

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held 7th July 2010 in Bobbing Village Hall at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Ball (vice chairman- chair for this meeting), Cllr's Bennett, Bullen, Dewar-Whalley, Major and Nappey.
 Clerk: Mrs S Crawford.
 Ward Councillor Gareth Randall attended.
 Two members of the public attended.

1.0 Apologies: Cllr Edwards, Herbert and Stowe.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record and signed accordingly.

3.0 Public Session:

A member of the public reported seeing a near accident at Keycol Hill. A young lad was nearly injured because of the parked cars on the hill. This issue has arisen many times and the clerk will pursue it again with Swale and Kent Police.

4.0 Declarations of Interest:

None declared.

5.0 Chairman's Report and Matters Arising:

5.1 Village Sign: It is hoped this will be hung in the next few weeks. The clerk had men available today (Wednesday) but no cherry picker was available.

Knotweed: The chair commented that the Knotweed was looking rather sick and it is hoped that whatever had been done to the weed would have the desired effect in the long term.

6.0 Clerks Report and Correspondence Received:

6.1 KCC Minerals & Waste – publication of the Scoping report is on their website:

www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning_in_kent/minerals_and_waste.aspx

6.2 Application form for Swale West Parishes money from Keith Ferrin was received but it was thought that other parishes should have some money as we had rather a large grant in the last financial year.

6.3 Southern Water – new interim chief Executive Officer has written. It is hoped that the hosepipe bans in the North will not come into effect for the South East!

6.4 Kent Science Park's Spring & Summer 2010 newsletter.

6.5 Update on Freedom of information requests. We had repeated our requests to SBC and KCC and the clerk made a decision to allow more time (until the August meeting) for them to disclose the information that had been omitted. This had been seen as generous by both parties so we will wait for their reports.

There was general discussion as to which way the new coalition government was going to head regarding the Gypsy and Traveller sites. Money had been cut from the proposed grants and the site numbers and need had been abolished. Also a level playing field had been introduced so non Gypsy and Travellers were able to try to gain planning permission on undeveloped land with equal rights as Gypsy and Travellers. They should not be perceived as being needier. This will be on the August agenda.

6.6 Reminder to councillors to hand in their register of interest declarations if not completed already.

6.7 Friends of Bobbing Village School sent a letter of thanks for the donation. Cllr Nappey proposed to send £100 donation to Grove Park School. This was seconded by Cllr Bennett with all councillors in favour.

6.8 KAPC Parish news received. There is a new password to access the resources area – contact the clerk if this is required.

6.9 Aon Insurance would like £47.92 to insure the village sign. This was proposed by Cllr Nappey seconded by Cllr Bennett with all councillors in favour.

7.0 Councillors Reports:

Cllr Ball: Gave a report from the KAPC meeting where the speaker was Mr Bill Forrester from KCC Gypsy & Traveller Unit. New legislation may not come into effect until June 2011 but numbers for new sites and other matters have been abolished. Funding has been cut and a Criminal Offence of Trespass is coming into being so all these matters will have a knock on affect for the Gypsy & Traveller families. Also we will all be deemed equal with no more weight applied to G & T families than other settled families. Other matters discussed included the phasing out of cheques by 2018 which will cause problems for parish councils. Also KCC members have at least £25000 grant money available and salt bins may be purchased with this. Potholes were discussed in depth as many have been repaired but only temporary so are now needing repairing again.

Cllr Ball also attended the new Community Hall at the Meads meeting. Swale will be hosting two meetings on 27th and 28th August to invite those people who expressed an interest in assisting with the hall for their views. More details when available. Signs will also be placed near the shops at The Meads to clearly show where parking for the shops should be as most people do not realise that there is parking to the rear of the shops.

Cllr Nappey: Informed council of an accident in The Meads which was the result of overtaking of parked cars and vans which caused a head on collision. The police are not able to do anything as the cars and vans are parked legally. There is still traffic racing around the estate so the police will use the speed gun in due course. Cllr Nappey will ask the new PCSO and the PC to attend a parish council meeting and the clerk will reiterate this as well.

Cllr Major: Thanked the clerk for the new tables and chairs in the hall which are very nice. Also asked why it was so messy! The clerk informed him that the school had hired it for their school play and this was how it had been left. Councillors were not impressed; the clerk will contact the school and also request some assistance with costs for the repairs to the car park.

8.0 Planning Applications and Notifications:

8.1 To consider new planning applications:

SW/10/0572 Case 23768 Display of 2 free standing twin posts and 1 fascia sign all externally illuminated at The Jenny Wren Bobbing Sittingbourne. This is a retrospective application so no comments were offered.

SW/10/0683 Case 24032 First floor side dormer extension along with rear ground floor conservatory at 6 Andrews Walk Bobbing. No comments to be offered as long as near residents views are taken into consideration.

SW/10/TEMP/0023 Biomass Power Plant Ridham Ltd- to construct and operate a Biomass Combines Heat and Power plant including external and covered waste wood storage associated weighbridge parking and underground pipework to pumping station on Ridham Dock. Cllr Dewar-Whalley gave council some further details and no comments are to be offered.

8.2 Planning Notices:

SW/10/0580 Case 12196 Replacement garage and workshop/store at Red Roofs Sheppey Way has been granted permission.

SW/10/0598 Case 10208 Roof extension & Dormer windows to enable loft conversion at Roysden Sheppey Way has been refused permission.

8.3 Two appeals by Mr Beck have been lodged concerning permission for a mobile home on Edentop and the enforcement notice to remove the caravan that has been pitched on the land for some time. Our original comments will be made available to the Inspector and the clerk will reiterate our comments again. A copy letter received from a parishioner was read to council. Cllr Dewar-Whalley is to speak at the hearing in due course.

9.0 Finance:

9.1 To resolve to write cheques for the following:-

Mr A Swain (NicenStripy grass cutting)	£160.00
Kent County Council (footpath)	£ TBC – it was decided not to write this cheque as
the request was only by e-mail despite the clerk chasing and querying the amount.	
AON (insurance for village sign)	£ 47.92
KCC (KCS) newsletter printing	£ 96.20
Grove Park School	£ 100.00

Audit Commission £ 334.88 - this cheque will be written after enquiries by Cllr Dewar-Whalley into the amount. The clerk wanted to write to Audit Commission as she felt that by obtaining grants, which increased income, this put council into another band for audit charges. It didn't seem fair to be penalised for obtaining grants.

9.2 A VAT refund of £208.34 has been received.

9.3 District Audit had signed off the audit with no problems and this has been advertised to comply legally.

10.0 Other Matters Arising:

A community safety leaflet for Grove Ward has been produced by the Police but they are unable to distribute it. Cllr Dewar-Whalley and Cllr Randall will see if Swale is able to help with this.

Cllr Nappey thought the old mill site consultations were just a repeat of the exercise done regarding the town plans. It was felt that the ideas are available from that consultation and a repetition was not required.

Cllr Randall gave council an outline of his plans regarding delegating powers such as local planning permissions to parish councils. He will e-mail further details and discussion followed about potential drawbacks and costs of appeals and who will bear these.

Meeting closed at 9pm

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th August 2010 in Bobbing Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____