

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 1st October, 2014

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. G. Herbert - Chair	Cllr. R. Richardson
	Cllr. R. Ball – Vice-Chair	Cllr. K. Johnson
	Cllr. L. Major	County Cllr. M. Baldock
	Cllr. D. Dewar-Whalley	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
	Cllr. P. Paige	3 Residents

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair formally welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllr. Wright.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September, 2014, were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

2. **Public Session**

County Cllr. Baldock reminded that a meeting of Swale West Parishes takes place on the 6th October, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in Hartlip Village Hall. There have been issues with the public using residents' bins in the Gadby Road shopping area; Swale Borough Council is looking into this. He referred to the consultation regarding Community Wardens; the County Council is proposing a 50% reduction which he feels is short-sighted as the Wardens are a huge asset to the community. He advised that the new Health Centre, sited opposite the Pharmacy on The Meads, is opening at the beginning of January 2015.

Sue Sampson advised that on the 17th November, at 7.00 p.m. in Bobbing Church, they are meeting with the Archdeacon regarding churchyard regulations; this is an open meeting. The School has now withdrawn its objections to the disabled bays.

4. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. Dewar-Whalley declared an interest in 5.1.

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

1. **WW1 Commemorative Collaboration with the Church**– Cllr. Ball has met with the Church and arrangements are progressing. He has also looked at the memorial located in the Church and this does need renovating; he is trying to obtain quotes for the work. It has been agreed that a service will be held at Bobbing Church at 10.45 a.m. on the 9th November, followed by refreshments in Bobbing Hall; this will be themed and will be “bring and share”. The W.I. is happy to help and will be trying out some WW1 recipes. Bunting has been obtained and tea/coffee and soft drinks will need to be provided. It is hoped that Bobbing Village School's Choir will sing in the church and Sue Samsom has also contacted the Mayor's Office to see if the Mayor is available to lay a wreath. Sue will also prepare a flyer for distribution and will put an article in the local paper. **Action: Cllr. Ball**

2. **Pedestrian Bridge across Railway Line** – Cllr. Paige met with a representative from Woodrow who couldn't commit as regards the bridge. Clerk to contact Network Rail again and ask for progress; also ask when the six month trial of the sound system comes to an end and how much the bridge will cost. Clerk to again request a traffic light system on the existing crossing as fog muffles the audible warning system. Cllr. Dewar-Whalley suggested the Parish Council issues a press release; agreed Clerk to try to obtain information from Network Rail first and then follow up with this. **Action: Clerk**

3. **Amey Traffic Survey – Update following Site Meeting** – Clerk still awaiting a response from KCC's Steve Darling; she will chase again. **Action: Clerk**

4. **Land at the Bottom of Keycol Hill/Bobbing Hill – Update following Site Meeting** – No response as yet received from KCC's Property Services, Clerk to chase. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Open and Accountable Local Government** – Noted. Agreed Clerk to attend the November KALC training session on this at a cost of £6.25p; a quarter share of the fee. **Action: Clerk**
6. **DCLG Technical Consultation on planning** – On-line survey completed by Cllr. Johnson.

1. Councillors' Report

Cllr. Richardson referred to the speed limit outside Bobbing School; Cllr. Paige will speak to Marisa White regarding this. It was also suggested that the public send individual letters to Chief Inspector Henley expressing their concern. Cllr. Dewar-Whalley suggested sending a letter to the Health and Safety Executive and ROSPA also David Brazier, KCC, regarding insurance cover in the event of a resulting accident; Clerk to action. **Action: Cllr. Paige/Clerk**

Cllr. Johnson referred to the bollards under the A249 underpass – see item 9.2.

Cllr. Dewar-Whalley commented that there had been severe flooding near Norwood Walk three times over the past year; someone has recalled that there is a stream under Norwood Walk.

Cllr. Ball Asked if the Clerk could write to the Joint Transportation Board requesting yellow lines and a 30 minute waiting restriction on the layby on the old A249 (close to Keycol Roundabout) to stop lorries, Travel Master and others using it for long periods and stopping access to the mail box. **Action: Clerk**

7. Correspondence

1. **Disposal of Asset (Parish Council)** – Members noted the correspondence regarding the sale of Southlands Assessment Unit, Rook Lane.

8. Planning

Current applications:

14/502072/FULL/EMEI - Proposal: Development of an up to 18MWp ground mounted solar farm on land at Orchard Farm, Iwade, Kent, ME9 8QE to include solar arrays, transformer enclosures; substation and control room, access tracks; perimeter fence and small-scale CCTV cameras - Land West Of Orchard Farm School Lane Iwade Kent ME9 8QG – Members objected on the following grounds:

- Visual Amenity – the proposed development is next to an area of High Landscape Value and Green Corridor between Sittingbourne and the surrounding villages. A nearby development proposal for a Waste Disposal Land Fill site was refused on the grounds of an Area of High Landscape Value and that will overlook this proposed Industrial Development
- Loss of Agricultural Farmland 50% of which is grade 3a, which is against KCC Policy
- Size of Installation in context of surrounding location in the middle of the countryside on a Greenfield site with all the attendant construction and eventual decommissioning problems which is against KCC Policy, County favours Brownfield or installation on existing industrial buildings.
- The Government believes that these installations should be on brownfield sites or roofs and agricultural land should not be lost.
- If this goes ahead, along with the three other solar farm proposals in close proximity to this site, it will mean that 10% of Bobbing Parish will be taken up with Solar Farms.
- Loss of outlook to the detriment of residential amenity close to the site.
- Concerns that the facility in an area of farmland and is out of character with its surroundings.

- Members would like to make the following comments/observations:
- We would ask that KCC Highways looks at the safety of the roads (the National Cycle Route “Sustrans” runs through Stickfast Lane) as a whole including Parking and Emergency access during construction and subsequent proposed operation.
- If the application is approved the Parish Council would ask that it be made a condition that no construction traffic enters Bobbing village, particularly in light of the traffic problems outside the School on the old A249.
- We would ask that KCC Highways looks at the safety of the roads as a whole including Parking and Emergency access during construction and subsequent proposed operation
- There appears to be no regulatory body to overview this power producing facility other than planning regulations and we have concerns over future running and decommissioning policies.

Determined applications: None.

9. Finance

1. **KALC – Finance Training** - Agreed Clerk to attend on the training session on the 17th October at a cost of £18 (quarter share). **Action: Clerk**
2. **Bollards – A249 Viaduct** – Cllr. Johnson has completed a drawing of the area and is meeting with one of the approved KCC contractors. Clerk to bring this item back to the November meeting. **Action: Cllr. Johnson/Clerk.**
3. **Cheques raised at this meeting** - The accounts to the 30th September, 2014, were agreed and the following cheques were agreed and signed -

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
01.10.14	0422	L. Fisher	Expenses Sept 2014 –Telephone, Use of Office, Meeting Refreshments (August), Stationery, Stamps	£25.53p
01.10.14	0423	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due September 2014	£44.00p
01.10.14	0424	Steve Wakeling	Monthly grass cutting September	£100.00p
Three Cheques in total				

Payment by Standing Order: Wages - £176.27p - salary September, 2014

10. Any Other Matters Arising

1. Clerk to circulate Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for discussion at November meeting. **Action: Clerk**

11. Next Meeting(s)

The next monthly Meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th November, 2014, commencing at 7.30 p.m. in Bobbing Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 09.45 p.m.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____