

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 6th November 2024

Present:

Cllr. G. Randall - Chair	Sarah Poole - Clerk
Cllr. R. Richardson (Vice Chair)	Cllr A. Gladwin
Cllr. M. Bencych	Cllr. P. French

4 Parishioners (2 parishioners left 20.48)

BPCM24/25 – 109

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, he welcomed the Freeman of the Parish Mr Robert Ball, Mrs Crawford, who are here to talk about the Planning Application on the agenda, Jan and Trevor Phillips from St Bartholomew's Church Bobbing for coming along.

Cllr. L. Blakes-Knowles, Cllr. A. Cavanagh, Cllr. M. Baldock, and Cllr. J. Hunt due to Full Council at Swale House and PC Clements is on light duties.

BPCM24/25 – 110

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.

Mr Ball is concerned about the development that is coming up on the agenda tonight, and talked about DM25, Development Management Policy, as this was always concerned as part of the countryside gap separating individual part of identity. The area they are wanting to develop is suitable agricultural grade I land, and is over brick earth, which comes into the minerals policy under KCC. He is also concerned about the infrastructure in this area, especially areas along the A249, and this has a huge effect on Sheppey Way and Keycol Hill roundabout which is often grid locked on a regular basis. The A249 is also one of the main routes from the Isle of Sheppey, which is also expanding, and is the main route for the emergency services. Mr Ball reported that there were 700 emergency ambulance trips to the Isle of Sheppey alone last year to the 3 prisons. It is very concerning that they are asking for 3 more access points onto Sheppey Way which will create more traffic problems, and also is not far from a busy business area on Sheppey Way, where there have been fatal accidents and serious accidents on this route. Mr Ball worked out there would be an additional 54 traffic movements per hour if these homes were to go ahead with the new business park. The services are already stretched and not taking on new patients for some time and the local schools cannot cope with children having to go out of the local area.

The Church reported that there are going to be large changes within Swale of who is looking after the churches as there is a large shortage of vicars and minsters throughout. They reported that there is a consultation at the moment, but it is suggested that they are looking to cut the deanery in half, Red group and Blue group, Holy Trinity and Bobbing may go in with 6 other churches within the area. They are looking at making possibly 3 appointments, only 1 at Borden as they are a High Church, the 2nd one at Holy Trinity and the 3rd appointment will be for the whole of the Isle of Sheppey.

They're hoping to have committees set up by Christmas and looking at making appointments in the New Year.

BPCM24/25 – 111 **To receive any report from Borough Councillor Cllr. James Hunt, Cllr. Lloyd Chapman, Cllr. Mike Baldock, Cllr. Roger Clarke, Cllr. Ann. Cavanagh**

Cllr. Cavanagh sent in a detailed report which the Clerk has been circulated to everyone.

Cllr. Baldock reported that the website is now up and running to add all the events onto to stop loneliness. Cllr. Baldock will also do an article about this in the next Bobbing Reporter.

BPCM24/25 – 112 **To receive any report from County Councillor Cllr. Mike Baldock**

Nothing

BPCM24/25 – 113 **To receive any report from Community Warden Jack Gilbey and PC Philip Clemens/Sgt Ryan Chase.**

Nothing

BPCM24/25 – 114 **For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests in regard to items on the agenda under the Council's adopted Code of Conduct**

Cllr. Richardson has declared an interest in item BPC24/25 – 122 b as his company does work for one of the owners of Fernham Homes, so will not be participating in this part of the meeting.

BPCM24/25 – 115 **Approval and Adoption of Minutes from the previous meetings Minutes of the Council Meeting on 2nd October 2024.**

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 – 116 **Matters arising from the minutes not covered by other agenda items.**

BPCM24/25 – 84 ii Disposals and Community Asset Transfer meeting with Swale Borough Council.

The Clerk advised that we have made enquires about the areas that the Parish Council are keen to take on, and are awaiting a date to discuss in detail what this would entail, we are still awaiting the date to be agreed.

Site Visit results to Archers Park and The Meads T.R.O's & Yellow Lines

A site visit was undertaken on Saturday 12th October, Cllr. Randall, Cllr. Richardson, Cllr. Bencych and Cllr. Blake-Knowles was present with the Clerk. They spoke to various residents and business owners on the day, and the Clerk has reported back the findings on where the Yellow lines should be to Jennie Watson at KCC, the Clerk has also suggested that a site visit should be held in The Grove and Keycol and Bobbing Hill as she has had various parishioners request for this as well, and this can then come under the same TRO.

Cllr. French proposed that we wait for KCC to install the road markings, and the various signage they promised, before going ahead with the TRO, the Clerk will chase KCC on a date. It was agreed that we would wait to do a site visit in The Grove and Keycol and Bobbing Hill until the New Year, this was seconded by Cllr. Randall. Cllr. Bencych abstained, all others agreed.

Community Engagement

- i. Update VE Day Working Group meeting with the schools, next meeting 28th October @ 19.00

Cllr. Richardson reported that a meeting was held, and David Ridley the Vicar from Bobbing Church was present along with Cllr. Watson, Cllr. Bencych, Cllr. Richardson and the Clerk. The Clerk has drafted some posters for VE Day, which were designed by the working party, these will be circulated in the next newsletter and social media as well as the website. Cllr. Richardson reported that the schools are keen to work with us, and we will have another meeting with them to discuss ideas, all members have got various people to contact for stalls, the Clerk asked if Cllr. Randall could ask some of the groups that perform on the Christmas Lights switch on would be interested, he has advised that he will ask them after the switch on and invite them to the next working group meeting in January.

- ii. Bobbing Reporter printed - volunteers to deliver

The Clerk has picked these up from Swale House and delivered them to Cllr. Richardson who has distributed them, they will all be delivered within the next week. Cllr. Richardson will do Grove Park, Cllr. Bencych will do Archers Park, and Keycol Hill, Bobbing Hill and Rook Estate Cllr. French will do The Meads, Cllr. Randall will do the others in the Parish. Cllr. Richardson thanked the Clerk for all her efforts in doing this and it is an outstanding amount of work that has been carried out.

- iii. Photographs for Meet the Parish Councillors on the website.

The Clerk advised that due to not all Councillors being present she will be taking photographs at the next meeting.

- iv. Thank St Bartholomew's for the litter picking on the 5th October

Cllr. Randall thanked Bobbing Church for this, and maybe we can do a joint one next time and advertise this in our newsletter and social media channels.

v. Christmas Lights

The Clerk reported that she has received confirmation from KCC that they have agreed the lights to go up and is awaiting the invoice, the Gala Lights will be putting these up end of November beginning of December, a date to be arranged.

vi. Bobbing Heritage Map

Cllr. Randall explained that the Parish are trying to do a Heritage map, and invited Mr Ball onto the working group, Mr Ball declined but reported that he does have some history which might be of use to the Parish Council for this project and will let the Clerk have what he has. The Clerk reported that the work has started on producing various routes for 3 different walks around the whole of the Parish, pointing out all the places of interest within the Parish.

BPCM24/25 – 118

General matters raised by Parish Councillor's Reports for discussion.

a. Cllr. Baldock update on 2 chat benches to help combat Social Isolation and Loneliness.

Due to Cllr. Baldock not being present this was postponed until Cllr. Baldock is present.

b. Cllr. Baldock report on the project: Swale West Community www.swalewestcommunity.org.uk

This was covered under BCP24/25 111

c. Cllr. Richardson attended a training event on Event Management which will be used for the VE Day project celebrations.

Cllr Richardson talked about a charity family funday event next July/August which will be held at Gore Cricket Club, where the Parish Council might like to have a stall for the children to do something for FREE and engage with parents and Parishioners which might also get more people interested in being a Parish Councillor, Cllr. Richardson asked if they could put some flyers around in the noticeboards and in the newsletter, this was all agreed that the Parish Council should support this.

Cllr. Richardson asked if the charity could come along to the next meeting and advise the Parish Council what they do and why they do it, it was agreed to invite them to the next meeting.

Cllr. French reported that the next litter picking and cutting branches meeting at the Henge at The Meads woodlands is on Saturday 16th October 10 for a 10.30am start, and then on the 7th December. The Clerk suggested that maybe Cllr. French or Cllr. Hunt would like to put a piece in the next newsletter.

Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

a. **Budget for discussion and precept request**

The Clerk circulated the draft budget sheet for 2025-2025 around to all Councillors.

Cllr Richardson discussed various areas that need to go up but have also suggested that reserves are used for the Precept request. Cllr Richardson reported that since this was produced the NALC Salary Pay Agreements have been produced so this will need to be re looked at, at a further Finance and Staffing working group, also with the budget from the government employment figures also need to change.

The Clerk stressed that the budget is not necessarily the precept request.

Cllr. Richardson asked councillors to remember that as we are growing as a parish, we are doing more community engagement and taking on more responsibilities there is costs associated with this, when we are discussing the budget.

The Clerk reminded everyone that it was their focus to get more community engagement within the whole of the Parish. Cllr. Richardson advised if people now felt that it was not important then the budget could be reduced, but everyone has to be aware that a lot of the costs have doubled in price for maintenance of land etc.

It was proposed that this be re looked at, due to the new costings, and when full council is present to discuss this again at the next meeting. All agreed.

The Clerk also advised that we are looking at sponsorship for various projects including the Bobbing Reporter, VE Day etc.

The Clerk has urged all Parish Councillors to attend the Budget Training courses as this will give you all a better understanding of what is required, she advised that you can book yourself on and then send her the invoice for payment.

Cllr. Randall proposed that we should do a letter to the Clerk advising her of her new pay rate as per the new pay scales which have been agreed with NALC on the 23rd October this was seconded by Cllr. Richardson and all agreed.

Cllr Richardson also informed councillors of what is owed to the Clerk for payback etc.

Cllr. Richardson reminded everyone that training budget should be 20% of the total precept request.

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

Sarah Elizabeth Poole

12 November 2024 (2024 - 2025)

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

This report includes one or more cost centres that have been marked as confidential. This means that only the totals are shown without any further detail.

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
	Salary/Employers Contribution	03/10/2024 - 06/10/2024				Confidential			1,030.97		1,030.97
54	2b - Working from home Allow:	03/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	54	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	X	26.00		26.00
54	2j - Office Stationery	03/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	54	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	Z	1.85		1.85
54	2n - Website Domain Cloud Ne:	03/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	54	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	S	99.99	19.99	119.98
54	2t - Travel Allowance	03/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	54	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	X	78.32		78.32
59	2d - Telephone/Broadband	13/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	59	Telephone/Broadband	BT	S	45.85	9.17	55.02
57	Subscription Scribe	15/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	57	Scribe Accounting	Scribe	S	31.00	6.20	37.20
60	2k - Microsoft	26/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	60	Microsoft License	Verbo Computers	S	103.32	20.66	123.98
56	2l - Website - Hugofox	31/10/2024		Unity Trust Bank	56	Gold Subscription	Hugofox	S	29.99	6.00	35.99
63	2d - Telephone/Broadband	01/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank	63	Telephone/Broadband	BT	S	45.85	9.17	55.02
64	Subscription Scribe	01/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank	64	Scribe Accounting	Scribe	S	31.00	6.20	37.20
69	2b - Working from home Allow:	05/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank	69	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	X	26.00		26.00
69	2j - Office Stationery	05/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank	69	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	S	94.31	18.86	113.17
69	2j - Office Stationery	05/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank	69	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	X	4.15		4.15
69	2t - Travel Allowance	05/11/2024		Unity Trust Bank	69	Expenses - Clerk	Mrs Sarah Poole	X	172.84		172.84
Total									1,821.44	96.25	1,917.69

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

Barclays Savings Account £31,773.88

Unity Trust Account £56,733.22.

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

BPCM24/25 – 120 Updates from Working Groups:

- i. Finance/Staffing working group. 17th October 19.00

This was covered in BPCM24/25 – 119 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments.

- ii. Budget for discussion and precept request

This was covered in BPCM24/25 – 119 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments.

- iii. Policies and Procedure working group.

This has been deferred to January 2025.

BPCM24/25 –121 Reports from representatives

- i. Village Hall Committee - Proposal for election of representatives for the Village Hall AGM 27th November at 19.30

Cllr. Randall reported that the air/heating conditioning is now complete and working, he also asked if anyone would like to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall, Cllr. Randall put himself forward and Cllr. Bencych proposed Cllr. Randall and this was seconded by Cllr. French this, all agreed. **RESOLVED.**

- ii. KALC Area Committee 19th November 2024, 7pm @ Lower Halstow Memorial Hall, School Lane

The talk is on Community Speed Watch and is open to everyone, Cllr. French and the Clerk will be attending.

- iii. Friends of Rose Hill

To be advised.

- iv. The Meads Community Woodland

Cllr. French reported that there has been more anti-social behaviour over at The Meads Woodlands, the next meeting is on the 17th December at 19.00 at the Jenny Wren.

- v. Joint Transport Board

The next meeting is on 2nd December at 17.30 online. Cllr. Gladwin is unable to attend, other Councillors were offered to attend online.

Western Area Committee

The meeting is on the 28th November at 19.00 in Rodmersham Cllr. Richardson, Cllr. Cavanagh and the Clerk will be attending.

- vi. Swale West Parish Group

To be advised.

- vii. Swale Liaison Forum

To be advised.

BPCM24/25 –122 **Planning** **Application** – **viewable** **on:** **Swale:**
<http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/onlineapplications>;

- a. Planning Application Ref. No: 24/503983/FULL [Erection of single storey rear extension with flat roof and rooflights](#). High View Old Maidstone Road Borden Kent ME9 8BS

It was discussed and no objection would be made, this was proposed by Cllr. Randall and Cllr. Richardson, all agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

- b. Planning Application Ref. No: 24/504121/HYBRID [Hybrid application consisting of: Full application for the erection of 90 residential dwellings together with associated access, open space, landscaping, drainage and infrastructure works. Outline application \(all matters reserved except for access\) for employment development, including general industrial \(B2\), storage uses \(B8\), use classes E \(a, c, e, f, g\)\) and sui generis use including drive-through/hot food takeaway](#).
Land At Grove Farm Bobbing Hill Bobbing Kent

The Clerk has circulated all 113 documents to all Councillors this evening as well as before the meeting electronically, it was discussed at great length and due to the amount of development this is proposed, it would be appropriate to ask Swale Planning departments for a 6-8 week extension so that all the NPPF can be referenced and to come back at the next meeting with the findings, the Clerk advised if anyone would like to have a hard copy of the NPPF or Local Plan Bearing Fruits to let her know and she will print this off. Cllr. Randall proposed for an extension this was seconded by Cllr. Bencych, Cllr. Richardson abstained. All agreed. **RESOLVED, accepted.**

BPCM24/25 –123 **Correspondence**

- a. Alan Smith from Secretary of Swale Footpaths Group, has emailed in which has been circulated to everyone regarding the Landscape Master Plan for the proposed new development, Cllr. Randall would like to add a response to the planning application when it is heard next month asking for various conditions.
- b. The Clerk, circulated an email regarding Good Vehicles Operating License at Eden Top, unfortunately only 2 councillors came back to the Clerk, she has reiterated how important it is to answer the emails.
- c. The Clerk circulated an email from a concerned parishioner about speeding vehicles on Keycol Hill and video footage, this has been passed onto the Police. This was discussed at great length and will be raised at the next HIP meeting, and Cllr. Richardson suggested doing a site visit and look at the speed of vehicles.
- d. Cllr. French reported that he has received a “Thank you” card from Mr Herbert for his gift after his retirement from the Parish Council earlier this year.

BPCM24/25 –124 **General matters raised by Councillors for discussion.**

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Cavanagh has now completed her Train the Trainer of Safer Streets and therefore she can teach the other Councillors the Safer Streets programme.

BPCM24/25 –125

Recommendations to next Full Council

- a. The Clerk asked for Articles for the next Bobbing Reporter, it will go out 4 times a year with the next one in Spring January - March, April – June, July – September, October – December.
- b. Freedom of the Parish to be presented.

CLOSED SESSION

BPCM24/25 –126

Dates of Next Meeting 4th December at Bobbing Village Hall at 19.00

BPCM24/25 –127

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.36

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

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____