

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held 6th June 2007 in Bobbing Village Hall at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Herbert (Chairman), Cllr Stowe (Vice Chairman), Cllr's Ball, Major, Nappey and Edwards,
Clerk: Mrs S Crawford
 Ward Councillor Gareth Randall and Labour Representative Mike Baldock attended.
 28 members of the public attended.

1.0 Apologies: Cllr's Wileman, Bullen and Dewar-Whalley.

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

3.0 Public Session:

As there were a large number of public attending the chairman read out some rules about speaking in public regarding laws of slander, parish council right to speak rules and health and safety advice. A local resident wished to discuss the recent decision by the village hall committee to close the gates to all except hirers. This was felt to have been taken with no consultation. He had a petition (not received by council) from almost all the local residents to the hall. Parking has always been a major problem but the closure has compounded this. Traffic wardens had attended along with the police and tickets will be issued from tomorrow (7th June). The names of the committee members were given to the residents but minutes are not disclosed to the public. The real issue was the safety of the children being collected and dropped off at the school. One of the school governors spoke to try to find a compromise to the problems. There are really two issues – firstly parental parking which does go by 9am but occurs at 3pm and staff parking. Many other parents, members of staff and residents spoke about the problems they are facing which are not helped with an empty car park. The chair read a statement to outline the hall's concerns as to its hirers; they pay for parking and should not expect to have to share it. Discussion centred on asking KCC to try to provide answers to the staff parking problems, also the speed of the road and the long term viability of the school. Staff parking required 18 cars but KCC does not have funding for this. The chair explained that the parish council will take these points to the village hall committee and will arrange meetings in due course. This was met with outrage as parents were worried about the dangers to their children. At 8.40pm the chair closed the meeting to consult with councillors privately. At 8.50pm the meeting reconvened and the chair outlined its proposals: the gates will be unlocked, parents can access the drop and go but no parking is to be allowed after 9am. Staff were not allowed to park in the car park. This was again met with outrage as the safety of staff was being compromised. As a gesture of goodwill and in the interests of the wider community, council decided to over rule the village hall committee and allow staff to park at the rear of the hall out of sight of the road. This is only until the end of term in July and a commitment from the head teacher to ensure both elements of the parking problems are resolved and meetings are held between both parties.

4.0 Declarations of Interest:
 None were declared.

5.0 Chairman's Report and Matters Arising:

- 5.1 The new model code of conduct was discussed with all councillors having had either a hard copy or viewed on-line. Cllr Herbert proposed adopting this model code of conduct unchanged, Cllr Ball seconded with all in favour. New registers of interests will need to be completed.
- 5.2 The uncapped well in Coldharbour Lane was discussed with the clerk not having heard from enforcement.
- 5.3 The raw sewage that was reported was investigated but nothing was found when the site was visited.
- 5.4 The clerk had also not heard from Swale regarding the fairground that was at the Grove.

6.0 Clerks Report and Correspondence Received:

- 6.1 Highways- Rook Lane info received regarding the build out and traffic movements.
- 6.2 KAPC Parish news rec'd. Cllr information day is 16th June.
- 6.3 Mileage allowances information received.
- 6.4 Meads Area section 38 agreement info. This involves the developers placing new street name plates in Argent Way area.
- 6.5 Medway Estuary & Swale Shoreline Management plan was received.
- 6.6 ACRK - parish plan funding info received
- 6.7 Letter from Mr Daynes re travellers. Mr Daynes offers £2000 towards measures to stop the travellers encamping.
- 6.8 SBC- consultation regarding planning and a Statement of Community involvement. This will be copied and collated at the next meeting.
- 6.9 Citizens Advice invite to annual general meeting.
- 6.10 Information regarding Safer Kent Awards was received.
- 6.11 Swale Borough Council wrote regarding summer schemes for 14-19 year olds. They requested £100 towards costs. After discussion Cllr Stowe proposed £50 with Cllr Major seconding. All in favour.
- 6.12 A Key Street resident requested a bottle bank in the area. The clerk has asked Swale but it was thought that as there was one at the top of Keycol Hill this would not be granted, but the situation will be monitored with the new recycling scheme.

7.0 Councillors Reports:

Cllr Stowe: Questioned the ambulances that were in Lingfield House and their use. The clerk was asked to write to the resident to enquire if this was business use. Grass cutting was discussed. The area around the sign had recently been cut by Swale and the contractor had stated that the previous contractors had cut corners. The clerk was asked to contact Keith Ferrin for a donation towards a sit on mower to cut areas not covered by Swale.

Cllr Edwards: Gave the clerk details of a sign writer to contact. A map of Bobbing with road details was requested for Bobbing in Bloom.

Cllr Major: Attended the planning meeting regarding Spade Lane. Although a decision was deferred he thought it would probably go ahead. Gave the council leaflets on the new recycling scheme. When Mr Haratbar attended the KAPC meeting he asked all to contact the liaison officer. It seems that nothing has changed regarding contact. The clerk had recently been getting a little more feed back and it was hoped this will continue. Cllr Randall reported that Highways is undergoing a re-organisation so we will wait and see what happens.

Cllr Nappey: The travellers moved from Bobbing Hill to the Meads estate and various problems were being reported. She is awaiting a letter of confirmation that when they do move on Redrow will try to deter other encampments. The date of the court hearing is Friday 8th June. It was felt that this whole area is suffering with problems caused by the travellers and this needs to be stopped.

Mike Baldock: An incident had been reported to him at the underpass area near the Travellnn. A wire had been stretched across the tracks which someone found and managed to take away. This had been reported to the police but the clerk was asked to write to the school to report this incident and to take care in this area.

8.0 Planning Applications and Notifications:

8.1 To consider new planning applications:

SW/07/0530 Case 11895 External illuminated signs at McDonalds Sheppey Way. No objection to be made but the clerk was asked to report concerns regarding the extended opening hours and the new advertising.

SW/07/0589 Case 22714 2 storey hotel bedroom block at Premier Travel Inn Sheppey Way. No objections to be made but the clerk was asked to request new saplings to be planted to replace the trees cut down for this block. Concerns were raised about the soundproofing.

SW/07/0541 Case 10428 Side and roof extensions at 17 Bobbing Hill. No objection raised but clerk was asked to write regarding the parking of this residents many vehicles and that neighbours views were taken into account.

8.2 Planning Notifications.

SW/07/0297 Case 13500 Change of use and alterations at BW May Cambray Works Stickfast Farm has been granted permission.

9.0 Finance:

9.1 It was resolved to write cheques for the following:

Summer Play Scheme Swale Borough Council £50

This could not be done as there was only one signatory.

9.2 To approve clerk's pay increase as per budget to £158 per month. This was proposed by Cllr Major with Cllr Nappey seconding – all in favour.

9.3 The internal auditor had signed off the books with no problems reported. The statement of assurance was approved by council.

9.4 VAT refund of £536.35 has been received.

10.0 Other Matters Arising:

Mr Chapman gave details of the Walk with Michael event that is taking place from Bobbing. After the paths have been completed in the church, remaining funds will be used for achievable items for children.

**Date of the next meeting is 4th July 2007 at 7.30pm in Bobbing Village Hall.
Meeting closed at 10.40pm**

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____