



BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7th May 2025

Present:

Cllr. G. Randall - Chair	Sarah Poole - Clerk
Cllr. R. Richardson (Vice Chair)	Cllr. P. French
Cllr. M. Bencych	Cllr. M. Baldock
Cllr. L. Blake-Knowles (left 21.04)	

2 Parishioners, Cllr. A. Cavanagh and Cllr. J. Hunt. 1 Parishioners left at 19.17, 1 parishioner left 20.57 and Cllr. Hunt left at 21.05

BPCM24/25 – 207

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, Cllr. Randall also welcomed Tee Jay for the Community Driving School.

Cllr. A. Gladwin and PC Clemens.

Cllr. Richardson asked the clerk to confirm how many months has Cllr. Gladwin missed meetings for, the Clerk responded this is 6 months and now needs to be reported to the monitoring officer for non-attendance. "The Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Council Member fails to attend any meeting for six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance, she ceases to be a member of the authority"

Proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. Richardson. **All accepted.**

BPCM24/25 – 208

Co-Option of Natalia Twardochleb and Susan Chapman

Cllr. Randall gave an introduction to both Ms Twardochleb and Mrs Chapman with the various roles they have already served in the community as well as helping out at the loneliness café/pop up café once a month.

Cllr. Randall proposed that Mrs Champan be accepted onto the Parish Council and seconded by Cllr. Richardson. All agreed **RESOLVED** Accepted.

Cllr. Randall proposed that Ms Twardochleb be accepted onto the Parish Council and seconded by Cllr. Bencych. All agreed **RESOLVED** Accepted.

BPCM24/25 – 209

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.

No questions.



BPCM24/25 – 210 Update from Community Funday. Tee-Jay

Tee-Jay gave an update on how the organising is going for the fun day on 3rd August 2025, they have 32 various stalls already booked in, and flyers are going out to all the surrounding areas. The Clerk reminded councilors and Tee-Jay that the Parish Council will be there doing something for the children and show casing what we do in the community. Cllr. Bencych asked if a site meeting will be taking place before the day, so everyone knows where they are going. Organisers will be there from 0800 and stalls will be welcome from 09.00 for stallholders to be set up before 09.45 as the event is 10.00-16.00. The Clerk asked for flyers to be available to be distributed at the 8th June event, the Clerk also asked for a pdf of the flyer to go out on our social media channels. Cllr. Baldock asked if he could have some for Borden and he will deliver them for them.

BPCM24/25 – 211 To receive any report from Borough Councillor Cllr. Mike Baldock, Cllr. Ann. Cavanagh, Cllr. Lloyd Chapman, Cllr. Roger Clarke and Cllr. James Hunt.

Cllr. Baldock reported that there may be a Community Governance review and he would like a working party to design a survey to go out to residents asking their opinion on being part of the Parish or possible Town Council. Cllr. Randall asked what about the Boundary Review which means they can then start on the Community Governance review.

Cllr. Baldock reported on periwinkle mill even though it is not in the parish, it is in Milton Regis and is progressing very well on the restoration. The community lottery has already started and has already raised over £2k for good causes. Tuesday 18th May there will be a meeting on the fight against the expansion of Bobbing on more house developments.

Cllr. Cavanagh sent around a detailed report on what has been happening within the Parish. The SKLR has just reopened with a new platform and is definitely worth a visit. Cllr. Cavanagh reported that she has watched every hour of the Highsted appeal and is worth watching.

Cllr. Hunt reported that various issues have been raised regarding the state of Spinel Close and this is being dealt with by Moat homes, and residents have been spoken to which were responsible. Various bins stalls have been missed again but this has been reported and being dealt with, Cllr. Hunt reported that he has also been trying to get to the bottom of the Quinton Estate fires etc. Swale will be looking into installing CCTV cameras in the area. Cllr. Hunt expressed his disappointment that the police keep failing to turn up at these meetings when concerns are like this brought by residents.

Cllr. French reported that there is a water meter cover missing from Spinel Close, Cllr. Hunt asked him to report this direct to Southern Water.

BPCM24/25 – 212 To receive any report from County Councillor

Cllr. Palmer sent his apologies as he is the new elected County Councillor but has another meeting, he had to attend but hopes to be at a future meeting.



BPCM24/25 – 213 To receive any report from PC Philip Clemens.

No report received. The Clerk has written to the Inspector regarding nonattendance of PC Clemens but has had no response, the Clerk will re write to her and Cllr. French will also bring this up at KALC again on the 20th May.

BPCM24/25 – 214 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

Cllr. Baldock declared that he will be leaving the meeting when the Planning items are being discussed, as sits on the Planning Committee at Swale Borough Council, so he is not pre-determined.

BPCM24/25 – 215 Approval and Adoption of Minutes from the previous meetings Minutes of the Council Meeting on 2nd April 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 – 216 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, the Clerk had written to Hugofox after the last meeting advising that they were on notice depending on the results they sent an email on the 8th April to confirm the site was compliant and the results were 95%. The Clerk ran a report during the Parish Council meeting and the report came back to say the website was only 89% with 5 critical issues for Blind people. Cllr. Richardson asked what the compliant score was without legal repercussions the Clerk quoted it is 95%, the Clerk reminded Councillors that they have fixed 4 of the critical issues. A vote was taken and 5 Councillors voted to go with a new supplier called Aubergine Ltd which is recommended by KALC and SLCC as they are compliant with WCAG2.2.2A accessibility regulations. 1 councillor voted to stay with Hugofox and 2 abstained as they had just joined the Parish Council. The majority was Aubergine, and the Clerk will contact them to start moving the website over to them. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**
- b. Update from KCC regarding McDonalds and traffic lights/roundabout proposal.
Cllr. Richardson advised the new councillors and the public about what had been discussed at the last meeting. The Clerk wrote to KCC Highways after the last meeting who passed the information on to Streetworks as they were not aware of anything, Streetworks confirmed that nothing had been planned for the area. Cllr. Richardson has read their sustainability plans for the Bobbing Garden Village which does not talk about this proposed junction. An official complaint has been logged **56421469** which was not satisfactory for the Parish Council Cllr. Richardson believes that the Parish Council should ask them why they believe we should not be part the consultees this as



discussed and the Councillors asked the Clerk to go back to them and ask them specific questions on why we should not be part of this, as putting traffic lights on this part of Sheppey Way will cause more chaos for the parishioners who we represent.

- c. Quinton Carpark fire.

This was discussed in BPCM24/25 - 211

- d. REAR OF "NETHERTOES" SHEPPEY WAY ME98QP

The Clerk contacted the Environment Agency, and they are due a visit very soon to look at the site. The Clerk reported that the local MP has also been in contact with Swale Borough Council and copied in the Parish Council and asked what is going on within this area as they are led to believe illegal waste is being tipped. The Clerk will email Swale Borough Council to see if there is any update before the next meeting.

BPCM24/25 – 217 Community Engagement

- i. VE Day 8th May

Cllr. Richardson went through the day's events and asked people who is attending the morning to be here 8am, he also asked who is attending the morning/evening events, Cllr. French, Cllr. Randall, Cllr. Chapman and Cllr. Richardson will be present for the morning raising the flag, this will be done by the Mayor and the children of the 3 local schools.

Cllr. Richardson asked if everyone could be at the church for 19.00 for the service to start at 19.30. The Deputy Mayor will be coming along for this celebration. The Clerk confirmed that "Loose Connection Duo" are booked for the evening, for after the church service to give entertainment to everyone while the BBQ is being held and we can use their PA system for the evening address. Cllr. Richardson will bring the lamp of light for the parade which is being done by the school children and then "I vow to thee my country" will be sung, Cllr. Bencych, Cllr. Twardochleb, Cllr. Blake-Knowles, Cllr. Richardson will all be there in the evening. The Clerk advised everyone who has not been present at the various meetings, Government give guidelines for all Parishes to follow on large specific events.

The Clerk reminded all councillors to take photos which will then be used in the next Bobbing Reporter.

Cllr Randall thanked everyone who has been organising this for months, and the Clerk thanked everyone for delivering the 5000 leaflets to all the local community.



- ii. VE Day Celebration of Peace 8th June
Cllr. Blake-Knowles would like to do a treasure hunt it was discussed, and it was felt that there is already a lot of things to do for the children. Cllr. Richardson asked if we could confirm what stalls we have got and are there any gaps for additional people. Cllr. Richardson would also like to ensure all councillors have a specific job as this is the first event. The Clerk will circulate what we have got and where people will go.
- iii. Report on Loneliness Project 26th April 10-12 then last Saturday of each month.
Cllr. Baldock reported that this is going well, we have a varied number of people each time. Cllr. Baldock reported that the people who have attended have all commented how nice it is. Cllr. Richardson reported that we need to try to get to the men more as this is a concern as there are a lot of men that need to socialise and hopes that the Repair Café that Cllr. Blake-Knowles is organising will bring more men to events. The Clerk reported that she has met Julia Webster from Talking Therapies, who would like to do a talk to one of the café's as Swale has the highest amount of mental health and is the lowest for referrals to their service, as people do not know about it. The Clerk gave out flyers which she will leave in the hall, where people can self-refer to the service as she understands it is hard to get referrals from the Doctors. There was some concern of the name of it, it was discussed to possible call it a "Friendship Café" it was voted on to try the name changes. Cllr. Hunt also suggested to do something like a "Men's Breakfast" with speakers to come in.
- iv. Repair Café starts 12th July 2025
Cllr. Blake-Knowles reported that he has been in touch with Community Funding Analyst for some funding and will be applying with the Clerk in the next coming weeks. Cllr. Blake-Knowles has written to the Sheppey Repair café, but they have not responded, the Clerk will do an official letter to see if we can work in calibration with them on alternative weeks. Cllr. Randall asked if the Clerk could check the insurance to make sure this is all covered for our first repair café. Cllr. Baldock asked if these will be monthly, it was confirmed that these will be monthly the same as the friendship café so approx. every 2 weeks apart from each other. Cllr. Randall thanked Cllr. Blake-Knowles and Uwe for starting this project.
- v. Newsletter delivery and VE Day flyer delivery update on areas as well as the VE-Day lamppost sign.
Cllr. Randall thanked everyone for all their hard working on distributing the Bobbing Reporter, the Flyer and the VE Day Plaques. Cllr. Randall produced a map of all the areas that have been covered, Cllr. Bencych asked for some more to finish his area off tomorrow. The Clerk suggested putting the left overs into shops to show what is happening in the 8th June.



- vi. Community library at the Village Hall
This was deferred to a future meeting.

BPCM24/25 – 218 General matters raised by Parish Councillor’s Reports for discussion.

- a. Adopt free speech protections for Councillors and Clerk.
This was deferred to a future meeting.
- b. Oppose Highsted Park
This was deferred to a future meeting. Cllr. Baldock said as this is already at appeal, and the opportunity for Parishes to speak is the 15th My, and you had to pre-register.
- c. Annual Parish Meeting Dean talk about “War World One” Wednesday 28th May @ 19.00
Cllr. Blake-Knowles confirmed that Dean Coles will be attending to give a speech on World 1, 2 and local history on the area. The Clerk will design a flyer to go out on social media.
- d. Grant for a large noticeboard outside the Village Hall.
https://www.greenbarnes.co.uk/shop/external-noticeboards/man-made-timber-noticeboards/3-bay-4-x-a4-man-made-timber-noticeboard-ref-ptn/?_gl=1*821czj*_up*MQ..*_gs*MQ..*_ga*NDU1NjEwNjg4LjE3NDYzMdAyNDA.*_ga_DY5DT4LSDY*cze3NDYzMdAyNDakbzEkZzEkdDE3NDYzMdAzMDQkajAkBDaKaDczOTk3NTgwOA..&gclid=EAlalQobChMI0pqmp4OljQMVijwGAB07wSvzEAAYAiAAEgLRWPD_BwE&gbraid=0AAAAAD_Ie2v15iGyiDJCnXCMVNSSKIZtL
It was discussed that the Parish Noticeboard next to the post box is rather small, and not many people see what is going on, also it is not able to show everything that is available to the Parishioners, it was discussed in great detail about purchasing a 3 bay noticeboard which will be in the grounds of the Village Hall near the fence line, to show off all what we are doing for the parishioners, and then it was discussed about relocating the smaller noticeboards on the outer edges of the Parish at Gore Court if they allow us. The Clerk will speak to them. This was proposed by Cllr. Baldock and seconded Cllr Randall, Cllr. French voted against all other councillors agreed.
RESOLVED Accepted.
- e. Cllr. French reported that he has nearly been run over 5 times on Vellum Drive traffic lights as people are not stopping on red. The Clerk asked Cllr. French to report this on the police website or 101, as they have told everyone without the data they receive, they can’t ask for extra officer in the areas.



- f. Cllr Bencych reported he has attended his “Nuts and Bolts for Councillors” training. He has also started the AI training along with the Clerk, which is very interesting this is one of three parts. Cllr. Bencych has also booked the introductory to planning
- g. The Clerk reported that there is a course running regarding how to get money out of Section 106, which I think would be useful for Councillors.
- h. Cllr. Randall reported to new councillors that there are a lot of training to be given, and the Clerk reminded everyone that within the first 6 months of being a Councillor you should all of done your “Nuts and Bolts of a Councillor”
- i. Cllr. Richardson has asked for the Parish to raise the amount of diverted traffic that is being put through the whole of Bobbing. This is now causing gridlock within the community. This can be brought up at the Joint Transport Board.

BPCM24/25 – 219

Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

Schedule of payments and bank reconciliation with Scribe, Cllr. Richardson has seen these on the system. This was proposed Cllr. Baldock and seconded by Cllr. Richardson 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 £97,402.31

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**

The Clerk have asked if Cllr Twardochleb and Cllr Chapman 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, along with Cllr. Bencych and Cllr. Blake-Knowles.



BPCM24/25 –220

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.*
- b. *Planning Application Ref. No: 25/501270/FULL [Erection of garden room located within the churchyard for children's ministry](#). St Bartholomews Church Sheppey Way Bobbing Kent ME9 8PL*

The Parish Council discussed the above application in great detail. Members expressed significant concern regarding the proposed development within the churchyard. It was strongly felt that the churchyard serves as a sacred space for quiet reflection and remembrance, particularly for those visiting the graves of loved ones.

In addition to the general concern about appropriateness, members noted the historical nature of the site. There are a number of unmarked and historic graves throughout the churchyard, including children's graves which may not have visible headstones. The proposed construction of a garden room in such a sensitive area was therefore deemed inappropriate and potentially disrespectful to the sanctity of the site.

It was also the view of the Council that any children's ministry activities should be held within the church building itself, rather than in the churchyard.

A motion to **object** to the planning application was proposed by Cllr. Chapman and seconded by Cllr. Richardson. The motion was unanimously agreed upon by all members present. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

- c. *Planning Application Ref. No: 25/501369/FULL [Demolition of existing light industrial buildings and erection of 25no. dwellings with the provision of car barns, parking, access roads and landscaping](#). Bobbing Car Breakers Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QX*

The Parish Council discussed in great detail and councillors felt there was no objection to this application, as this is a brownfield site. This was proposed by Cllr. Bencych and seconded by Cllr. Richardson. Cllr French abstained. **No objection resolved and accepted.**



- d. *Planning Application Ref No: 25/501413/FULL Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable space, including alterations to fenestration and exterior finish. 17 Keycol Hill Bobbing Kent ME9 8LZ*

The Parish Council discussed, councillors felt there was no objection to this application. This was proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. Bencych. **No objection resolved and accepted.**

- e. *Planning Application Ref. No: 25/501541/FULL Erection of dropped kerb and driveway. 12 Keycol Hill Bobbing Kent ME9 8ND*

The Parish Council discussed, councillors felt there was no objection to this application. This was proposed by Cllr. Chapman and seconded by Cllr. French. **No objection resolved and accepted.**

BPCM24/25 –221 Appeals:

No appeals

BPCM24/25 –222 Consultations

- a. **Bourne Place Proposed Order Variation No. 5**

The clerk has sent these around to everyone. Cllr. Richardson proposed that these be noted.

- b. **Off Street Proposed Order Variation No. 7**

The clerk has sent these around to everyone. . Cllr. Richardson proposed that these be noted.

BPCM24/25 –223 Correspondence

- a. Devolution

The Clerk explained that Swale Borough Council are putting on two events one on the Thursday 5th June at 19.00 and one on Saturday 14th June, they would like Councillors to attend so we can help get the message out to our parishioners, the Clerk and Cllr. Bencych and Cllr. French will attend and report back at the July meeting.

- b. A249 Grovehurst Information

The Clerk has sent around all the updates on the A249 at Grovehurst.

Cllr. Randall proposed to suspend standing orders, this was seconded by Cllr. Richardson . All agreed RESOLVED. Accepted

BPCM24/25 –224 Reports from representatives

- i. Village Hall Committee – Cllr Randall

Cllr. Randall reported that the hall is doing well, with various activities still taking place.



- ii. KALC Area Committee – Cllr French AGM 20th May 2025 @19.00
The Clerk circulated the minutes; these were late in due to the secretary being hospitalised after the last meeting. The Clerk has advised that she will re-stand for Training Learning and Development committee, where there is a meeting on the 15th May that the Clerk will be attending, these are on-line about once a quarter. Cllr French will propose this at the AGM as the Clerk is away.
- iii. Friends of Rose Hill - Cllr Baldock
Cllr. Baldock reported that the lectern agreement has been reached with Swale Borough Council, this will go up over the Summer. Cllr. Baldock thanked the parishioners that are doing the ongoing litter picking in the area. Cllr. Baldock reported that a bat watch will be taking place again soon and will let everyone know when it is.

Cllr. Baldock reported that there have been some destruction with children taking saws up to the woods and cutting trees/branches. The Trees that were planted last year have taken well.
- iv. The Meads Community Woodland - Cllr French
The tree felling that was due to take place was cancelled, due to people not being available.
- v. Joint Transport Board
No meeting has taken place.
- vi. Western Area Committee - Cllr Richardson
No meeting has taken place. The next meeting is on the 2nd July 2025 at Bobbing Village Hall.
- vii. Swale Liaison Forum
No meeting has taken place.

BPCM24/25 –225 Recommendations to next Full Council

Cllr Richardson would like on the next agenda the Clerks hours.

Cllr. Baldock proposed that a Working group be set up for Community Governance as there will be a Consultation for the Parish possible expansion.



CLOSED SESSION

BPCM24/25 –226

Dates of Next Meeting:

28th May Annual Parish Meeting Village Hall @ 19.00 (Agenda supplied)

4th June Annual Parish Council Meeting @ 19.00 (Agenda supplied)

4th June Full Parish Council Meeting @ 19.30 *NOTE:* it was proposed that a normal full council meeting be added after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

BPCM24/25 –227

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.50

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

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____