

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 2 September 2020

MEETING HELD VIA 'ZOOM' DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Present:

Cllr. G. Herbert – Chair	Cllr. P. England
Cllr. R. Ball – Vice-Chair	Cllr. E. England
Cllr. R. Morgan-Brown	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Cllr. N. Clare	County Cllr M. Whiting
Cllr. G. Randall	

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the Zoom video conferencing meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllr. Major, Borough Cllrs. Hunt and Baldock, the PCSOs (who could not attend due to Kent Police not supporting the use of Zoom because of security) and the Community Warden.

2. Visitors/Public Time

Residents, County and Borough Councillors, PCSOs and Community Wardens were advised that they could attend as normal but public speaking time might be limited; they were also invited to forward reports/questions to the Clerk beforehand.

1. **Residents** – Nothing raised.

2. **County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting advised – Key Street roundabout - The changes that have been made are Phase 1 works were paid for by existing developer contributions from developments that have planning permission. They are designed to meet Highways England's requirement for preventing traffic from queuing back onto the A249 carriageway and is why there are traffic lights at the top of the slip road. This consideration overrides all others at this stage. They took advantage of having lights there to put in a pedestrian crossing. While it may not be in the right place for many, it is there as a by-product of the Phase 1 works. Phase 2 works will see more radical changes to the roundabout, including a new slip road to the A249 southbound and improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. The Phase 2 works are funded through the Government's £38m HIF bid. It is important that this junction meets the current needs and is future proofed for any further requirement of the new local plan being developed by Swale. This roundabout is not dependant on large developments at Wises Lane or Bobbing, it is fully funded and will go ahead regardless to meet existing requirements.

As part of its environment strategy, KCC has published the Kent and Medway Climate Change impact assessment. Details are at https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf with further appendices at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-wasteand-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-changing-climate>. It is an extensive piece of work, and if anyone has questions or want to know more then please email - climate.change@kent.gov.uk.

I proposed a Pollinator Strategy (known as Plan Bee) during my time as KCC's Environment Cabinet Member. To help Parishes and other groups get involved I am making available grants of up to £200 to organisations to plant more wildflowers or create bee hotels and bee highways. It's all in the Plan, details at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kents-plan-bee-pollinator-actionplan>. If you want to apply for assistance in setting up a pollinator-friendly environment, or know of a community group, youth

organisation or other, then please ask them to email me or fill out a grant application form which can be downloaded at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/combined-members-grant>.

Written report received from Borough Cllr. Baldock - The Local Plan review continues to develop, with a clear steer given at the last Local Plan Panel as to the preferred settlement strategy. This clearly ruled out the options of so-called Garden Villages at either Bobbing or Highsted Valley, and put a greater emphasis on smaller more sustainable developments in the west of the Borough, as part of a strategy aimed at providing viability for some of the smaller villages and hamlets across the Borough. However, there are alarming proposals coming out from the Government regarding Planning Law, which if implemented in their current form could see developers being given effectively free reign over huge areas of land. This is something we will be monitoring, and we will be responding to the government's latest 'consultation' raising the concerns we have as a Council about this new approach.

Last night the first Western Area Committee met and discussed several measures aimed at promoting tourism and heritage in our area. One of the issues was Conservation Areas and currently there are none within Bobbing Parish. We are also compiling a register of potential brown sign destinations and carrying out an audit of the existence of current brown signs.

I have been approached by many parishioners about the new road layout at the junction of Staplehurst Road and the A2, and I am seeking further clarity on this junction, as there was no consultation beforehand and a lack of signage indicating how to proceed. I had a very useful site visit with a KCC Highways Officer on Tuesday, and he agrees with many of the local concerns and will be recommending various changes be made. This was already a dangerous junction with the garage exit contributing to the confusion and these recent changes seem to have only exacerbated the problem further.

3. **Community Warden/PCSO** – Community Warden - Reported many fly tipping incidents in different locations in the area. Working with PCSO on issues in Bobbing. We are in the middle of a restructure and are now being tasked by agencies via a management system, which means visits outside of my parishes.

PCSO – Bobbing – Lee Fennell - Crimes of note: report of poaching in a field off the Rook Lane area. Males made off when challenged by a member of the public. HGV on fire in the vicinity of Church Farm. Investigation ongoing into possible arson. Report of possible poaching in fields near the crematorium. Patrol attended, but people had permission from landowner.

The Meads – Kirsty Linge – No Report.

The Grove – Thomas Green – Crimes of Note - • There have been numerous Covid-19 breaches across the whole Grove area since the lockdown restrictions were put in place on the 23rd March 2020. These incidents were attended either by us, or a member of the Covid-19 dedicated team. All incidents were assessed individually, depending on the circumstances. An amount of fuel was stolen from the Esso Garage on London Road. This has been filed on the system. A nuisance vehicle in the Simpson Road area was reported. This was attended by a patrol, who could not find the vehicle on arrival, resulting in an area search, no trace. There have been no further reports of nuisance vehicles in this area since this date. It was reported that a garage on Gadby Road was broken in to. However, nothing was actually stolen. Patrols have been increased around Gadby Road. Report of a nuisance motorbike in Cavell Way. I am aware of ongoing nuisance vehicles here, and regularly patrol the road. A vehicle was damaged overnight on Newlands Avenue. The report was taken and filed due to there not being any lines of enquiry. Reports of a nuisance vehicle in Bourne Grove. I attended this call; however, the vehicle was not there on arrival. I believe it is linked to the nuisance vehicles that are active in Cavell Way. Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note: It has been reported to me on multiple occasions that groups of youths in cars are using the cricket ground car park as a place to meet, use drugs, and be generally antisocial. When on patrol on a late shift, I often park in this car park and engage with the youths that are using it as a 'car meet' area. Since doing this, I have not seen any crimes taking place and they have accepted any words of advice that have been given.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Morgan-Brown, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 August 2020 were agreed and the Chair will sign as a true transcript.

4. Declarations of Interest – None

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

1. Sheppey Way (Near Bobbing Apple) – Alterations to road layout and bollards – County Council Engineer has agreed to attend the next face to face meeting.
2. Restrictive Parking front of garages entrance near to 42 Hilton Drive – No further information, although a recent report from the Joint Transportation Board mentions 'Double Yellow Lines' and the recommendation that this goes ahead. **Action: Clerk**
3. Sandford Road Yellow Lines/Bollards – no updates/information received.
4. Foxchurch Development, Bobbing – Appin contacted the Parish Council advising that they were going to go ahead with a virtual consultation. The Council responded that it firmly believed a virtual consultation fails residents because of the following:
 - There are those residents who do not have internet access, who although being previously made aware of the application via their letter, will not have the opportunity to comment.
 - Poor broadband in parts of the Parish, thus denying residents the opportunity to look at the application.
 - Lack of opportunity to fully discuss this application face to face with representatives at a public exhibition.
 - Pushing this through at a time when the Coronavirus is on many residents' minds and they are trying to cope with the situation and the stress it causes, i.e. job loss, illness, concern for loved ones, seems totally inappropriate.
 - By insisting on having a virtual public exhibition at this difficult time it will be seen as trying to push the development through 'the back door' and will not be viewed favourably..
5. Key Street Roundabout – The Parish Council was not consulted on the Phase 1 plans for the Roundabout and had to request sight of the drawings from KCC. The Parish Council originally asked for a set of traffic lights to be placed at the junction of the Sheppey Way with the Roundabout, where residents could cross knowing that there was a pavement each side of the carriageway. County Cllr. Whiting advised that the siting of the current traffic lights was at the insistence of Highways England, he also assured that there will be an 'absolute consultation with the public' regarding Phase 2.

6. Correspondence

1. **Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan – Consultation** – Cllr. Morgan-Brown delegated to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr. Morgan-Brown**
2. **Swale Borough Council Economic Improvement Strategy 2020-2023 – consultation** – Agreed Members to respond individually. **Action: All Councillors**
3. **NALC consultation - EPC4 – Communities framework & the devolution white paper**– Cllr. Herbert delegated to forward Clerk response on behalf of the Council. **Action: Cllr Herbert/Clerk**
4. **Housing allocations policy - let us know your views** – No comments.
5. **Call for sites to be submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces** – Agreed sites to put forward were Meads Community Woodland, Rugby Ground, area of land to the front of Bobbing Apple, area of land

in Rooks View abutting the A2 and area of land to the rear of the Gore Court Cricket Club, abutting the A249. Cllr. Herbert to prepare maps and forward to Clerk to include in response. **Action: Cllr Herbert**

6. **Government consultations on reforming the planning system** - Cllr. Herbert to draw up a response and bring back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Herbert**

7. **Planning Applications** - None

8. **Finance**

1. **Memorial Benches** –Members agreed that as this has been going on for such a long time and there has been no contact from the Church as regards requirements, it should be taken off the Agenda. Cllr. Ball to advise Reverend Samson. **Action: Cllr. Ball**
2. **Speedwatch** – Email from County Cllr. Whiting noted. The Parish Council is not looking at this at the present time and the roads mentioned in Cllr Whiting’s email are not within the Parish Boundary. In addition, the Parish Council does not have the necessary equipment to carry out checks.
3. **Accounts and Cheques Raised** – Proposed by Cllr. P. England and seconded by Cllr. Clare, Members noted the budget figures, agreed the accounts to the 31 August 2020 and the following cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque		Details	Amount
02.09.20	0726	L. Fisher	Expenses August – telephone, use of home, 100 Polystyrene cups for meetings	£53.95p
02.09.20	0727	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for August	£85.40p
02.09.20	0728	Citizens Advice Bureau	S.137 Donation	£100.00p
02.09.20	0729	Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance	S.137 Donation	£100.00p
02.09.20	0730	David Buckett	2019/20 Internal Audit	£279.95p
02.09.20	0731	G. Herbert	Mileage – assisting Clerk during Covid-19	£12.96p
02.09.20	0732	Steve Wakeling	Grounds Maintenance	£140.00p
Seven cheques in total				

Paid by Standing Order:

Clerk’s Salary – August 2020:	£341.98p	Paid by Standing Order
Invicta IT Solutions – Mailboxes & 365 August	£52.32p	Paid by Standing <u>Order</u>

9. **Parish Councillors’ Reports**

Cllr. Clare suggested installing a ‘Little Library’ in the Grove and asked whether this would be possible? She will look into this further. She advised that Borough Cllr. Baldock and County Cllr. Whiting are looking into the road layout changes at the junction of the Staplehurst Road with the London Road.

She logged in to a Clean Air Zone workshop on the 18 August - the Borough Council commissioned Ricardo Energy & Environment (REE) to assist in the development of a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for Swale. They were looking at certain sites in Sittingbourne. Suggestions REE put forward were charging vehicles to use stretches of road; they are at first looking at HGVs, LGVs, Taxis and Buses and one area this would possibly affect is Keycol Hill. Cllr Clare muted her concern that this would push traffic on to other roads. REE went on to encouraging people to use more Buses but were considering ‘tiny’ buses in zoned areas. They then discussed making people more active by using bikes on roads that are not wide enough for bicycles. REE were hoping that by charging commercial vehicles companies would upgrade their vehicles with cleaner technology. Cllr Clare was concerned that any charges could be passed on to local businesses. One of Swale’s Cabinet Members was not aware of this workshop!

Cllr. Clare also logged on to the Western Area Committee on the 1 September. She was disappointed that although they could attend, representatives from Parish Council’s were not allowed to speak or sit on the Committee. Bobbing Parish Council Members were disappointed as they thought the Committee was to build a working party between the Borough and the Western Parishes. Strangely the Committee discussed

Conservation Area status for Iwade and Bobbing and ‘Brown’ signs for tourism, but these seemed to be for directing tourists towards the Isle of Sheppey? She wondered why the Council were happy to end up paying for brown signs on behalf of businesses.

Cllr. P. England advised that during the Covid crisis he noticed a higher amount of speeding vehicles. There had been some ASB issues and he would like to see a more visible presence by the PCSO. There had been complaints about noise from a water pump over on the Redrow development; it was being used for putting in a new pipe to replace a Victorian pump for the Mill.

Cllr Morgan-Brown advised that the pelican crossing on Staplehurst Road, by the new Aspire school, seemed to be taking longer to change once the button has been pressed especially during the school home times. Children have been seen running across the road between traffic and not waiting for the lights to again change, which appeared to take in excess of 30 seconds. During the last school year, the lights would change almost immediately during school times once the button was pressed. Clerk to report to Kent County Council Highways. ***Action: Clerk***

Cllr. Randall advised there have been several complaints about loud train horns; can this be placed on the next Agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

Cllr. Ball – nothing to report

10. **Any Other Matters Arising** – None.

11. **Next Meeting(s)**

Wednesday 7 October 2020, 7.30 p.m. venue depending on Covid-19 situation.

The meeting closed at 9.57 p.m.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____