



BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 4th September 2024

Present:

Cllr. G. Randall - Chair
Cllr. R. Richardson (Vice Chair) (arrived 19.09)
Cllr. M. Baldock (left 21.27)
Cllr. M. Bencych
Sarah Poole - Clerk
Cllr. A. Cavanagh
Cllr. P. French
Cllr. Hunt (left 21.27)

BPCM24/25 – 69

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. A. Gladwin due to work commitments, Cllr. R. Clarke who is on holiday and PC Clements is on leave.

BPCM24/25 – 70

Public Session as per our Standing Orders 3 f, g & h and shall not exceed 30 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. An individual member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

No public present.

BPCM24/25 – 71

To receive any report from Borough Councillor Cllr. James Hunt, Cllr. Lloyd Chapman, Cllr. Mike Baldock, Cllr. Roger Clarke, Cllr Ann. Cavanagh

Cllr. Hunt reported that he has had complaints about Spinel Close, with various issues, he has been in talking to Moat Housing and Neighbourhood Manager.

Cllr. Hunt reported that there are still trouble with the bin stores, especially in Clapper House as this has not been collected for 8 weeks.

Cllr. Hunt asked what is happening with the Yellow Lines, the Clerk reported that at the last meeting, this was discussed in great detail, KCC are providing within their budget new markings on the road, and new signs by the school to advise drivers that there is a school.

Cllr. French reported that since the school has come back from school holidays, cars are parking on the corners which is making it dangerous for any vehicle to have a clear site.

Cllr. Cavanagh reported that she has stressed that it is the corners where the parking is the biggest problem and does not feel that the signs will help.

Cllr. Bencych reported that the speeding is not the issue as due to parked vehicles you are not able to do more than 20mph, it is the dangerous parking of the vehicles including lorries and not having sight lines around a corner.

Cllr. Baldock asked if this agreement was a working party or a Parish Council decision, the Clerk reported that it was a Full Parish Council decision at the last meeting to go with KCC first option as KCC have said they will not fund the yellow lines at the present, if the Parish Council wanted to fund yellow lines it would be in excess of £6,000.00.



Cllr. Hunt is disappointed in this, and he knows the parishioners will also be disappointed about this, and would like the Parish Council to go back to KCC as soon as the signs have been installed and push for yellow lines.

Cllr. Richardson asked the Clerk if the Parish Council has budgeted the cost for Yellow Lines, the Clerk reported it is not in this year's budget and will put it in next year's budget to be taken to full council to fund ourselves, but the Clerk reminded Councillors that the £6k that KCC have advised we would need would go up again next year as this is only the 2024/2025 cost.

The Clerk will contact neighbouring parishes to see if they are looking at doing a TRO as this cost alone is over £3k, and we might be able to share some of this cost to do the yellow line consultation.

Cllr. Hunt asked what happens for the unparished areas within Swale with the KCC Highways Improvement Plan, Cllr. Baldock reported this is very difficult and would like to see all villages to be made part of a parish, or introducing new areas to being a parish within Sittingbourne, if Cllr. Hunt requires help on unparished areas to get in contact as at present there is no money for items like this within KCC.

Cllr. French asked Cllr. Hunt what is happening about the bins at the bus stop which were promised which we still have not got also the bins on Sheppey Way which were promised, the Clerk reported that the bin audit was passed to Borough Councillors as Swale are removing all Admiral bins which are the open top ones and replacing them with a closed bin and making them multi-purpose. Cllr. Hunt will chase what is happening with the cleansing team.

Cllr. Cavanagh gave a detailed report on what she has been doing over the last year.

Cllr Baldock reported that planning numbers in the local plan have been made mandatory again which means that within Swale over the next 15 years another whole estate of between 350-400 houses, this is on top of the 11,000 that they have put a target on Swale for.

Cllr. Baldock reported that the first draft of the PTP has been received for the request of exceptional circumstances and Cllr. Baldock would like to concentrate on transport to make sure the target is deliverable and sustainable, and making sure traffic systems work which is not really affordable with the costs being around £8k for each traffic modelling. The current traffic modelling is only for existing development up to 2038, and the current numbers they are trying to impose are not deliverable.

Cllr. Hunt reported that there is a plan for a new housing development in Iwade which will be for 570 homes, and the public consultation is on Tuesday 17th September 15.30-18.30 at the Village Hall this is the pre planning consultation, this will then join up Bobbing and Iwade.

BPCM24/25 – 72

To receive any report from County Councillor Cllr. Mike Baldock

Cllr. Baldock reported that the turn out for the General Election was only 51% for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, which is the lowest in Kent. We were also the lowest in Kent for the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections and the last Borough Council elections were significantly lower than in previous elections. Cllr. Baldock feels we need to look at why parishioners are not engaging with the elections. Various areas within Swale the turnout was between 16% - 50%, which needs to be addressed.



Cllr. Bencych reported that due to the different nationalities within Swale not all of them can vote at General Elections, they are only able to vote at Borough level, which now some of the communities he has been speaking to asks what is the point of voting if they are not able to vote at the General Elections. Cllr. Baldock explained this would mean that the actual turnout would be even lower for General Elections due to the different nationalities not being able to vote.

Cllr. Baldock would like to try to engage with the population to get them back voting again, the Clerk suggested that Cllr. Baldock writes an article for the newsletter to talk about the importance of voting within the community.

Cllr. Baldock is looking at helping to stop isolation and loneliness and is looking to install “chat benches” through the community. The Clerk reminded all Councillors that the Pop Up Café are coming back through KENT ACRE (KALC), and are awaiting of costings to join this as this would help bring the community together to stop isolation and loneliness.

There is still some funding available, but a report and request of funding needs to be in by Middle of November 2024.

Cllr. French asked Cllr. Baldock about the busses and are they to cut them, Cllr. Baldock has not received any paperwork on this or budget proposals. They should be out for consultation around middle of November/December. Details will be announced in February at the budget meeting.

BPCM24/25 – 73

To receive any report from Community Warden Jack Gilbey and PC Philip Clemens/Sgt Ryan Chase.

No report has been received, due to holiday, but is hoping for a report by Friday for circulation, but PC Clemens asked if anything is brought up during the meeting to let him know of interest.

BPCM24/25 – 74

For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in regard to items on the agenda under the Council’s adopted Code of Conduct

Cllr. Baldock has declared an interest in item BPC24/25 - 83 because he is the Chairman of the Borough Council Planning Committee and advised he will leave the meeting when this is being discussed.

Cllr. Cavanagh has declared an interest in item BPC24/25 - 83 due to a possible substitution on the Borough Council Planning Committee and advised she would not take part in the debate and would abstain for voting.

BPCM24/25 – 75

Approval and Adoption of Minutes from the previous meetings Minutes of the Council Meeting on 7th August 2024.

Cllr. Richardson would like it noted that he is concerned about the lack of presence of some Borough Councillors, and feels that this needs to be highlighted again, that not all Borough Councillors are here this evening. The Clerk reported that they are sent the agenda and asked if they are not able to attend that they send in a report for the clerk to read out.

The minutes were all circulated before the meeting. These were proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Bencych. Cllr. Baldock abstained as he was not at the meeting. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.** The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.



BPCM24/25 – 75 Matters arising from the minutes not covered by other agenda items.

BPCM24/25 – 38 ii. Lanyards for Councillors

Cllr. Bencych is awaiting to get the formal quote and will get this sent to the Clerk. The colour of the lanyard was decided that it will be Light Blue lanyard and Gold writing like the logo.

BPCM24/25 – 77 Community Engagement

i. Update VE Day Working Group 8th May 2025.

The group is meeting on Monday 9th September at 19.00.

Cllr Randall suggested that the group might like to use Swale FM to do the commentary. The Clerk asked if any of the Brough and County Councillors could give some of their budget towards this community event, it was agreed that Cllr. Hunt and Cllr. Cavanagh would give £200.00 from their Borough Council budget.

BPCM24/25 – 78 General matters raised by Parish Councillor's Reports for discussion.

No comments from Councillors.

BPCM24/25 – 79 Community Engagement

i. Bobbing Reporter

Cllr. Randall has started to produce articles for the next Bobbing Reporter, he also reported that the Clerk has started as well to do a brochure type rather than a one page reporter, this will include articles about the Bobbing Bloom and the presentations, information on the Parish Councillors and why they enjoy being part of the community. This is to be no more than 250 words. The Clerk also asked the Borough and County Councillor for a report as well. This will also include what is going on at the Church, The Meads Community Centre, Grove Park Cricket Club, Bobbing Cricket Club, Bobbing Village Hall, why we support No Mow May to help protect the bees and insects. The up and coming events with VE Day 2025. Talk about the Community Woodland and Friends of Rose Hill. Tell residents that they are all invited to meetings with the Western Area Committee as well as the Liaison Group. Talking about the Borough Council looking at gifting areas to Parish Councils on their asset list or for a nominal fee. Show the parishioners the different rights of way and each quarter talk specifically on what they can see on them. Ask the parishioners what they would like to see the Parish Council do and how to engage with the community, also look at possible sponsorship for the printing of these, which will be limited to 4-8 pages.

Cllr. Richardson asked if we could get a quote on how much a booklet would cost, the Clerk will look into this.

The Clerk has suggested also an option is to buy a photocopier and then be able to print as this works out much cheaper, the Clerk will look into the cost of this as well. Cllr. Cavanagh is concerned if we did get a photocopier, this would need to be in a secure locked space.

Cllr. Randall asked that something be on the front page to invite them to read the rest, as he feels that most people wouldn't read a newsletter, and only would read



maybe a page leaflet, which is why he has always produced the Bobbing Reporter in this format. The Clerk felt that it was important for Parishes to have a newsletter of some type and knows other parishes that have compliments on theirs.

Cllr. Baldock suggested that we use the four seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter rather than months of the year, as he feels that it gives it a longer shelf life for people.

Cllr. Randall thanked the Clerk for starting this as it is a huge amount of work to produce this.

The Clerk has asked if anyone has content to send it to her. Cllr. Baldock asked when would the first addition be, the Clerk said if she had content by the 24th September, and it was signed off at the next meeting then straight after that.

ii. Meet the Parish Councillor's on the website.

The Clerk asked if everyone at the next meeting, can arrive a little early so the Clerk can take some photos to go on the website, and if all councillors can write a small piece on what area of the Parish they look after and why they became a Parish Councillor.

BPCM24/25 – 80

Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

The Clerk produced a report from Scribe for the Councillors, the detail that was produced is very basic, a discussion took place and it was felt that we need to go to the next package which is more in depth, the Clerk reminded everyone that with all the packages you can cancel at any time if they prefer to go back to an excel sheet, but all councillors need to be mindful of the new financial regulations that came out this year. Cllr. Randall reminded everyone that the reason we went over to a online package was to help the Clerk more easily with the AGAR return and VAT return, and make the processes easier for the Clerk. The Clerk also reminded everyone that the invoices would be secured on the package rather than a physical hardcopy and the Internal Controls officer would also have access to the system to see the invoices as well. Cllr. Richardson reminded everyone that the government are trying to make everyone go digital. Cllr Bencych proposed that we try the next package and Cllr Baldock seconded this. The Clerk will contact Scribe for the costing, and upgrade for a trial. **All agreed, RESOLVED: Accepted**

Schedule of payments and bank reconciliation **agreed, RESOLVED: Accepted**

Date	PAYEE	Amount	VAT	Total
07.08.2024	NEST Pension July 2024	£585.43	£0.00	£585.43
08.08.2024	Hugofox	£29.99	£6.00	£35.99
09.08.2024	Amazon Paper	£16.62	£3.32	£19.94
09.08.2024	Co-op	£1.90	£0.00	£1.90
09.08.2024	Amazon Laminating Pouches	£8.65	£1.73	£10.38
09.08.2024	Amazon Toner	£48.66	£9.73	£58.39
09.08.2024	Asda	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
09.08.2024	Tesco	£1.66	£0.34	£2.00
09.08.2024	Clerks Expenses Working from home	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00
09.08.2024	Clerks Expenses Travel	£77.69	£0.00	£77.69



27.08.2024	BT	£45.85	£9.17	£55.02
30.08.2024	Clerks Salary August	£473.54	£0.00	£473.54
	NEST Pension August 2024	£585.43	£0.00	£585.43
	Asda	£1.30	£0.00	£1.30
	Asda	£1.30	£0.00	£1.30
	Morrisons	£6.57	£1.32	7.89
	Grove Park Cricket Club (Meeting)	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
	Dean Wild (Gardner)	£210.00	£0.00	£210.00
	Bobbing Village Hall (Meetings)	£240.00	£0.00	£240.00

The Clerk confirmed the bank balance was before all of the above was paid.

Barclays Savings Account £31,773.88

Unity Trust Account £33,908.58

These are the figures before the above payments are to be made. This was proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Randall all agreed. **Resolved: Accepted**

a. Budget for VE Day “Celebration of Peace”

Cllr. Richardson asked the Parish Council, if we can look at a budget of around £6,000 to put on the VE Day Celebration of Peace for the whole community, Cllr. Bencych feels that due to us trying to do community engagement and to get a full fun day for everyone to enjoy including singers, compare, bouncy castle, fish and chips, afternoon tea etc. Cllr. Richardson will produce a breakdown on costings for the next meeting after the next working group has meet. Cllr. Hunt and Cllr. Cavanagh has offered £200 each from their Swale Borough Council budget towards this. Cllr. Baldock has offered some money but would like to see a full breakdown before he commits a figure. Cllr Randall suggested that we contact Pete Flynn and Swale FM to be a compare.

Cllr. Baldock feels that the £6k budget is reasonable and suggest this is taken to the finance working group to consider this amount on the budget for the next coming year. Cllr. Baldock proposed this is taken forward and Cllr. Bencych seconded this. All agreed.

BPCM24/25 – 81 **Updates from Working Groups:**

i. Finance/Staffing working group.

The next meeting is 17th October 2024.

ii. Assets/Properties working group.

Cllr. Richardson and the Clerk updated the assets and took photos on Sunday 1st September 2024. Cllr. Richardson is still unsure what picnic benches are the Parish Councils at Grove Park and has asked Grove Park if they know which were donated, he is still awaiting confirmation. Cllr Richardson also reported that the Village Sign by McDonalds needs some restoration done maybe next year.

iii. Open Spaces/Bobbing in Bloom working group.

This has not meet yet, the group will be meeting in January 2025.

iv. Policies and Procedure working group.

The next meeting will be the 21st October 2024.



v. Heritage map working group.

The Clerk, explained that this has not met recently as just awaiting to see if Mr Hebert still wants to be involved, Cllr. Randall will report back once he has spoken to him.

BPCM24/25 –82

Reports from representatives

i. Village Hall Committee 6th September @ 19.00

Cllr. Randall talked about what is happening at the Village Hall, the Short Mat Bowls club has left due to various reasons, ongoing improvements are being done within the Village Hall. The next meeting will be on Friday 6th September at 19.00.

ii. KALC Area Committee meeting 27th August 2024 @ 19.00

Cllr. French updated councillors on the meeting that he attended with the Clerk, held on the 27th August where the Police came from the fraud department and gave a presentation.

iii. Friends of Rose Hill

Cllr. Baldock reported the lectern is in place, and they have a bat evening coming up and litter picking events.

iv. The Meads Community Woodland 14th August @ 19.00

The next litter pick is Saturday 7th September from 10.30am, this will also include a tidy up of the woods, open for all those who want to attend. Cllr. French has reported a lot of anti-social behaviour over the summer months.

v. Joint Transport Board 7th October @ 17.30

Cllr. Gladwin and the Clerk will attend this meeting.

vi. Western Area Committee 5th September 2024 @ 19.00

Cllr. Richardson and the Clerk will be attending this meeting.

vii. Swale West Parish Group 26th September 2024 @ 19.00

Cllr. Bencych and the Clerk will be attend this meeting at Bobbing Village Hall.

viii. Swale Local Council Liaison Forum 25th September 2024 19.00-21.00.

The Clerk will attend this meeting on-line, its open to all Councillors to join in.

BPCM24/25 –83

Planning Application – viewable on: Swale:
<http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications;>

i. Planning Application Ref. No: 24/503217/FULL **Conversion of existing garage/home office to provide 1no. 2-bedroom dwelling and associated parking and landscaping works.** Pigeon Farm Cottage Cold Harbour Lane Bobbing Kent ME9 8NN

It was discussed at great length, and it was agreed that no objection should be raised. Cllr. Cavanagh abstained; All others Agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**



BPCM24/25 –84

Correspondence

i. **Gardener**

Dean Wild had given notice in June to stop after this invoice, and Cllr. French has found another gardener, who has recently under taken the works at the Village Hall to bring it back to a manageable level. Cllr French proposed that we use Mr Taylor once a month April – November approximately and this was seconded by Cllr. Richardson. All agreed. Cllr. French will contact Mr Taylor and arrange a date for him to start. The Clerk will write to Mr Wild thanking him for his services over the years. Cllr. French will also look at the tree at the front as this needs some work doing on it, and with the help from The Meads Community Woodland group.

ii. **Demelza - Rook Lane ME9 8DZ**

The email was circulated from a concerned parishioner for the safety of residents and Demelza users, this was discussed at great length and the Clerk was asked to email/write to the developer if they have carried out a “Road Safety Audit” also to Demelza as they were partners of the planning application.

iii. The Clerk advised that there are only 2 salt bins within Bobbing which are owned by KCC one is on Bobbing Hill and the other is Sandford Road, the Clerk asked people to check these and if they require any salt or look damaged at all can you let her know so she can report it to KCC before the winter months.

iv. The Clerk circulated an email from Kent Volunteers partnership if anyone knows of anyone that should be put forward.

v. The Clerk circulated the Swale Borough Council Disposals and Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy for people to look at as Swale are looking at Parishes taking on assets within their parishes. Cllr. Baldock asked the Parish Council to do a formal response on this before October. The Clerk has asked Swale Brough Council for a full list of assets within Bobbing.

vi. The clerk shared the new gateway signs that KCC are installing by Iwade.

A comfort break and the meeting was adjourned at 21.27 and resumed at 21.31

BPCM24/25 –85

General matters raised by Councillors for discussion.

None.

BPCM24/25 –86

Recommendations to next Full Council

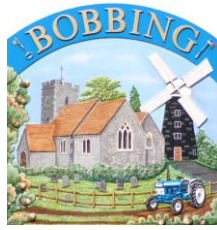
Put in for a TRO along with other Parishes regarding Yellow Lines through the Parish.

CLOSED SESSION

BPCM24/25 –87

Freedom of the Parish nomination.

Cllr. Randall put forward for a Freedom of the Parish, Cllr. French proposed and Cllr. Baldock seconded all Agreed. Resolved. It was agreed that the Clerk should progress with the nomination of long-standing service and invite them to the December meeting



BPCM24/25 –88

Dates of Next Meeting

2nd October Bobbing Village Hall at 19.00

The clerk is on holiday from 10th September – 24th September 2024

BPCM24/25 –89

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.44

These minutes are certified to be a true and just record.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____