

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 1st July, 2015

Present: Cllr. G. Herbert
Cllr. R. Ball
Cllr. M. Palmer
Cllr. P. Paige
Cllr. G. Randall
Cllr. P. England

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Borough Cllr. N. Hampshire
Ian Henderson, PCSO
4 Residents

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair formally welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Dewar-Whalley, Bartlett and Major, Nick Mayatt the Community Warden; Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes and County Cllr. Mike Baldock.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 3rd June, 2015, were agreed and signed as true transcripts.

3. **Public Session**

Residents raised issues with the footpath lighting to the shops on the Abbey development; paving broken by contractors' vehicles not being repaired and a dog bin which has been removed. Clerk to chase contractors regarding cracked paving. ***Action: Clerk***

A resident queried verges not being cut on a monthly basis on The Meads and also down Staplehurst Road. Clerk advised that Borough Cllr. Hunt has been looking into this and a map of areas being maintained sought.

The PCSO advised that issue seem to be down for the past couple of months. Cllr. Paige asked about CCTV but as nothing is being reported to the PCSO it is difficult to argue the case for this. He mentioned that there have been a couple of grass fires in parts of The Meads; these are being investigated by the Fire Brigade and Police.

The Community Warden's report was circulated; it's been a relatively quiet month. He visited Grove Park Primary School and participated in a talk to Year 6 with a local Magistrate on the topic of the criminal justice system.

4. **Declarations of Interest** - None.

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

1. **Bobbing Hill – Travellers** – Clerk keeps chasing and still no response. She will also see if she can obtain details regarding funding. ***Action: Clerk***

2. **Bollards – A249** – KCC have had to delay this project due to a more urgent matter but this is next in line. Agreed to keep this on the Agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

3. **Network Rail/Simpsons Crossing** – Network Rail still commenting they are unable to provide any further updates and are saying that their team was unaware of the S.106 funding. Clerk to keep this on the Agenda. ***Action: Clerk***

4. **Parking in The Meads** – Cllr. Ball arranged with the Chairman of Marshgate to have a meeting on the 19th June to discuss this matter and two days before it was due to take place he cancelled and asked for new dates end of July/beginning of August. Cllr. Ball was not happy and has asked if anyone else can attend in the M.D's place; he is still awaiting a response. Cllr. Palmer advised that the parking situation has got worse since the bollards went in. Cllr. England added that it is having a knock-on effect; people are parking on the chicane. Cllr. Ball advised that Marshgate want KCC to adopt the road but they won't because it does not come up to their criteria. **Action: Cllr. Ball**
5. **Bus Shelter, Key Street** – Clerk to ask County Cllr. Baldock for an update and evidence of a consultation with residents with a view to making a decision at the August meeting. Also to look at whether the Joint Transportation Board can assist. **Action: County Cllr. Baldock/Clerk**
6. **Key Street roundabout – Rumble Strips** – Clerk has written to the Highway Authority; has had an acknowledgement but not a response as yet. **Action: Clerk**
7. **Updates** – Pearl Walk Bus Stop – Clerk has contacted the bus company requesting that this be moved and is awaiting a response. Clerk has contacted Swale Cleansing regarding refuse at Gemstone Court; bins have now been cleared and Cleansing will monitor the situation over a two week period. McDonalds, Litter – the previous contact has now left and the Parish Council has been promised that the new person will get in touch. Sittingbourne Rugby Club Proposal – nothing further from Swale Borough Council as yet; Cllr. Ball mentioned the car park and commented that when events take place the parking situation is dire.

6. **Rooks Lane Junction**

Clerk has received a response from KCC concerning S.106 funding and the search for a solution to the junction. Members discussed this issue and came up with some suggestions to put forward to KCC: a speed limiter sign; a mirror opposite the junction to aid drivers; a mini-roundabout (there is sufficient land opposite the Rooks Lane junction for this to be feasible) and to bring the junction warning sign further back towards Newington so that drivers are aware earlier of the 'hidden' road. Clerk to send these suggestions to KCC. Members also felt that Swale Borough Council and the Joint Transportation Board should suggest to KCC that they revisit their policy on prioritising highway improvements; Cllr. Dewar-Whalley agreed to follow this through and to put on the Agenda. **Action: Cllr. Dewar-Whalley/Clerk**

7. **Parish Newsletter** – Cllr. Randall produced a draft Newsletter which he is keen to circulate within the Parish on a quarterly basis. It was proposed by Cllr. Dewar-Whalley and seconded by Cllr. Ball; all agreed the sum of £1000 for this project; Chair and Vice-Chair to approve each edition. **Action: Cllr. Randall**

8. **Councillors' Report**

Cllr. England advised that there has been a spate of garage burglaries in The Meads. The Dog waste bin down Quartz Way has gone missing; between the Doctors and the new buildings an additional bin has been requested and some bins are not being emptied; Borough Cllr. Hunt advised that bins are being emptied on Tuesdays and Thursdays and he's asked for the missing and extra bins. Cllr. England referred to the 50 mph speed limit on Staplehurst Road, with the additional traffic from new housing adding pressure to the roundabout opposite Vellum Drive can the speed limit be reduced? Members advised that the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) refused this on the grounds that there have been no accidents. Cllr. England again raised the issue of parking on the pavement; Clerk to write to Swale Borough Council asking what their policy is for parking on the pavement and to write to all Parish Councils in Swale to ascertain if they have the same problem and asking them to write to Swale as well. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Paige advised KALC met on Monday; Brian Lloyd, C.P.R.E. attended and spoke regarding Neighbourhood Planning. Swale has made a mistake with bookings and it looks as though the meeting dates will have to be changed. The next Joint Transportation Board meeting will be on Monday 8th June.

Cllr. Bartlett – Raised the issue of fly-tipping near the Cricket Pitch in Bobbing. Clerk to contact Community Warden regarding this incident. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Dewar-Whalley advised that building materials had been dumped in Coldharbour Lane; he reported it to cleansing at 8.30 a.m. and it had been removed by 10.45 a.m. by Swale Cleaning; which he thought was good service. A resident is keen to contribute towards the cost of necessary works to stop illegal encampments at the top of Bobbing Hill; Clerk to advise Cllr. Dewar-Whalley if she hears when the works are to commence. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Randall mentioned that if you go from the railway foot crossing next to Grove Park School and then go towards the rugby ground, about 5/6 metres the ground is soggy and has been in this condition for some time. Clerk to contact Southern Water to ascertain if they have any pipes near there as it may be due to a leak. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Major commented that about four months ago he brought up the condition of the Parish Memorial Bench located in the Crematorium; the work has now been done and it looks good.

Cllrs Ball and Palmer and Major: nothing further to report.

9. **Correspondence**

1. **Letter from NALC chairman to all parish and town councillors** – Noted.
2. **Electoral Review of Kent: Draft Recommendations** – Noted; County Cllr. Baldock thought that the Boundary Commission had seriously underestimated the population of the Meads. Grove, Borden, Newington, Upchurch and Iwade and now all grouped with Bobbing.
3. **National Rural Crime Survey** – Members to submit individual responses. **Action: All Councillors**

10. **Planning Applications**

None received. Cllr. Ball mentioned an application for land behind Haymac and the Church; a representative has approached the Parish Council advising of this and stating that they are going to arrange a public exhibition of the proposal.

11. **Finance**

1. **Quotes for installation of Bollards – A249 Viaduct** – no information has been received from ex Parish Councillor Keith Johnson. Clerk wrote to KCC Highways following the May meeting stating that the Parish Council notes that some bollards have now been installed to protect the area which is for use by Police, emergency and maintenance vehicles, but unfortunately this is now being used by youths as a parking area for them going out and speeding on the surrounding roads. She asked if it would be possible to erect a sign stating that the area is for parking for Police, emergency and maintenance vehicles only to hopefully put a stop to the above practice but to date she has received no response; Clerk to chase yet again. **Action: Clerk**
2. **CCTV The Grove** – Nothing further heard from the contact in The Grove, who was discussing CCTV with the Co-op, the owners of the building housing the shops.
3. **Noticeboard The Grove** – Awaiting the outcome of 10.2 above. Cllr. Randall still to advise on suitable sites for a noticeboard. **Action: Cllr. Randall**
4. **2014/15 External Audit.** Members approved the Asset Register as at June 2015 and this was signed by the Chair. The Annual Return’s Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 were agreed and duly signed. The Explanation of Variances and Bank Reconciliation for 2014/15 were also approved, as were the year end accounts to the 31st March, 2015.
5. **Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting** – Proposed by Cllr. Bartlett and seconded by Cllr. Paige, the accounts to the 31st May, 2015, were agreed and the following cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
03.06.15	0458	L. Fisher	Expenses May – Tele, Office use, Refreshments, 2	£94.98p

