings and the erection of new / replacement commercial / retail / community and, the erection of 112 dwellings as enabling development (all matters apart from access reserved) – objections made
- ii. PA 20/01123/FUL Orchard House Tom Lane Bobbington, Stourbridge DY7 5EN - Single and two storey extension – No objections

d. Outcomes:

It is understood that the application for a Cafe at Highgate Farm has been approved

e. Enforcement matters:

Nothing to report

1850. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees stated that the next Consultative Committee meeting will be held on 24 March 2021.

Cllr. Burton recorded an observation that the Air Ambulance is now sited at Cosford and won't therefore become resident at Bobbington airport.

1851. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST) 28/1/21,
11/2/21, 11/3/21

South Staffordshire Council (SSC) - Council news 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208,
209

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin & Extra bulletin – 14/1/21
 SPCA NALC covid-19 update 5/2/21
 Covid rates Trysull & Seisdon ward 29/1/21, 16/2/21, 16/3/21
 SSC Trees for climate change
 SSDC public space protection order dog fouling
 SCC Let's beat loneliness together
 SCC Do it to feel good videos
 SCC Highways data 16/2/21, 1/3/21, 16/3/21
 SCC Coronavirus update – changes to rules 5/3/21
 SPCA 4/2/21, 11/2/21, 18/2/21
 SCC Temporary road closure New Road Smestow
 SSC 3 tier locality forum invite 1/4/21
 SSC Climate change workshop 25/3/21
 SCC Dignity in Care awards 2021
 SSC Covid Marshall update
 SCC Letter sent on behalf of vice Lord-lieutenant of Staffordshire
 SSC Planning enforcement cases logged and closed Jan 21
 SSC County elections 2021
 SPCA Issues PC meetings being targeted
 SPCA Training courses
 SSC How to access coronavirus support grants
 Reconnecting lowland heathlands in South Staffordshire - Andy Jukes, Invertebrate Ecologist, Conops Entomology Ltd – the contents were discussed. It was agreed that we would invite Andy to a future meeting.

The member of the public left the meeting.

1852. Matters arising:

a. Affordable Housing

It had been agreed to leave this matter to the end of the meeting to enable a closed discussion due to a further site having been identified. Lesley Birch from Housing Plus, introduced the additional site and explained the offer on the table. A long discussion followed. The Councillors were not in favour of the site. A further discussion followed with respect to the original sites. It was noted that the ownership of one site had changed, although it was acknowledged that this site had encountered access problems.

It was suggested that a decision should be made as to whether affordable housing should be pursued given there were no favourable sites, it was however, noted that a new survey had been carried out and there was still a need. A further discussion was held. The Chairman requested a vote to determine who wanted to:

- Continue to further explore possible sites
- Discontinue all affordable housing projects
- Abstain (including declaration of interests)

The results were:

- Continue 1 vote
- Discontinue 3 votes
- Abstain / DOI 2 votes

Cllr. Burton raised concerns that the matter was to be set aside based on one vote, when the project had been ongoing for many years. He believed a further discussion should be held when the Councillors had been able to review all the sites properly, especially as many of the sites were set aside by a previous Council. Cllr Mrs Stanton agreed.

The Chairman agreed the result was disappointing. She thanked Lesley for her hard work and Housing Plus for supporting the project. It was suggested that a further discussion could take place at a future meeting, with the Clerk providing a summary of all sites for consideration.

c. Any other business

It appears unlikely that the legislation will be changed with respect to Council meetings, therefore, we will not be able to continue to meet remotely. The Chairman and Clerk will continue to monitor events, however, it was proposed that we meet in the main hall in the village hall on the third Wednesday of May.

Date of the next meeting 19 May 2021

Meeting Closed