



BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7th January 2026

Present: Cllr. G. Randall Sarah Poole - Clerk
Cllr. R. Richardson Cllr. M. Bencych
Cllr. S. Chapman

In attendance: Two parishioners; Cllr. R. Palmer (Kent County Councillor – Swale West)

BPCM25/26 – 153 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. G. Randall welcomed Members, the Clerk and those present to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. M. Baldock, Cllr. N. Twardochleb (family reasons), Cllr. K. Watson, and Borough Councillors Cllr. A. Cavanagh (attendance at a Swale Borough Council meeting) and Cllr. L. Blake-Knowles.

The Council considered the prolonged absence of Cllr. L. Blake-Knowles and approved absence in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 (Vacation of Office by Failure to Attend Meetings) on the grounds of emergency family matters.

Under Section 85(1) of the Act, a Member who fails to attend any meeting for a consecutive six-month period ceases to be a Member unless the absence is approved by the authority before the expiry of that period. The Parish Council confirmed the decision rests with the Parish Council and approved the absence, accordingly, ensuring continuation in office while the circumstances remain ongoing.

That the absence of Cllr. L. Blake-Knowles be approved under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. All agreed, **RESOLVED Accepted.**

BPCM25/26 – 154 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.

A parishioner asked for an update regarding speeding on Sheppey Way and referenced a further accident shortly before Christmas.

The Clerk advised that no update had been received from Kent Police, which may be attributable to the Christmas period. Cllr. R. Palmer confirmed that the matter will be raised with Kent County Council Highways, including speeding



concerns and movements from Stickfast Lane, and that feedback will be provided to the Clerk.

BPCM25/26 – 155 To receive any report from Borough Councillor

Cllr. Mike Baldock, Cllr Ann. Cavanagh, Cllr. Lloyd Chapman, Cllr. Roger Clarke and Cllr. James Hunt.

A written report from Cllr. J. Hunt was received and read out by the Clerk. The matters included:

- Attendance at ward walks around Archers Park with PC Jacob Boosey (no resident attendance; local matters discussed; positive Kent Police outcomes referenced regarding The Meads, including drug dealing).
- An attempted arson incident at a property in Bristol Close on 5th January 2026; residents with relevant CCTV footage were asked to contact Kent Police quoting reference KP-20260105-0007.
- Support provided to Sittingbourne Christmas Lights and Sleigh Rounds volunteers, with positive resident feedback reported.

A written report from Cllr. A. Cavanagh was received and read out by the Clerk. The matters included:

- Attendance at Heather House “Chatty Café”, Tuesdays 10.00–11.30.
- Attendance at Kite College (Sittingbourne) on 3rd December 2025.
- Attendance at the Community Governance Review Steering Group and confirmation that the first public consultation is live and runs until 9th February 2026.
- Attendance at Swale Borough Council Planning Committee (4th December 2025) and Full Council (10th December 2025).
- Ongoing resident casework.

The Council noted the reports and encouraged promotion of the Community Governance Review consultation.

No reports were received from Cllr. M. Baldock, Cllr. L. Chapman or Cllr. R. Clarke.

BPCM25/26 – 156 To receive any report from County Councillor

Cllr. R. Palmer (Kent County Councillor – Swale West). gave a detailed report and key points included:



- Kent County Council budget setting scheduled for 12th February 2026, with an aim to set a balanced budget without service reductions while addressing inherited debt.
- Questions submitted to Cabinet Members relating to highways maintenance and repairs, resurfacing priorities, gully and drainage clearance, vegetation clearance on footways, bus services in Danaway, education admissions and secondary capacity, adult social care discharge planning, environmental/public health concerns relating to illegal waste sites, and provision of reuse facilities.

BPCM25/26 – 157 **To receive any report from to receive any report from PC Skye Williams and PC Jacob Boosey - The Meads awaiting information on who is covering Archers Park and Grove Park**

No report was received from PC Skye Williams or PC Jacob Boosey.

The Parish Council is awaiting clarification on policing cover for Archers Park and Grove Park.

BPCM25/26 – 158 **For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in regard to any items on the agenda under the Council's adopted Code of Conduct**

Cllr. S. Chapman declared an interest in item BPCM25/26 – 160(b) and confirmed that Cllr. S. Chapman will abstain from any vote under that item.

BPCM25/26 – 159 **Approval and Adoption of Minutes from the previous meetings Minutes of the Council Meeting on 3rd December 2025.**

These were all circulated before the meeting all agreed. Cllr. Richardson proposed, and Cllr. Bencych seconded all agreed. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.** The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

BPCM25/26 – 160 **Matters arising from the minutes not covered by other agenda items.**

a. *Update on Kitchen Quote for the Village Hall. Cllr. Richardson*

No update was available. Cllr. R. Richardson to continue liaison and provide an update when available.

b. *Resolution contract for gardening and maintenance services at Bobbing Village Hall.*

The Clerk was requested to obtain at least three quotations for gardening and maintenance services for consideration at the next meeting. The Clerk requested that Cllr. S. Chapman forward a quotation for inclusion in the comparison and present to Councillors at the next meeting.

Cllr. R. Richardson, as Chair of Bobbing Village Hall, expressed concern that no formal contract is currently in place for these services and noted that the grounds are appearing untidy.



BPCM25/26 – 161 Community Engagement

- a. *Feedback on Repair Café 13th December, which is the second Saturday of each month 10.00-14.00, this will now also include the Friendship Cafe so the Friendship Cafe will run twice per month.***

A parishioner provided a report on the Repair Café held on 13th December 2025. Items repaired included a toaster, vacuums and clothing alterations, and it was noted that some attendees attended for social connection. The Repair Café continues on the second Saturday of each month (10.00–14.00). The Friendship Café will run twice per month; items may be collected during Friendship Café sessions, however repairs will not be undertaken on the last Saturday of the month.

Cllr. R. Richardson requested that small internal tasks at the Village Hall (e.g., rehangng pictures) be included where feasible. The Clerk confirmed that an annual poster of dates has been prepared and displayed on noticeboards.

- b. *Report on Christmas Dinner project 25th December 2025. Cllr. Chapman***

The Clerk reported receipt of thank-you messages. Cllr. S. Chapman reported that 11 people attended. Thanks were recorded to Cllr. S. Chapman and volunteers for organisation and delivery. The Parish Council noted generous donations received from two parishioners. The Clerk will include photographs in the next edition of *The Bobbing Reporter*. Thanks were also recorded to CVS for assistance with promotion. Cllr. R. Richardson thanked Cllr. S. Chapman for the work undertaken. The Clerk asked Cllr. S. Chapman to provide outstanding receipts for the Christmas Dinner project to the Clerk.

- c. *Report on Loneliness Project 27th December 10.30-12.30 then last Saturday of each month***

A report was received regarding the café held on 27th December 2025 (10.30–12.30), attended by approximately 15 residents. The project will continue on the last Saturday of each month.

- d. *Winter Newsletter distribution update.***

Cllr. G. Randall confirmed completion of allocated delivery area. Cllr. R. Richardson recorded thanks to the Clerk and Cllr. S. Chapman for distribution support in The Meads due to unavailability. It was reported that Cllr. K. Watson completed the allocated delivery area and Cllr. M. Bencych completed the allocated delivery area.

The next newsletter will be distributed in March 2026. Items for inclusion are to be submitted to the Clerk by the second week of February.



e. *Digital Friends initiative*

The Clerk advised that further information is awaited from Kent County Council and that activity is intended to run alongside the Friendship Café.

f. *Allotment Project.*

It was noted that the project is expected to commence around March 2026 on the same day as the Friendship Café. The Repair Café will support preparatory work (including repairs to sheds and other items) to ready the site.

BPCM25/26 – 162 General matters raised by Parish Councillor’s Reports for discussion.

Cllr. S. Chapman reiterated concerns regarding health and safety risks caused by pigeon fouling beneath the A249 bridge and noted continued attempts to progress the matter with Kent Highways/Kent County Council. Cllr. S. Chapman requested support from Cllr. R. Palmer to obtain a clear response and update, noting repeated referral between departments.

Cllr. S. Chapman also raised continuing speeding concerns on Sheppey Way, particularly HGV movements to and from local depots. It was noted the issue could not be raised at the Joint Transportation Board as it was not on the agenda; inclusion will be sought for a future agenda.

Potential measures referenced included:

- Solid white line to prevent parking opposite the school;
- Designated parent parking area (including consideration of Section 106 funding);
- Village gateway features, reduced speed limits and traffic calming measures;
- Lighting under the bridge by the Cattle Arch.

Cllr. R. Richardson asked for an update regarding installation of the Archers Park noticeboard. The Clerk advised that the matter is awaiting discussion at the next Highway Improvement Plan meeting as the proposed location is on Kent County Council land and may support reduction of parking on grass.

Cllr. R. Richardson asked for an update regarding Community Resilience planning. The Clerk advised that a working group meeting is awaited to progress completion of the information with Councillors.

Cllr. R. Richardson asked for an update regarding LCWIP/cycling matters. The Clerk advised that no further information has been received to date and that the Borough Council is progressing the work.



BPCM25/26 – 163 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

The Clerk/RFO outlined financial transactions scheduled for processing following the meeting, recorded on the Scribe accounting platform. It was confirmed that Cllr. R. Richardson has full access to reconciliations and payment records within the system.

Several payments by Direct Debit or Standing Order had already been processed under delegated authority. The Parish Council was asked to approve remaining transactions requiring authorisation. They were proposed: Cllr. G. Randall and seconded: Cllr. R. Richardson, all agreed **RESOLVED** accepted That all payments be authorised.

The Clerk reported that the Unity Trust Bank balance prior to processing payments stood at £88,810.82. Payment instructions had been prepared online and Councillors with banking access were requested to complete authorisations.

BPCM25/26 – 164 Planning Application – viewable on: Swale:

<http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications>;

- a. ***Just for note:*** Application No: 22/503654/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QL Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 5.21 ha commercial employment zone including doctors' surgery, a 4.35 ha sports hub (and sports pitches), 3FE primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.#

The application was noted for information:

BPCM25/26 – 165 Appeals:

None received

BPCM25/26 – 166 Consultations

None received

BPCM25/26 – 167 Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- a. ***Parking Issues – Aspire School (Archers Park)***

Correspondence and Kent County Council response regarding parking and obstruction issues were noted. The matter may be reconsidered through the Highway Improvement Plan if the Parish Council wishes to pursue it again.



b) PAT Testing – Repair Café

The Clerk confirmed registration for essential PAT testing training and requested training kits. Current registrations include Cllr. R. Richardson, Uwe Koepfel and the Clerk.

c) Defibrillator (AED) and Bleed Kits

The Clerk confirmed that equipment has been ordered. Installation is expected on Thursday 8th January (late morning), overseen by Cllr. S. Chapman.

d) Parish Website

Outstanding points remain. Cllr. M. Bencych and the Clerk will meet via video call to complete actions and enable launch.

e) Returned Gift – Community Allocation

A resident returned a gift with a request for community use. The Parish Council agreed allocation to support the Friendship Café.

f) Resilience Training and Webinars

Free training opportunities (January–March 2026) were noted and Councillors were encouraged to promote them locally.

g) Community Governance Review

The ongoing consultation was noted and residents were encouraged to participate.

h) Raspberry Solar Farm Presentation

The presentation was circulated to Councillors for information.

It was further noted that Cllr. M. Baldock requested the Clerk to draft a letter explaining the role of the Parish Council and the Community Governance Review. A draft has been prepared and circulated for Councillor feedback, with the intention of distributing it to residents currently outside parish boundaries, particularly within The Meads and Grove areas, to encourage wider engagement.

BPCM25/26 – 168 Training Reports

The Clerk advised that Swale Borough Council is offering bitesize planning training via Microsoft Teams. The first session will be held on 15th January 2026 (18.00–18.50) covering Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Cllr. M. Bencych and Cllr. G. Randall intend to attend.



BPCM25/26 – 169 Reports from representatives

a) ***Village Hall Committee:***

No update next meeting February 2026.

b) ***Local KALC – Rural Parishes:***

Cllr. Twardochleb and The Clerk next meeting 16th February 2026 at swale borough council

c) ***Friends of Rose Hill:***

Cllr. Baldock was not present, so no report received

d) ***The Meads Community Woodland:***

No report received.

e) ***Joint Transportation Board (JTB):***

Cllr. Chapman attended the meeting on the 8th December 17.30

f) ***Western Area Committee:***

12th February Swale Borough Council Cllr. Richardson, Cllr. Bencych

g) ***Swale Liaison Forum***

Date to be advised

BPCM25/26 – 170 Recommendations to next Full Council

None

BPCM25/26 – 171 Dates of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th February 2026 at 19:00.

BPCM25/26 – 172 Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 20.16

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____