

## **BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 5 May 2021**

#### **MEETING HELD VIA 'ZOOM' DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Cllr. G. Herbert - Chair	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
	Cllr. R. Ball – Vice-Chair	County Cllr. Whiting
	Cllr. P. England	Borough Cllr. Baldock
	Cllr. E. England	Borough Cllr. Hunt
	Cllr. N. Clare	
	Cllr. R. Morgan-Brown	

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Parish Cllr. Major and the PCSO who could not attend due to Kent Police not supporting the use of Zoom because of security).

#### **2. Chairman's Review**

Bobbing Parish Council serves the communities of Bobbing, which includes, Howt Green, Rooks View, The Watermark, Key Street. Keycol and Bobbing Hill, plus parts of Grove Park and The Meads, as well as rural areas on the Western side of the parish.

During the past year the Covid Pandemic, with its restrictive implications, has been a challenge. However, Councillors got to grips with Zoom technology and managed to hold nine regular monthly meetings. It should be remembered we are only volunteers and do not have the same resources as KCC, Swale Borough Council and Central Government. However, we are generally the first port of call if Parishioners have any issues.

Across the parish Covid has brought out the best and worst in people. Generally, Parishioners have been compliant with Government advice, however, there are always a few exceptions. Some areas have seen neighbours looking out for each other, ensuring their wellbeing, while other parts of the parish have seen increased litter and fly tipping, mostly on footpaths and country lanes. All of this eventually gets picked up by individuals or Swale Borough Council contractors.

Bobbing has more 'classified' roads than many parishes (A2, A249 B2006). The parish is not a highway authority, KCC and Highways England have that responsibility. However, we probably devote more time and discussion to traffic, speeding, safety, and parking issues than any other topic. We can only highlight the issues on these major roads and try to resolve some of them in co-operation with the authorities. Problem areas are:

Sheppey Way Bobbing Services  
Parking on Hilton Drive, Keycol Hill and Bobbing Hill  
Key Street Roundabout  
Construction traffic using The Meads estate  
A2/Staplehurst Road junction

However, we have also been active in other areas. We have completed a long-standing project to build new toilets, storage, and small hall kitchen, along with better wheelchair access to all parts of the village hall.

We have provided trees for the children and parents to plant at Grove Park and Aspire Schools, to provide shade in the summer and hopefully improve the water take-up in the wet areas that they have on the fields.

We have replaced a wooden bench that was disintegrating in Bobbing Churchyard. We have supported the Air Ambulance, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Sittingbourne Christmas Lights. We have pressed for another post box on The Meads as the existing one is often full at peak times. We have agreed to plant more spring bulbs and negotiate to install several Defibrillators in the parish.

We have increased our use of IT by updating parish procedures, financial regulations, risk assessment/management, accounting procedures and payment authorisations. We now have a new website.

We have attended the Swale Western Area Committee meetings (via Zoom) and made representations to Southern Water regarding another water leak on The Grove. We have made representation and comments to Swale Borough Council regarding some of the twenty-five planning applications received affecting the parish. We have also managed to reduce the parish precept and have one of the lowest precepts of the thirty-seven precept setting authorities in Swale.

Finally, I would like to thank the PCSOs and Community Warden, who also keep an eye on parish crime issues and report what is happening in Bobbing. Fortunately, most is not violent but is generally theft, vandalism, and social disturbance.

I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk, without whom most of the above issues would not progress or possibly not even get reported. She has kept and advised the Councillors on many different issues during the past twelve months. I cannot thank Lynda enough for all the work she does for the Parish Council.

### 3. **Hall Review**

Over the last twelve months the Hall has not had any functions due to Covid-19. This resulted in no income, but thankfully it has received some Government grants. The Hall Committee managed to arrange for the builders to come in during this period, they worked hard and completed the new toilets, Kitchen and storage. The only delays to the work were caused by a blocked drain and snow! The work is now complete. Some of the lighting has been upgraded to LED automatic. The Hall Committee is also looking to change to an 'Incorporated' Charity – this is an Action for Communities in Rural England initiative.

There have been many enquiries regarding booking the hall, however there are still Covid restrictions in place and in turn Health and Safety issues that require the Hall Committee to complete a Risk Assessment before the opening date of 21 June. These restrictions are putting some hirers off!

### 4. **W.I. Review**

Over the past year the W.I. has not been able to meet officially but have been able to keep in touch. At Christmas each of the 36 members received a 'meeting in a bag', which comprised cards and gifts. Members also received a seasonal treat at Easter. The majority of Members have renewed their membership and the W.I. is looking forward to getting back to formal meetings.

### 5. **Any other Reviews Received** - None received.

### 6. **Questions/Comments from Parishioners** – None received

**The meeting closed at 07.42 p.m.**

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_