

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held 3rd March 2010 in Bobbing Village Hall at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Herbert (chairman), Cllr's Ball, Bennett, Bullen, Dewar-Whalley, Major, and Stowe.

Clerk: Mrs S Crawford.

Eight members of the public attended.

1.0 Apologies: Cllr Nappey also Ward Cllr Randall.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting had been amended to include a re start of the public session, agreed to be a true record and were signed accordingly. The minutes of the February meeting were agreed to be a true record and signed accordingly.

3.0 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Dewar-Whalley declared an interest in the item 5.1 concerning the gypsy and travellers and also in planning matters.

4.0 Public Session:

One member of the public brought to council's attention the graffiti on the road signs along the Staplehurst Road. The clerk will report this. The other attendees were interested in the gypsy and traveller item.

5.0 Chairman's Report and Matters Arising:

5.1 Meeting 22nd February 2010: The chairman thanked all involved for organising the meeting and wished to thank the residents for their conduct at the meeting which went very well. The Kent Messenger gave a fair report on the evening. Cllr Dewar-Whalley wished to convey thanks to the chair for chairing the meeting so well and the clerk for her involvement. It was decided that the matter will not rest here. The petition will be organised when it is known what we are petitioning against. We need either the planning application or to pass comments to Swale when they hold their consultations. Cllr Major thought it was hard work to door knock all residents but had been involved in petitions where householders were asked to sign it on to their neighbours. This may be an idea for the future. Working with other parish councils may be another option but we need to think what area we need to concentrate on with this involvement. The chair thought it a good idea to get businesses involved as we may need their help in the future. It was felt that there will be a long battle ahead but comments from everyone have been very positive but now all we can do is await the Swale consultations and the planning application from KCC.

5.2 The chair had recently taken the iron work of the old sign to the sign makers. While there he met the owner and was given a tour of the workshop. He saw the sign mould being made. The first is in wood with relief work, then a mould created and then finally the resin sign. The signs are very good quality and he was very pleased with the progress being made. The clerk then informed council that they had quoted £50 to refurbish the iron work which she had agreed to on council's behalf. This was unanimously agreed to be required.

6.0 Clerks Report and Correspondence Received:

6.1 Update regarding Japanese Knotweed. David Mounter from Highway had informed the clerk that the knotweed will be treated again in April. The contractors will not be able to cut the stems near the road so these will be stem injected. The knotweed in the garden at the bottom of Bobbing Hill will need to be treated as well.

6.2 KALC- Parish news received.

6.3 Ellenor Lions Hospices- raffle tickets are available from the clerk.

6.4 Village sign- refurbishment of iron work will cost £50. See item 5.2

6.5 Grass Cutting – regular cut? It had been agreed at the budget meeting that there would be a regular cut but the clerk had not contacted the contractor. It was agreed to do so.

6.6 Speed limit review update. The update should be received in April 2010.

6.7 Citizens Advice Bureau – donation? Councillor Stowe proposed to donate £50 seconded by Cllr Ball with all in favour.

6.8 Swale West Parishes meeting 24th Feb update. The clerk attended the meeting and gave a brief overview of the meeting. Other parish councils are not happy with the planning department at Swale so they will be invited to the next meeting. No money is on the table to bid for yet but it is thought it could be similar to the last financial year. It was thought that parishes need to work together to enable things to be done but not to meet just for the sake of it. The clerk will advise the date of the next meeting.

6.9 Village Hall disabled toilet quote and others. The clerk had received quotes for the work needed in the small hall. She had sent off the paperwork to enable the grants to be paid. It was thought that there may be some volunteers to help with the work.

6.10 Flyers for the Skills and Careers Event on March 11th have been received.

7.0 Councillors Reports:

Cllr Dewar-Whalley: Reported rubbish that has been dumped by the cricket field- the clerk has reported this. Cllr Dewar-Whalley advised that he still had £700 to be spent before the end of March. The clerk will ask for a grant form for help towards new heating in the small hall. The chief executive of Swale will be touring Grove Ward on the 18th March and it is hoped that some councillors may be able to meet him. When the arrangements are known he will inform council.

Cllr Ball: The new community hall for the Meads is still at planning and design stages. There had been a recent meeting but everything is moving forward. He also attended the KALC meeting which covered grants, salt bins (which will not be replaced if taken) and Highways issues. Highways will not attend meetings outside office hours.

Cllr Stowe: Saw that Highways were renewing white lines but that the potholes were not being repaired. Asked the clerk to ask Highways what was happening? The new sign recently erected is not what was asked for but at least they had made one. He apologised for not typing up the minutes of the meeting on 22nd Feb and had not had chance to order the new computer yet. He also was shocked that at the meeting on 22nd February a member of KCC lived in the parish and had not come to our meetings to introduce himself, granted he does not represent this area but it would have been courteous. Could the clerk ask him to our next meeting?

Cllr Major: Asked if any progress had been made with the 'pedestrians in road' signs at Keycol Hill. The main problem is the lack of footpath for walkers and this is a real cause for concern. It was mentioned that a letter to the police chief with photos may get some results. Cllr Major also bought up at the KALC meeting about the lack of representation for the settled community regarding the planning issues on going in Bobbing. When Ward Councillors are also on the planning committee that ties them for any healthy debate and also when it happens to a KCC member that effectively means no representation. The traveller issue is country wide but again representations are made for the travellers but in some cases no-one can do the same for the settled community.

Cllr Bennett: Had been asked by residents that there are caravans and sign written vans parked on drives in Rooks View. This is against their covenant on the properties. The clerk will write to enforcement regarding these.

8.0 Planning Applications and Notifications:

8.1 To consider new planning applications:

SW/10/0086 Case 23916 Two Storey front rear and side extension at 28 Rooks View, Bobbing. Council wish to offer no objections to these plans.

The proposed gypsy site opposite the crematorium will be on the agenda at the planning meeting 4th March.

8.2 Planning Notifications.
None received to date

9.0 Finance:

9.1 To resolve to write cheques for the following:-

Bobbing Village Hall (six months hire)	£200.00
Mrs S Crawford (petty cash £52.13 Tel chgs £20)	£72.13
Kent Highways Services (footpath)	£5,244.98

There was much discussion regarding paying the full amount to Kent Highways but Cllr Bennett proposed to, seconded by Cllr Ball with all in favour. It was thought that we had waited far too long to complete this project and we do not have many choices regarding contractors.

10.0 Other Matters Arising:

None.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th April 2010 in Bobbing Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____