



BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 5th March 2025

Present:

Cllr. G. Randall - Chair	Sarah Poole - Clerk
Cllr. R. Richardson (Vice Chair)	Cllr. A. Cavanagh
Cllr. M. Bencych	Cllr. P. French
Cllr. M. Baldock	Cllr. L. Blake-Knowles (arrived 19.05)

8 Parishioners, 1 Parishioner left at 19.19.

BPCM24/25 – 166

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, Cllr. Randall also introduced Mrs Oneil who is the Clerk for Leysdown Parish Council, she joined them in January this year.

Cllr. A. Gladwin, due to work, Cllr. J. Hunt due to work and PC Clemens as he is not on shift. Proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. Bencych. **All accepted.**

BPCM24/25 – 167

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.

Mrs Poole confirmed to a Parishioner that she has written a letter to the operator's license as requested at last month's meeting but has not had a response.

BPCM24/25 – 168

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

Cllr. Baldock talked about the budget that has been agreed at Council.

Cllr. Baldock reported that the lectern for Rosehill which shows the fauna and floral as well as the history of the woods is now ready for installation, just awaiting planning permission from Swale, also the management plan for this year is underway. Cllr. Baldock is also looking at specialists for the various birds, bats, fauna.

Cllr. Cavanagh read out a detailed report which the Clerk has also been circulated to everyone. Cllr. Cavanagh invited all the public to a meeting on the 12th March at 19.00 in Swale House for the public to learn about devolution and what it means for the parishioners in Swale.

Cllr. Cavanagh reported that finally the 10mph speed notice in Archers Park has finally been removed which was there during construction of the development and should have been removed within 3 months of the estate being completed.



Cllr. Cavanagh reported the ongoing issues at Grove Park School and parents fighting over parking areas, a meeting will be set up to talk to the school on possibly the 18th March. The school have confirmed that they have written to all the parents and have now changed the drop of areas, it was discussed that this might make things worse as they have now stopped cars dropping off in the carpark of the school.

Cllr. Hunt met with the council's tree officer to see how things can move on with the woodland management. Cllr. Hunt confirmed that this has resulted in a work party being set up on Tuesday 25th March at 9am. He was concerned that this is a week day, but it was chosen as it is when the council's park ranger, tree officer, and council's contractors can do. Volunteers from Milton Creek Country Park will be assisting, and anyone else is welcome to attend.

Cllr. Hunt confirmed that during the session officers and contractors will be tackling some of the bigger jobs where chainsaws are needed, with wood chippings being laid on some of the paths, this will also be with the work of the Friends of the Community Woodland some of the changes that have been made with the management plan will really be seen this summer.

BPCM24/25 – 169 To receive any report from County Councillor Cllr. Mike Baldock

Cllr. Baldock talked about the budget that has been agreed at Council, and there have been more cuts with community wardens, the failures about the highways, and the state of the roads.

BPCM24/25 – 170 To receive any report from PC Philip Clemens.

PC Clemens sent in a report regarding the continued plague by off-road dirt bikes and quad bikes tearing across fields. The routes used unfortunately include the fields behind Bobbing through to Newington, Lower Halstow and Kemsley. I have been actively patrolling through the more rural parts of the area however haven't managed to collar anyone yet.

PC Clemens has also asked to do a Police surgery at Bobbing Village Hall.

BPCM24/25 – 171 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. Baldock is the Planning committee chair so will be leaving the room when planning is talked about, however he will be returning for the large development discussion as he has already declared his pre-determined decision on this matter.

Cllr. Cavanagh is now a member of the planning committee and will listen to the comments but will abstain from voting on decisions.



BPCM24/25 – 172 Approval and Adoption of Minutes from the previous meetings Minutes of the Council Meeting on 5th February 2025.

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

BPCM24/25 – 173 Matters arising from the minutes not covered by other agenda items.

None

BPCM24/25 – 174 Community Engagement

i. VE Day 8th May

Cllr. Richardson reported on the working group meeting held on the 27th February, there were only 3 of us that attended, but we have now ordered the flag pole which has arrived, and the flags, we are holding a meeting with the school very soon to discuss who will be raising the flag.

The Clerk reported that the mayor has been confirmed for both events.

ii. VE Day Celebration of Peace 8th June

Cllr. Richardson reported that the bunting and some of items have been ordered and went through the suppliers who will be supplying things, the next meeting will be the end of March.

The Clerk reported that there will be a separate flyer going around for the unparished areas of Grove Park and The Meads, so no one feels left out on this memorable day.

The Deputy mayor has been confirmed that he is attending.

iii. Report on Loneliness Project 22nd February 10-12pm next one is 29th March 10-12pm

Cllr. Baldock reported that over 20 people attended the first event, there were various things for people to do, jigsaws, chess, cards and some people just had a good chat, Cllr. Baldock reported that the people who attended were from a wide range of areas, and thanks goes to the Clerk for making the cakes and serving the teas and coffees to everyone.

The Clerk reported that we were successful in writing the bid for a £1,000.00 for a grant funding from KALC/KCC on this project, we will be holding 3 specialised training/awareness days throughout the year, the bid had to be itemised with what the funding would be spent on, and we hope to be able to keep this going after a year of funding. The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Waghorne the manager at Sheppey Matters will also be doing a talk about what they do on the island and how we can implement things within Bobbing.

Cllr. Baldock confirmed that he will be putting the event on www.swalewestcommunityhub.org.uk to advertise the last Saturday of every month.



iv. Repair Café

The Clerk reported that from the article in the newsletter that a member of the public has offered his help for when this starts, it was discussed that this will probably start in July.

Cllr. Randall reported that he has received an email which he will circulate on how to start up repair cafes.

v. CDS Community Funday 3rd August

Cllr. Richardson has no update on this yet.

BPCM24/25 – 175 General matters raised by Parish Councillor's Reports for discussion.

a. Cllr. Baldock update on 2 chat benches to help combat Social Isolation and Loneliness.

Cllr. Baldock asked the councillors if they would be prepared to do some chat benches within Bobbing, this was discussed in great detail, it was discussed maybe use some of the benches the Parish owns already to put a plaque on them and call them chat benches, it was also talked about buying some more benches in a different colour and put them around the Parish, Cllr. Baldock reported that Lower Halstow already do this, it was proposed by Cllr. Bencych and seconded by Cllr. Richardson in principle to do these, and the councillors will think for the next meeting where these can be installed within the Parish, the Clerk will get quotes on new benches for the next meeting as well.

b. Cllr. Baldock report on the project: Swale West Community www.swalewestcommunityhub.org.uk

Cllr. Baldock gave a report on how this project is working and more events are being added and anyone wishing to hold any type of event please contact him and he will then upload it to the website. Flyers are also being distributed across Swale West Parishes.

c. Update on KALC meeting

Cllr. French reported on the meeting of the 18th February at Iwade Village hall, Vanessa Foster has now been promoted so we now have a lady called Julia Bassindale.

Cllr. French reported that the main part of the meeting was talking about Devolution which slides of that meeting are in your pack.

Cllr. French reported that Charlotte from the CCTV office in Sittingbourne gave a quick update on the services they provide and invited everyone to the office to have a look, Iwade Parish Council own 5 CCTV;s around the parish, there are 2 owned by Queenborough Town Council, 1 in Teynham, 1 in Leysdown and 6 in Borden.



BPCM24/25 – 176 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

Schedule of payments and bank reconciliation with Scribe, Cllr. Richardson has seen these on the system. This was proposed Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Richardson all agreed. **RESOLVED. Accepted**

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

This report includes one or more cost centres that have been marked as confidential. This means that only the totals are shown without any further detail.

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
	Salary/Employers Contribution	05/02/2025 - 05/03/2025				Confidential			2,205.20		2,205.20
95	6a - Cutting (Sheppey Way/Vill	22/01/2025		Unity Trust Bank	95	Gardner	Horticultural Direct Solution	S	200.00	40.00	240.00
143	2o - Bank Charges	31/01/2025		Unity Trust Bank	143	Bank Charges	Unity Bank	E	6.00		6.00
172	2t - Travel Allowance	31/01/2025	Travel Allowance January 20:	Unity Trust Bank	163	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	E			
86	2l - Website - Hugofox	01/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank	86	Gold Subscription	Hugofox	S	29.99	6.00	35.99
94	Subscription Scribe	01/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank	94	Scribe Accounting	Scribe	S	31.00	6.20	37.20
177	2a - Hall Hire	05/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank	177	Hall Hire	Bobbing Village Hall	E	60.00		60.00
162	2d - Telephone/Broadband	11/02/2025	February Invoice	Unity Trust Bank	162	Telephone/Broadband	BT	S	45.85	9.17	55.02
178	2a - Hall Hire	22/02/2025		Unity Trust Bank	178	Hall Hire	Bobbing Village Hall	E	60.00		60.00
164	2b - Working from home Allow:	28/02/2025	February Working from home	Unity Trust Bank	164	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	E	26.00		26.00
173	2t - Travel Allowance	28/02/2025	Travel Allowance February 2l	Unity Trust Bank	164	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	E			
96	2l - Website - Hugofox	01/03/2025		Unity Trust Bank	96	Gold Subscription	Hugofox	S	29.99	6.00	35.99
179	2a - Hall Hire	05/03/2025		Unity Trust Bank	179	Hall Hire	Bobbing Village Hall	E	60.00		60.00
Total									2,754.03	67.37	2,821.40

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role



Some payments have been made under the delegated powers of the Clerk/RFO and to seek approval of any additional payments as necessary

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

Barclays Savings Account This has now been closed and the money transferred to Unity Trust account. The Unity Trust Account now stands at £79,380.71.

These are the figures before some of the above payments are to be made. This was proposed Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. Bencych all agreed. **RESOLVED. Accepted**

BPCM24/25 –177 Planning Application – viewable on: Swale:
<http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications>;

- a. Planning Application Ref. No: 25/500643/FUL **Erection of a single storey rear extension.** Webenditch Cottage Cold Harbour Lane Bobbing Kent ME9 8NN

Cllr. Baldock left the room so he would not be pre-determined. It was discussed and no objection would be made, this was proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. French, Cllr. Cavanagh abstained all others agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

- b. Planning Application Ref. No: 24/505131/FULL **Demolition of existing garage/home office and erection of 1.no 3-bedroom self- build dwelling, with associated parking and landscaping works.** Land At Pigeon Farm Cottage Cold Harbour Lane Bobbing Kent ME9 8NN

Cllr. Baldock was still not present as then he would not be pre-determined. It was discussed and no objection would be made, this was proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. Richardson, Cllr. Cavanagh abstained all others agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

- c. 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 Clerk reported that this did not come through the Planning portal, it only came in via an email which is unusual. Currently there are 343 documents on the portal if you search for it under 22/503654/EIOUT.

The Clerk has asked all Councillors to read the 343 documents, especially the new ones as they have re-designed the whole area.

Cllr. Richardson showed the public on the large parish map to show the scale of the development they are proposing.

It was discussed that the Parish Council puts in representation to **Strongly Object** to this application, they will continue to watch the planning portal and add to there objections. This was proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by



Cllr. Richardson, Cllr. Cavanagh abstained. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

BPCM24/25 –178

Appeals:

None

BPCM24/25 –179

Consultations

None

BPCM24/25 –180

Correspondence

Email from Raspberry Farm have responded to our request for some funding Cllr. Richardson is getting quotes to them for May this year.

Email from resident regarding traffic by Grove Park School. Cllr. Cavanagh, Cllr. Richardson and the Clerk will be meeting the head on the 18th March 2025.

Historic Sign at Bobbing Hill, the Clerk circulated this around, and Cllr. Bencych will take some photos as it was discussed and the councillors were unsure if this has been removed and re located yet, the Clerk will also write to Jacksons regarding this.

The Clerk has circulated information on the Rotary Club walk raising funds for Cancer Research, if anyone wanted to join in, it is the 8th June 1, 3, 6 or 9 mile walk and people can register www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

The Clerk circulated information regarding the Kent PCC News, which includes the increase in precept.

The Clerk circulated information from Citizens Advice for March 2025, this was all about the increasing in bills and have also designed some drop in sessions around the area.

The Clerk circulated slides from the Devolution seminars that she attended with some of the Councillors.

The Clerk circulated information on a survey regarding [KMRF Community Resilience Emergency Planning Survey](#) we also need to do an emergency plan as this needs to be completed, a working group will be set up.

The Clerk circulated information from KALC regarding what is on there agenda as well as the monthly booklet.

The Clerk circulated information regarding the current consultation on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, this runs from the 26th February until the 8th May for consultation.

The Clerk explained that she has had some information from Paul Cassey regarding the request from the Parishioner who attended last month, and due to him not being here this month it will be deferred until he is here.



The Clerk informed councillors that one person has emailed in regarding the Christmas lights for this year and requested a street column instead of replacing the stolen light Christmas tree.

The Clerk informed all councillors from the KALC meeting that they have been invited to the CCTV control room to look at what they are doing our neighbouring parishes have these Iwade has 5 and Borden has 6.

BPCM24/25 –181

General matters raised by Councillors for discussion.

Cllr. Randall updated everyone as he has been in touch with Hugofox to remove the calendar on the website, it was discussed in great detail if to stay with Hugofox as Cllr. Richardson did some calculations if we move to Aubergine as they are coming in cheaper over a 3-year period, Cllr. Randall feels we should stay with Hugofox for now and also add Swale West Community Hub as a calendar. Cllr. Randall, has looked at the accessibility information, and once the changes have been made it should be compliant the Clerk will run another report to make sure we are compliant with the WCAG 2.2 AA standards.

Cllr. French praised Swale for their quick removal of fly tipping over the weekend.

Cllr. French praised KCC regarding some potholes on Sonora Way, and these were also filled in within 7 days.

Cllr. Bencych asked if he could do some training, it was the nuts and bolts of a Parish Councillor and an introductory of Planning. The Clerk asked Cllr. Bencych to book these direct and send her the invoice for payment, as the dates sell out very quickly, so Cllr. Bencych can choose the dates that suit himself.

Cllr. Richardson reported that the traffic is now becoming impossible within Bobbing due to the Grovehurst junction being shut as well as the works they're doing at Key Street so everything that is trying to get to Iwade or Kemsley is now coming through the village, and this is throughout the day. The Clerk reported that this was brought up at the Joint Transport Meeting on Monday, Cllr. Baldock reported that there will be more disruption when they do the new slip road onto the A249.

Cllr. Richardson asked how many months is it that councillors can miss a meeting for, the Clerk responding that if the Councillors do not attend for 6 months without a valid reason and the Parish Council do not agree to resolve to waive Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 (Vacation of Office by failure to attend meetings) then they are struck off from being a Parish Councillor.

Cllr. Randall thanked Mr Miller for delivering the Bobbing reporter along Sheppey Way.

Cllr. Randall reported that he attended the Leysdown Parish Council meeting on 25th February by invitation from Borough Councillor Cllr. Tara Noe, and



talked about the issues that Bobbing faced a few years ago when this Parish Council was inquorate.

Cllr. Randall reported that he has been asked if the Parish Council will oppose the Highsted Park planning application which is on the east side of Sittingbourne, as it was called in by the Secretary of State, as this would affect the traffic coming through Bobbing/Sittingbourne, this was discussed, and it was agreed that this would be on the next agenda.

The Clerk reported that the Freeman of the Parish Robert Ball, thanked us for the article about Freeman of the Parish, in the newsletter.

Cllr. Richardson asked how many houses do Swale have to meet for the local plan per year, Cllr. Baldock reported that currently it is in the region of 1,060, Cllr. Richardson asked that as Highsted is reported to be building 8,500 homes, as well as all the houses that are in the planning portal at present, why do we need to build more homes within this area. Cllr. Baldock reported that the housing in the area is going to be way above what is set by Government.

Cllr. Richardson proposed on the next Agenda that we put buying a TV to show all the documents on.

BPCM24/25 –182

Recommendations to next Full Council

Highsted Park

Annual Parish Meeting speaker and date

Bobbing Garden Village - Application No: 22/503654/EIOUT

CLOSED SESSION

BPCM24/25 –183

Dates of Next Meeting 2nd April at 19.00 Bobbing Village Hall

BPCM24/25 –184

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.16

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

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____