

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7th September, 2016

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. G. Herbert - Chair	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
	Cllr. R. Ball – Vice-Chair	County Cllr. M. Baldock
	Cllr. P. England	3 Residents
	Cllr. P. Paige	
	Cllr. L. Major	
	Cllr. G. Randall	

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs. Bartlett and Dewar-Whalley, Borough Cllr. James Hunt, the PCSO and Nick Mayatt, Community Warden.

2. Public Session

1. **Residents** – A resident mentioned the Family Day on the 21st August at the Community Centre; when he arrived there was no-one there? Another resident mentioned litter issues in Bobbing Hill.
2. **County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Baldock advised that it looks like there is a possible flooding issue in the field near to Simpsons Crossing. He mentioned the lorry park along the A20; he believes there is a need for smaller parks in other areas particularly as the Lower Thames Crossing will channel more lorries down the M2 and A20.
3. **Community Warden/PCSO** – Report noted; he advised of a burglary at Bobbing Court, Sheppey Way; two caravans were stolen and a storage container was entered illegally. Between 12 and 13 of August diesel was stolen from a white lorry while it was parked up in the second layby of the A249, near Bobbing, northbound off the M2. He also dealt with fly tipping in Parsonage Lane.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Paige; the Minutes of the monthly meeting all held on the 3rd August 2016 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Ball declared an interest in Item 5.3.

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

1. **Flooding Issues A249 and Surrounds** – Clerk has not as yet had any feedback on the meeting between the representative from KCC and the Grove Park representative. She is aware of the flooding issue mentioned by County Cllr. Baldock above and has been in discussion with the Grove representative regarding this. She will be contacting Carillion, Highways England and Southern Water asking them to investigate as there was a similar issue just before the sinkhole appeared in the A249 at the beginning of this year. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Bobbing School Speed Limit Update** – Work has commenced; the advisory 20 mph signs are up but there is no sign of the promised 'dog bones'. Clerk to chase KCC regarding these. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Bobbing Hill Reduction in Speed Limit** – Agreed Clerk to go back to KCC requesting costs for moving signs and TRO and bring back to the October meeting. **Action: Clerk**

4. **Working House – Howt Green** – Still no response despite Clerk chasing.

Action: Clerk

6. **Councillors' Report**

Cllr. Ball – referred to the Bobbing Reporter and has been asked why reports are not done from the various parts of the Parish. He thought that people moving into Bobbing who are not native to the area might find them interesting. The Chair has just written quite an interesting history of the area, which he suggested be printed and handed out with the edition of the next magazine.

Action: Cllrs. Randall/Herbert

Cllr. Ball has received complaints regarding speeding in Grove Park, in particular in Kenilworth Drive. County Cllr. Baldock is looking at double yellow lines on corners. The Clerk has spoken to a representative from Grove Park who is going to see if residents are interested in creating a Speed Watch Team. Clerk to check with Borden Parish Council in the first instance to see if they are willing to share their Speed Watch equipment.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Paige – mentioned the delay in receiving Minutes from the KALC Area Committee. He added that the Committee now has a new Chair, Mike Baldock. He raised the issue again of an Emergency Plan, Clerk to place this on the next Agenda.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. England – mentioned Abbey and the car park and wondered if Borough Cllr. Hunt could put pressure on the builders to do something about this.

Cllr. Randall has circulated the latest edition of the Bobbing Reporter to various volunteers for distribution.

Cllr. Major raised the issue of litter, some of which comes from McDonalds. Clerk to ask the Bobbing Manager if it is possible to put car registration numbers on cups handed to customers, so that the litter can be traced back to culprits.

Action: Clerk

7. **Correspondence**

1. **KCC Local Transport Plan Consultation** – Cllr. Paige to look at this and report back to the October meeting.

Action: Cllr. Paige

2. **Highways England consultation - Managing freight vehicles through Kent** – Members felt there was a need for small Lorry parks adjacent to main roads particularly bearing in mind the new Thames Crossing. They also believe that the charge will put lorry drivers off from using the park. It was disappointing that the consultation displays are only shown in East Kent, whereas all the areas in Kent are affected.

3. **Open space needs assessment in the area** – Clerk delegated to complete questionnaire. **Action: Clerk**

4. **Possible parking spaces along Keycol Hill** – Cllr. Randall has circulated a map showing an area that could possibly be used for parking spaces. Clerk to check with KCC Highways to see if this is feasible and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

5. **Rook Lane - A2 Keycol Hill Road Junction Layout** – Clerk has chased yet again regarding this work and has been advised that it is hoped that it will be included in work to be done before the end of September; she has been promised that she will be notified of a date.

8. **Planning Applications**

1. **15/505488/OUT Land at Church Farm Sheppey Way Bobbing Kent – Notification of Appeal lodged with the Planning Inspectorate** – Members agreed to send the following additional response to the Planning Inspector:

Bobbing Parish Council previously commented on this application in September 2015. It objected to the development. The comments made at that time remain the views of the Parish Council.

However, since that time the Swale Borough Council Local Plan consultation has closed and the inspector's comments have been made known. As a result of that Swale Borough Council was required

to find additional housing sites. After amending the Local Plan, it held further public consultations in response to the inspector's recommendations. Swale Borough Council is currently reviewing the public comments.

The emerging Local Plan did not recommend including the appeal site for housing development. The amended Local Plan (and policies) also show that the site in question is not suitable as it:

- a) Falls in the Swale Borough Council countryside gap intending to separate the West Swale villages of Bobbing, Iwade, Newington and Borden from the Sittingbourne urban area.
- b) Is on good quality agriculture land (see attachment).
- c) It is adjacent to a rural business/employment centre. Which may generate noise. It also raises the prospect of the rural business being rundown/relocated and lost with business site then coming under pressure to convert to a housing site.
- d) Is unsustainable as local services (doctors, schools and public transport) are unable to accommodate any expansion of facilities due to an increase in population.
- e) Is unsustainable as the local and major road (A2, A249 and B2006) network cannot cope with the current volumes of traffic. Note local and main roads carry a high proportion of HGV traffic to the nearby Sheerness port, Ridham Dock and local industrial areas.
- f) The Swale Local Plan has a large allocated housing site for at least 1,000 houses north of Quinton Rd. between the A249 and Milton Regis. This will impact greatly on Bobbing Village as the only unrestricted free flowing traffic route is through Bobbing. Additional housing will aggravate the situation even further.
- g) Any additional traffic, whether from appeal site or the local plan site would pass through Bobbing which is soon to have a part time 20mph speed limit installed outside the Village School. Bobbing School staff parking on the road which during weekdays restricts movement of traffic down to one lane thereby encouraging vehicles to speed past if the road appears clear. Hence the speed restriction. This part of the Highway is also a popular area for parent and commuter parking.
- h) The proposed site in question appears to be an opportunist speculative application and does not consider the 'character of the local area'. See the original parish council submission regarding listed buildings etc. However, given the geographical location of Bobbing on the edge of Sittingbourne the village with a church (grade 1), hall and characteristic 'flint' village school (old maps show it as Bobbing Street) needs to discuss with Swale Borough what the long term future holds.
- i) A letter from Southern Water dated 5/8/2015 regarding the site stated: "There is currently inadequate capacity in the local network to provide foul sewage disposal to service the proposed development". It also said "the site would be within a Source Protection Zone as defined under the Environment agency groundwater protection policies.
- j) A letter from Kent Police dated 17/7/2015 regarding the site stated they found the application "Not Sound" full details in their original submission.

To summarise:

- a) Highway safety will be compromised.
- b) The site does not comply with the emerging Swale Borough Council Local Plan policies
- c) There will be a detrimental impact on the visual characteristics of the local area; that is the countryside gap, existing nearby grade 1 and 2 buildings and quality of life of existing residents.
- d) The site does not function or integrate with the local community.
- e) Utilities and Police have concerns regarding the site.

- f) The site does not comply with the National Planning Policy Framework, in particular paras 111,112 and 86. regarding previously developed land and good quality agricultural land.

9. Finance

1. **Financial Regulations** – Bring back to October meeting. **Action: Cllr. Bartlett/Clerk**
2. **Bank Mandate – Cheque Signatories** – Bring back to October meeting. **Action: Clerk**
3. **2015/16 Year End Internal Audit Report** – Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. England report noted and findings accepted by the Parish Council
4. **Accounts and Cheques Raised** – Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. England; the accounts to the 31st August, 2016 were agreed and the following cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
07.09.16	0528	L. Fisher	Expenses August – Telephone, Use of Office, Refreshments, 12 Ink Cartridges (one third of cost)	£24.23p
07.09.16	0529	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due September 2016	£59.40p
07.09.16	0530	David Buckett	Internal Year End Audit 2015/16	£205.80p
Three Cheques in total				

Paid Out:

Wages - salary August, 2016 £237.16p Paid by Standing Order

Paid In:

Iwade Parish Council £55.67p Reimbursement One Third share of SLCC Subscription

10. Steering Group

It was proposed by Cllr. Ball and agreed by Members that the Clerk write to Newington, Borden, Iwade and Lower Halstow Parish Councils suggesting that the Parish Councils get together with Bobbing to look at local issues; perhaps meeting every six months. **Action: Clerk**

11. Any Other Matters Arising - None

12. Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 5th October, 2016, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the small meeting room at Bobbing Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.35 p.m.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____