

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 5th August, 2015

Present: Cllr. G. Herbert
Cllr. R. Ball
Cllr. L. Major
Cllr. D. Dewar-Whalley
Cllr. G. Randall
Cllr. P. England
Cllr. R. Bartlett

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. M. Baldock
Borough Cllr. N. Hampshire
Borough Cllr. B. Stokes
Mike Whiting representing
Gordon Henderson M.P.
Nick Mayatt, Community Warden
7 Residents

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Palmer and Paige.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 1st July, 2015, were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

3. Public Session

The Chairman brought forward Item 5.6 on the Agenda and opened a discussion on the number of road traffic incidents that have taken place around the Parish, in particular the ones on Key Street Roundabout and the top of Keycol Hill. Residents and Members believe that contributing factors for key Street Roundabout are inadequate/overgrown signage and the need for better awareness of the Bobbing Hill junction, overgrown vegetation creating poor sight lines, speed of drivers coming off the A249 and A2. The Parish Council has twice requested KCC to cut back the vegetation on the slip road but this has not been done; it has also requested rumble strips to slow down the speed of traffic but these have been turned down with KCC referring to accident statistics and no fatalities. The Parish Council has written to KCC with four suggestions to try to resolve the problem with the Rook Lane Junction on to the A2; so far there has been no response despite the Clerk chasing for one.

County Cllr. Baldock advised that he has requested that the area around the sign on the A2 be cut; he will also look into the vegetation on the slip road. Borough Cllr. mentioned the parked cars on Keycol Hill and the problems trying to negotiate around them (the Parish Council has been attempting to resolve this for quite some time).

Gordon Henderson M.P.'s representative, Mike Whiting had attended to assist; he suggested putting the 30 mph at present sited at the top of the slip road off the A249 further down towards the dual carriageway so that drivers slow down earlier before they reach the junction on to the roundabout.

Proposed by Cllr. Dewar-Whalley and seconded by Cllr. Randall, all agreed that the Clerk write to Matthew Balfour at Kent County Council requesting the following:

- That rumble strips be installed on the A249 slip road to slow down vehicles.
- The 30 mph sign is located further down the slip road to warn drivers earlier that they approaching this speed limit; at the moment it is at the top of the slip road, on the junction.
- That the vegetation at the top of the slip road be cut back to improve the sight line of those coming down the A2 – two requests have been submitted to KCC (there are reference numbers for these) but the work has not been done
- Can the Parish Council have details of the cost implication for the rumble strips?

To improve highway safety the Parish Council requests:

- That a new clearer sign be installed so that drivers are aware of all the various junctions, with less emphasis on the ‘Tudor Rose’; the new sign to show a clearer indication of the Bobbing Hill spur so that drivers are aware that there is another junction to be aware of; that the vegetation be cut back to improve visibility of the sign (I believe County Cllr. Baldock has this in hand)
- Can the Parish Council have details of the cost implication for the new sign?

The Parish Council to ask for a site meeting with Matthew Balfour and Officers from KCC, to look at the whole safety aspect of the Key street roundabout and surrounds.

It was further agreed to send copies to Mike Whiting and County Cllr. Baldock. **Action: Clerk**

The discussion on Key Street Roundabout closed and two residents raised the following:

There are issues with cars double parking on verges near to the Dancing Dog Saloon; this has been reported to Swale Borough Council – Cllr. Dewar-Whalley will take this on board. **Action: Cllr. Dewar-Whalley**

A resident thanked the Parish Council for its support with the application opposite the Crematorium. He also mentioned the smells that have been quite awful – Cllr. Dewar-Whalley will look into this.

Action: Cllr. Dewar-Whalley

County Cllr. Baldock advised that the Swale West Parishes Group will meet on Monday 14th September at 7.00 p.m. at Hartlip.

4. **Declarations of Interest** - None.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes and Last Month’s Meeting**

1. **Bobbing Hill – Travellers** – KCC are still awaiting a response from BT; all the other statutory undertakers are agreeable to the scheme. Clerk to chase again. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Bollards – A249** – Still waiting to hear further regarding this scheme; Clerk to take off the Agenda until further information is received. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Network Rail/Simpsons Crossing** – Network Rail still commenting that there is no funding. Agreed to take off the Agenda and put back on in two months’ time. **Action: Clerk**
4. **Parking in The Meads** – Cllr. Ball advised that a private meeting has been arranged with David Warburton, the M.D. of Marshgate, this will take place on the 19th August at 10.30 a.m. in the village hall. Anticipated problems with the Medical Centre have not materialised, but the increased popularity of the Jenny Wren has created issues at lunch time, particularly for part-time shop staff coming on duty at that time unable to find a parking space. Commuter parking is also adding to the problem. Residents are concerned that when the Community Centre is open it too will have an impact on the area.
5. **Bus Shelter, Key Street and Crematorium** – There has been a somewhat positive response from the Crematorium to the request for bus shelters. Key Street - County Cllr. Baldock has spoken to one of the residents who were in favour of it. He advised the bus shelter will cost £4000; Members agreed to put this on hold until the Key Street Roundabout sign is sorted.
6. **Key Street roundabout – Rurple Strips** – See above under Public Session.
7. **Rooks Lane Junction** – Clerk has chased KCC for a response to the four suggestions put forward by the Parish Council without success; she will chase again. **Action: Clerk**
8. **Parking on Pavements** – Several responses have come in from other Parish Councils. Cllr. Ball has spoken to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association who has a private Members Bill going through Parliament regarding parking on pavements. Cllr. Dewar-Whalley suggested that Cllrs. Randall and England put a public question to the Council; both members agreed. **Action: Cllrs. Randal/England**

9. **Updates** – McDonalds, Litter – still waiting for the new Manager to get in touch; Clerk to chase. Emergency Vehicles/Police sign under A249 Viaduct – Clerk has not heard from the Highway Agency but a sign has mysteriously appeared advising ‘For Emergency Vehicles only’. Resurfacing of footpath under cattle arch bridge – Clerk still awaiting a response from the developers.

6. **Parking on Keycol Hill**

Cllr. Randall circulated a map of the area and suggested writing to respective landowners to see if they will sell a piece of land so that cars that are parking on the pavement can utilise a car park. Cllr. Major recommended speaking to the adjoining properties first. He also suggested another piece of land that could be used for parking. It was agreed that Cllr. Randall obtain a tentative view on the scheme from residents and to approach Swale Council on both projects (put forward by him and Cllr. Major) and bring back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Randall**

7. **Councillors’ Report**

Cllr. Randall attended a residents meeting and there was a discussion on parking in the road. The Gore Court Cricket Club is owned by Swale Borough Council but is leased to the Club, who is responsible for the cricket green, clubhouse and actual car park.

Cllr. England advised that Manston will be used for Operation Stack; Lorries will come off the M20 on to the M2; he warned that if there is an accident they will be coming into Sittingbourne.

Cllr. Bartlett referred to parking in Bobbing Hill and suggested parking permits for residents to try and ease the current problem. Agreed to put an item on the next Agenda and Clerk to write to Cllr. David Simmons regarding the issues and suggested permits. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Ball referred to the WW1 Memorial in the Church and renovation of the wooden surround; a quote has been received for £120 to carry out this work; Members agreed that this be accepted. The Dog Fouling signs have not been installed in Bobbing Hill and the restrictions on parking in the layby near Key Street Roundabout have not appeared – Clerk to chase both. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Paige was not in attendance but had sent a text with the following comments – due to the cancellation of the recent KALC executive meeting he was unable to raise the question of parking on pavements. With regard to CCTV at County Cllr Baldock's recent surgery it was suggested that residents should report every incident to precipitate an increased Police/PCSO presence.

8. **Correspondence** - None

9. **Planning Applications**

1. **15/502898/FULL:** Conversion of existing integral garage into a dining room: 1 Woollett Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PZ – no objections.
2. **15/503829/FULL:** Demolition and replacement of existing 2 storeys annex and rebuilt as a single storey detached highly insulated eco annex: Blossoms Stickfast Lane Bobbing Kent ME9 8QL – no comments.
3. **15/505017/FULL:** Retrospective - Erection of canopy over car wash area: Hand Car Wash 15 - 21 Key Street Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1YX – no comments.
4. **15/505488/OUT: Outline Application for residential development for 100 dwellings (access being sought):** Land at Church Farm Sheppey Way Bobbing Kent ME9 8PL – agreed to ask for an extension of the consultation time and to query whether this is actually an outline application due to the amount of paperwork submitted. **Action: Clerk**

10. **Finance**

1. **CCTV The Grove** – County Cllr. Baldock advised that residents are going with a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and he suggested taking this off the Agenda; agreed.

2. **Noticeboard The Grove** – Only three residents have come forward requesting a noticeboard. Cllr. Herbert advised that the whole of the site of the shops is owned by the co-operative, who will need to give approval for using their land. Agreed to bring back to the September meeting. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Request for Donation/Grant – The Meads Community Household Event** – Proposed by Cllr. England and seconded by Cllr. Dewar-Whalley; all agreed to donate £152, which will be reimbursed by Borough Cllr. Hunt out of his Members Fund. **Action: Clerk**
4. **KALC Finance Conference, October** – Agreed Cllrs. Randall and Bartlett to attend at a cost of £72 each (Cllr. Bartlett to confirm if she is able to attend on the date) **Action: Cllrs. Randall/Bartlett/Clerk**
5. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr. Dewar-Whalley and seconded by Cllr. Bartlett, all agreed that a cheque be raised for Cllr. Randall in respect of costs involved with carrying out land searches relating to various items on this and past Agendas. The accounts to the 31st July, 2015, were agreed and the following cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
05.08.15	0465	L. Fisher	Expenses July – Tele, Use of Office, Refreshments, 500 Cups, 3 Taymar W230 A4 Portrait Leaflet Dispensers for Wall/Counter	£42.53p
05.08.15	0466	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due July 2015	£46.40p
05.08.15	0467	S. Crawford	Bobbing in Bloom - 6 engraved plaques and 9 x £10 vouchers	£128.93p
05.08.15	0468	The Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership Renewal 2015 (£55.67 each to be reimbursed by Iwade and Borden Parish Councils)	£167.00p
05.08.15	0469	Allison Simonds	Community Event, Insurance Cover (reclaiming via grant)	£152.00p
05.08.15	0470	William Giles	Quarterly Payroll preparation	£54.00p
05.08.15	0471	Gareth Randall	Land Searches	£51.00p
Seven Cheques in total				

Payment: Wages - £186.08p - salary July 2015

Paid by Standing Order

10. Any Other Matters Arising - None

11. Next Meeting(s)

The next monthly Meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd September, 2015, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in Bobbing Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____