



BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Present:

Cllr. G. Randall - Chair

Sarah Poole - Clerk

Cllr. R. Richardson (Vice Chair)

Cllr. P. French

Cllr. M. Bencych

5 Parishioners, 2 Parishioners left at 19.22, 1 parishioner left at 19.38

BPCM24/25 – 185

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, Cllr. Randall also welcomed the head from Grove Park School along with McDonalds rep's.

Cllr. A. Gladwin, Cllr. L. Blake-Knowles, Cllr. M. Baldock due to work, Cllr. A. Cavanagh, Proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. French. **All accepted.**

BPCM24/25 – 186

Resignation from Ann Cavanagh

Cllr. Randall read out Mrs Cavanagh's resignation and proposed a vote of thanks to her for all her help with the Parish Council when the Parish Council was inquorate, a thank you card and flowers were also sent, which Mrs Cavanagh thanked the Parish Council for these. All agreed.

BPCM24/25 – 187

Public Session as per our Standing Orders 3 f, g & h and shall not exceed 30 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. An individual member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

A parishioner advised the Parish Council that the area opposite McDonalds will be having permanent traffic lights, they have seen the plans, seen KCC there as well as the contractors present other parishioners are worried about the congestion. The Parish Council has not been made aware of this, and has had no notification from KCC, the Clerk will follow this up. Also the Parishioner has advised when the lights are to be installed they will close Sheppey Way for 2-3 weeks while the construction takes place, as extra lanes are being constructed.

Cllr. French is concerned if the houses get built on Sheppey Way and also Bobbing Garden Village this is going to cause more traffic jams in the area.

The Parishioner advised that they have been told that if the planning is approved then they will change the traffic lights for a roundabout with Section 106.



BPCM24/25 – 188

Update from Grove Park School re new parking procedures.

Mrs Flain explained that she has been at the school for 2 years, over the last 18 months the school has been monitoring and establishing traffic and footfall that they bring to Hilton Drive. It has been very challenging at times as she expressed to Cllr. Richardson and the Clerk when we had a meeting last week. Various methods have been tried within the last 18 months and various staff including the site management team go out to try to direct traffic.

Mrs Flain explained that she has spoken to residents that live at the top of Hilton Drive where there is a small turning circle and have now developed a system that this turning circle is the safer way of dropping children to school, as it is acknowledged there is road rage and after the incident with people fighting in the street and after a child was hit by a residents car as they did not see the child, also staff have had threats/abuse and the school dog was nearly run over three times.

Mrs Flain explained closing the school gates was the only option, this works well in the afternoon and has been in place for some time and there have been no recorded incidents with the safety of children/parents/staff, this theory is now being implemented from 08.25. parents are unable to gain access to the school car park. Parents are 95% happier now that this has been implemented,

Mrs Flain has spoken to residents, and they are happier as this has reduced traffic, especially on Monday and Fridays when it was the busiest.

Mrs Flain wants to work with the community and does not want anyone to think they have just pushed the problem elsewhere, but she does understand that people will now be parking in other streets, but she would like to engage with anyone who has concerns about parking in there roads to contact her directly and she will talk with them as well as the site manager of the school.

Mrs Flain will be doing an advert for a road safety campaign which will be included in the next newsletter which will be written by the children, for people to understand road safety. Mrs Flain is also going to write an article about why the new system is in place and who to contact with issues for the next newsletter.

The Clerk explained to Mrs Flain that a resident in Bristol Close is very upset that parents keep blocking the driveways and have no courtesy in the way they park, Mrs Flain has said she will ask her site team to investigate this area.

Cllr. Richardson suggested that some of the Parish Councillors go to the area affected and talk to parents to see if they can educate them about their parking attitude.

BPCM24/25 – 189

To receive any report from Borough Councillor Cllr. Mike Baldock, Cllr Ann. Cavanagh, Cllr. Lloyd Chapman, Cllr. Roger Clarke and Cllr. James Hunt.

The Clerk read out a detailed report from Cllr. Cavanagh which has also been circulated to everyone.

BPCM24/25 – 190

To receive any report from County Councillor Cllr. Mike Baldock

Not able to report due to Purdah



- BPCM24/25 – 191** **To receive any report from PC Philip Clemens.**
- No report. Cllr. Richardson asked the Clerk to contact Julie Bassindale Inspector as we were promised that a police officer would be present at 1 in 3 meetings.
- BPCM24/25 – 192** **For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in regard to any items on the agenda under the Council's adopted Code of Conduct.**
- Nothing
- BPCM24/25 – 193** **Approval and Adoption of Minutes from the previous meetings Minutes of the Council Meeting on 5th March 2025.**
- The minutes were all circulated before the meeting. These were proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Bencych. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.** The Chairman duly signed the Minutes.
- BPCM24/25 – 194** **Matters arising from the minutes not covered by other agenda items.**
- a. Update from Hugofox and the non-accessibility for www.bobbing.gov.uk
- This was discussed in great detail, Cllr. Randall has been working with Hugofox and they are working on the areas that are not accessibility compliant. It was proposed by Cllr. French that the Parish Council put them on notice that they have until the 28th April to make these changes to make the site more accessible than the current score of 73% as they currently have 9 critical issues, as anything below 95% the report is advising that it does not meet the WCAG2.2.2A accessibility regulations. Cllr. Bencych seconded the motion and Cllr. Randall abstained all other agreed.
- b. Response from McDonalds
- Matt and Caroline came along and gave an update on how they can help the Parish; they would like to buy some bulbs like Hyacinth's Tulips, Mascari, Tate a Tate, for the grass area opposite McDonalds, this was agreed, and the Parish Council will then do a Green's Day to do planting of these bulbs.
- Matt explained that he understands that McDonalds is a global company but wants to do more local and be part of the community.
- Matt also offered staff as they employ 157, so maybe once a month/bi-monthly for litter picking, as they currently do this daily around the area they own. This was discussed at some length and the Clerk gave them some newsletters, where we can advertise Litter Picking days, Cllr. French has offered to help co-ordinate these.
- Matt also has offered to help with some trimming of hedge ways and pathways near Sheppey Way, Cllr. Richardson asked the Clerk to investigate who owns this area.
- c. Update on Eden Top Appeal Ref(s): APP/V2255/W/24/3357886
- Cllr. Randall attended the appeal, on which Swale Borough Council had served an enforcement notice on them, the case was all day. Cllr. Randall reported that he gave his evidence and was cross examined. Cllr. Randall does not have an update on the conclusion of the appeal.



BPCM24/25 – 195

Community Engagement

i. VE Day 8th May

Cllr. Richardson explained that there has not been a working party since the last meeting, but one is planned for tomorrow night the 3rd April, the Clerk has put together a flyer with all the details on as well as the details for the 8th June, this will then be distributed to every household in Grove Park and The Meads it will also be featured in the next newsletter which will be distributed the rest of the Parish.

The Clerk has received one quote for the flagpole installation, Cllr. French is awaiting 2 more quotes; it was agreed that if they are not received by the 5th April we will go ahead with the quote we have received due to time constraints. This was proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Randall all agreed.

ii. VE Day Celebration Funday 8th June

Cllr. Richardson reported that the school are looking forward to getting involved with community.

iii. Report on Loneliness Project 29th March 10-12 then last Saturday of each month.

i. The Parish Council Support Scheme - Round 3 - Evaluation Visit Request – Loneliness Project

The Clerk reported that the second loneliness café took place on Saturday we had just over 15 people which was nice to see, The Clerk gave thanks to Cllr. Bencych and his partner for setting up the hall, the feedback from people attending is very good, and everyone enjoyed the array of different activities they could participate in as well as just talking to each other. The Clerk did invite the Project and Engagement Officers to come along, they were unable to make this one but hope to attend in future.

ii. Repair Café

Cllr. Richardson gave an update on behalf of Cllr. Blake-Knowles, he thanked Mr Koepsel. For coming along this evening as he would like to be involved with this project which will start in July, 10.00-14.00 and will run once a month around 2 weeks after the loneliness café. Cllr. Richardson will arrange a meeting with everyone to discuss the running on this, the Clerk will then give out information on other repair café in other boroughs. Mr Koepsel asked if people can look out for various electrical items that he can take a part so the parts can be re-used.

iii. CDS Community Funday 3rd August

No update has been received, the Clerk will make contact with CDS Community and invite them to the next meeting for an update.

iv. Newsletter deadline 7th April.

The Clerk has reported that the next newsletter is underway, and she needs Councillors reports by the 10th April. The Clerk has tried to explain to public in this next newsletter who to report issues too, as well as what happens with planning applications.



BPCM24/25 – 196 General matters raised by Parish Councillor's Reports for discussion.

a. Adopt No Mow May for 2025

Cllr. Randall talked about the benefits of No Mow May, it was proposed by Cllr. Randall that this be adopted again this year and this was seconded by Cllr. French. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

b. Adopt free speech protections for Councillors and Clerk.

Cllr. Randall proposed that Bobbing Parish Council adopt a resolution on “free speech”. This does not inference with the Civilly and Respect Pledge that the Parish Council signed in November 2022. The resolution reads “The right to free speech under the law is the basis of democracy and will be upheld at all times and there is no right to be offended by any lawful speech.” this was seconded by Cllr. Richardson. Cllr. Randall asked that the Code of Conduct now be updated to include this. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

c. Oppose Highsted Park.

This was deferred to a future meeting when Cllr. Baldock is present.

d. Annual Parish Meeting Dean talk about “War World One” Wednesday 28th May @ 19.00

Cllr. Blake-Knowles reported that Dean Coles has agreed to do a talk for the Annual Parish Meeting, and it will be on and around the area with connections to WW1 and WW2 Local history.

e. Cllr. French reported that the amount of traffic that is going through Sonora Way due to the roadworks is causing chaos.

Cllr. French reported that the number of motorbikes that are coming down and causing a lot of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. French reported that there are lots of trees/bushes that are over hanging on the pathways.

Cllr. French reported about the amount of speeding through Sonora Way this is just not visitors but also residents.

f. Cllr. Richardson reported that there has been a large fire in the carpark of Quinton estate, this has been reported by KCC Councillors and Borough Councillors, the Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Police and KCC about what the proposal is to shut this carpark as it is causing so much misery to residents in the area, copy in the Police, Fire Service and Swale Borough Council.

Cllr. Richardson would like to ask if the Parish Council would pay for a Community Library shelves inside/outside to do a community library which will then be advertised in the next newsletter, this was discussed and will be brought up at the next meeting, along with if the Parish Council will pay for the TV in (meeting room) as this will save a lot of paperwork for the Clerk and Councillors to have.



- g. Cllr. Bencych reported that the signs outside the pharmacy have been removed about Private Parking restrictions, also the hairdressers had shut down due to this as customers were being affected, so was unsure if the restrictions have been removed.

BPCM24/25 – 197 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

Cllr. Richardson and the Clerk have asked if Cllr. Bencych and Cllr. Blake-Knowles will be a signature of the bank, as we currently only have 3 signatures and need some more. This were proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Randall. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.** The Clerk will get this in motion.

Schedule of payments and bank reconciliation with Scribe, Cllr. Richardson has seen these on the system. This was proposed Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Randall all agreed. **RESOLVED. Accepted**

Some payments have been made under the delegated powers of the Clerk/RFO and to seek approval of any additional payments as necessary

The Clerk confirmed the bank balance was before all of the above was paid.

The Unity Trust Account now stands at £76,859.75

These are the figures before some of the above payments are to be made. This was proposed Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. Richardson all agreed. **RESOLVED. Accepted**

BPCM24/25 – 198 AGAR

- a. Update from Internal Auditor.

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor has been in today, and gone through all the paperwork required, and has signed off his part of the AGAR, which will go to Mazars the External Auditors.

- b. Sign off Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The Clerk read the Governance Statement to the Councillors, whereby Cllr. Randall then ticked were appropriate, this was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Bencych for Cllr. Randall to sign the document, all agreed. The Chairman the duly signed the Governance Statement. **RESOLVED. Accepted**

- c. Sign off Accounting Statement 2024/25

The Clerk read the Accounting Statement to the Councillors, whereby Cllr. Randall then filled in were appropriate, this was proposed by Cllr. French and seconded by Cllr. Richardson for Cllr. Randall to sign the document, all agreed. The Chairman the duly signed the Accounting Statement. **RESOLVED. Accepted**



BPCM24/25 –199

Planning Application – viewable on: Swale:

<http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications>;

- a. Application No: 22/503654/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QL Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for a mixed used development comprising up to 2,500 dwellings, a 5.21 ha commercial employment zone including doctors' surgery, a 4.35 ha sports hub (and sports pitches), 3FE primary school, community facilities, local retail provision, public open space, children's play areas and associated parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage, ground and other infrastructure.

The Clerk has asked all Councillors to read the 378 documents, especially the new ones as they have re-designed the whole area, the Clerk circulated new folders, and the existing folders were also changed from each Councillor.

BPCM24/25 –200

Appeals:

BPCM24/25 –201

Consultations

- a. Bourne Place Proposed Order Variation No. 5

It was discussed and no objection would be made regarding the increase in prices this was proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. Richardson, all agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

- b. Off Street Proposed Order Variation No. 7

It was discussed and no objection would be made regarding the increase in prices this was proposed by Cllr. Bencych and seconded by Cllr. Richardson, all agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

BPCM24/25 –202

Correspondence

- a. Historic Sign relocation at Bobbing Hill

The Clerk reported that there has been lots of communication with Jacksons and due to Councillors not being able to meet them at a time that suited everybody, the Clerk agreed for photographs to be taken before and after the move and be sent to her, the sign is actually only moving backwards towards the fence further away from the road.

- b. McDonalds

This was discussed under 193b, because they were here in person.

- c. Devolution

The Clerk circulated information from the KALC meeting.

- d. Email from a parishioner regarding the REAR OF "NETHERTOES" SHEPPEY WAY ME98QP

The Clerk circulated the email concerning the above property, Cllr. Bencych proposed that we contact the Enforcement Department at Swale regarding this as



well as the Environment Agency as this looks like illegal waste. This was seconded by Cllr. Randall. Cllr. French Abstained. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

e. Letter from Parishioner

The Clerk has received 3 letters' regarding Pigeon Farm all from different parishioner's unsigned/addressed, all saying something different. It was proposed that these are forwarded onto Paul Cassey from the Enforcement Team at Swale Borough Council, as the Parish Council do not have enforcement powers, this is up to the Borough Council as they have a team of enforcement officer who can deal with all planning matters, the Parish Council are only consultees with the Borough Council.

f. SURVEY - 10 YEAR PLAN FOR THE NHS – KALC

The Clerk circulated all the information about the survey which needs to be completed by all councillors by the 6th June 2025.

g. Kent Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation – Larrisa Reed – CEO Swale

The Clerk circulated information from Swale with their response to Government on "Kent Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation".

h. Trees outside property Porcelain Close reported by a Parishioner

The Parishioner advised that this is now being done by KCC, and thanked the Parish Council for contacting KCC after numerous reports by the parishioner.

i. A249 Grovehurst Information

The Clerk circulated information from Jacksons about how the work is developing.

j. AI Training Sessions

The Clerk circulated information regarding the three AI training sessions that are available, the Clerk has asked to go on this as well as Cllr. Bencych. This was proposed by Cllr. Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Randall. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

k. Keep Britain Tidy

The Clerk circulated information on this, which goes nicely with item b, Cllr. French will be in contact with McDonalds to do bimonthly litter picking days, and advertise them in the newsletter.

l. Section 137

The Clerk circulated information from Government to say the Section 137 has gone up per elector from £10.81 to £11.10.

BPCM24/25 –203 Reports from representatives

i. Village Hall Committee – Cllr Randall

The Clerk reported that the new door lock has arrived, and Invicta Security will be fitting this very soon. This will enable people to get in at the allotted times.



Cllr. Richardson reported that the TV arrives on Sunday and then it will be installed,

ii. KALC Area Committee – Cllr French

No meeting has taken place.

iii. Friends of Rose Hill - Cllr Baldock

No report.

iv. The Meads Community Woodland - Cllr French

Cllr. French reported that the Spring Clean had to be cancelled due to Swale Borough Council woodland team, due to various trees falling over and not safe to do a litter pick. Cllr. French reported that a lot of dog walkers are not picking after there dogs.

Cllr. French reported that children have made a camp and produced some litter in that area.

v. Joint Transport Board

No meeting has taken place.

vi. Western Area Committee - Cllr Richardson

No meeting has taken place.

vii. Swale West Parish Group Update from the meeting - Cllr Bencych

No meeting has taken place.

viii. Swale Liaison Forum

No meeting has taken place.

BPCM24/25 –204 Recommendations to next Full Council

Co-option for next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

BPCM24/25 –205 Dates of Next Meeting:

7th May Bobbing Village Hall @19.00

Clerk Holiday 8th – 26th May 2025

28th May Annual Parish Meeting Village Hall @ 19.00

4th June Annual Parish Council Meeting @ 19.00

June Full Parish Council Meeting

BPCM24/25 –206 Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.27

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

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____