

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 1 July 2020

MEETING HELD VIA 'ZOOM' DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Present: Cllr. G. Herbert – Chair
Cllr. R. Ball – Vice-Chair
Cllr. G. Randall
Cllr. N. Clare
Cllr. R. Morgan-Brown

Lynda Fisher, Clerk
County Cllr. M. Whiting
Borough Cllr. J. Hunt
Borough Cllr. C. Woodford

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the Zoom video conferencing meeting. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllrs. Major, P. England and E. England, Borough Cllrs. Clark and Hampshire, 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**

Due to the restrictions on Zoom time, residents, County and Borough Councillors, PCSOs and Community Wardens were advised that they could attend as normal but, on this occasion, would not be able to speak; they were also invited to forward reports/questions to the Clerk beforehand.

1. **Residents** – Nothing raised.

2. **County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting’s report advised - I start by offering my sincere thanks to everyone who is volunteering or helping in whatever way they can to look after their communities. While lockdown might be easing, it is vital we maintain vigilance, and many people are still in need of help.

KCC has created more slots at the Sittingbourne recycling centre and is offering more slots to each household. This is be welcomed. Also, it is going to start unlocking libraries soon, again in a phased way, more details when I get them.

The county council put £100,000 into supporting the Coronavirus helpline for businesses. In the past couple of months, it has taken nearly 9,000 calls from businesses seeking advice and help. The service offers one to one support. As a result of this success and ongoing demand, KCC is investing another £100,000 to keep this much valued service going for a further three months. Businesses wanting help can call 03333 602300. Also, KCC will reopen the Kent and Medway Business Fund, with £6m to help Kent businesses at the present time. This is a recyclable fund which is using money repaid from previous business loans. The fund was closed to new application at the start of the 30 June 2020 pandemic, but will now offer some 6-year interest free loans to best help Kent business recover and grow.

The government wrote recently to local authorities asking them for “shovel ready” infrastructure plans that required funding to help kickstart the economy. KCC has provided a list over £150m worth of projects, plus a £90m ask for more rolling stock on the heavily congested hi-speed trains that run through Sittingbourne. It is vital we put infrastructure first and I await the government’s response with interest. Locally, the Key Street works start next week, and details have been widely circulated.

Several developers have proposed sites for development in response to Swale Council's call for sites. Clearly, some will fail, but others might succeed and make their way into Swale's new local plan. Meanwhile, other developers are not waiting for a new Local Plan and putting in speculative proposals. If approved and built, then I return to my previous point, and something that is a mantra of mine at KCC, it must be infrastructure first.

Resurfacing of pavements and roads in the Division will commence soon, if it has not already started, and this represents part of a massive investment by KCC in road repairs.

3. **Community Warden/PCSO** – No report.

PCSO – Bobbing – Lee Fennell - a report of people hiding in bushes on Keycol Hill. A patrol attended but did not come across anyone. A report of a cannabis smell near a property off Sheppey Way, officers investigated, and a large cannabis cultivation was discovered. Enquiries are still ongoing, but the plants and equipment have been removed. Police received complaints about waste constantly being recycled on a premise on Bobbing Hill. Advice was given to contact Swale Borough Council's environmental team and/or KCC

The Meads – Kirsty Linge – Theft from a lorry parked in a layby on the A249. Diesel was taken from tank while the driver slept. Criminal damage a fence on Archers Park/Conquer Court. Offenders identified and a crime report was taken. Reports of youths knocking on doors and running away in Realgar Court. Youths have been identified; however, residents requested no further Police involvement. Various dates – Reports of off-road bikes being driven on the land between Quinton and Sonora. Some of the bike users have been identified and spoken with, however there are several different groups. This is actively being monitored by me, OPTIVO and the local task team with a view to deal with them when we can catch them. Reports of persons sleeping in a tent in the undergrowth at the rear of Emerald Crescent. Patrols attending and carried out area search two nights running. No persons were located. Reports 2 suspicious males around Quartz Way and Spinal Close. Males appeared to be paying attention to a parked van. Reports of youths gathering on the green at Moonstone Square and causing a nuisance. Youths spoken to, given words of advice and moved on. Reports of parking issues again in Lorimar Court, currently only one resident has complained. Resident advised that I will pay passing attention and each case will be judge separately. Various Covid-19 calls. A number of which were attended; however, some were assessed by our dedicated Covid team and action was taken based on each individual report. Vehicle parked causing an obstruction on Emerald Crescent, called in by Kent Ambulance Service and a local resident due to the Ambulance not being able to get through whilst on an emergency call. PCSO Green and I attended and after carrying out some checks removed the vehicle from the area, by way of recovery. The owner was informed and given words of advice.

The Grove – Thomas Green – 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. A vehicle belonging to a resident of Sandford Road, had been tampered with, causing the vehicle to break down. However, there was not enough evidence of this being a deliberate act to be taken further. I have since this report, increased patrols in this area. Windows had been damaged to a property in Wentworth Drive. Crime report details were taken for this, and further safety advice was given. Drugs were being smoked in the Grove Park car park. Unfortunately, when I attended, the offenders had already left. Patrols later in the evening have increased since this report. Report of drug dealing on the corner of Staplehurst Drive. There was nobody there when I attended, and since this date, on patrol, I have not witnessed any drug dealing occurring. A red trials bike was reported to be riding in the woods at the back of Grove Park. All patrols in Sittingbourne have been made aware of this bike and keep an eye out for it when on patrol, pending further calls. Nuisance youths reported playing loud music and acting in an antisocial manner around the garages in Wentworth Drive. A patrol attended; however, no youths were located on this occasion. A group of youths were reported parked in the Grove Park car park being loud and antisocial. Patrols attended; however, no youths were located on this occasion. Over the past couple of months, I have increased patrols focussing in the mid- late evening times around Grove. Focussing on Grove Park, and

the area behind the shops on Gadby Road. These are both areas that I have before found drug paraphernalia and evidence of drug use, including small plastic bags, bongs and NOS cannisters. Since increasing these patrols, with a higher policing visibility in the area, there has been a massive decrease in the amount of paraphernalia that I have found when in the area.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Morgan-Brown and seconded by Cllr. Clare, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4 March 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**

The March items will be rolled over to the next meeting due to time constraints.

Action: Clerk

6. **Correspondence**

1. **Consultation of Draft Street Trading Policy** – Noted.

7. **Planning Applications**

1. **20/501884/FULL:** Webbenditch Cottage Cold Harbour Lane Bobbing Kent: Demolition of existing dwelling, outbuilding & garage, & erection of a replacement four bedroom dwelling with detached double garage & gym, including creation of a new vehicle access (re-submission of 19/506412/FULL) – no comment.
2. **20/502074/FULL:** Erection of two recreation halls for seasonal agricultural workers amenity facilities: Howt Green Farm Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QP – agreed to respond - Bobbing Parish Council has concerns regarding unsociable hours use, noise and the close proximity of the Public Right of Way, which is clearly visible from the site location.
3. **20/502497/EIASCO:** Scoping Opinion for Proposed development of approximately 2,500 dwellings, a new primary school, c.9ha of commercial floor space, c.4ha of community uses & c.1ha of local retail provision on l& at Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent: L& At Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QL – agreed to respond - Scoping Opinion details noted. Bobbing Parish Council reserves the right to comment when a detailed application is received
4. **18/502190/EIHYB:** L& North Quinton Road Sittingbourne Kent ME10 2SX: Phase 1 North - Erection of 91 dwellings accessed from Grovehurst Road, public open & amenity space (including an equipped children's play area) together with associated landscaping & ecological enhancement works, acoustic barrier to the A249, internal access roads, footpaths, cycleways & parking, drainage (including infiltration basins & tanked permeable paving), utilities & service infrastructure works. Full Planning Application - Phase 1 South - Erection of 257 dwellings (including 35 affordable dwellings) accessed from Quinton Road, public open & amenity space, together with associated landscaping & ecological enhancement works, internal access roads, footpaths, cycleways & parking, drainage (including infiltration swales, ring soakaways, & permeable paving), utilities & service infrastructure works. Outline Planning Application - for up to 852 new dwellings (including 10% affordable housing, subject to viability), a site of approximately 10 ha for a secondary & primary school, a mixed use local centre, including l& for provision of a convenience store, public open & amenity space (including equipped children's play areas), together with associated landscaping & ecological enhancement works, acoustic barrier to the A249, internal access roads, footpaths, cycleways & parking, drainage (including a foul water pumping station & sustainable drainage systems), utilities & service infrastructure. All matters reserved, except for access for the schools site from Grovehurst Road – agreed to respond as follows - At its meeting on the 7 July 2020, Bobbing Parish Council agreed that its objections, as lodged on the 4 April 2020 and 6 February 2020, still stand. In particular the Council is concerned to note that no action has been taken to prevent Sonora Way from being used as an access to major routes, i.e. the A249 and M2, which will cause distress to the residents living in this area.

5. **20/502715/OUT:** Outline application for the redevelopment of the site for residential use (All matters reserved): Bobbing Car Breakers Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8QX – Agreed to respond - Although the number of properties has decreased, Bobbing Parish Council still has concerns that the density will actually increase when a full planning application is submitted. Further concerns are Increased traffic, the impact on the strategic gap between the settlements of Bobbing and Iwade and that this is unsustainable development; public transport is almost non-existent, and residents will be car dependent.

8. **Finance**

1. Approval of the Annual Return, 2019/20
 - a) Section 1. Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 – Proposed by Cllr. Ball, and seconded by Cllr. Herbert, each section agreed by the Parish Council; to be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
 - b) Section 2. Accounting Statements, 2019/20 – Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Morgan-Brown, figures agreed by Parish Council, Section 2 to be signed by the Chair, having been already signed by the Responsible Financial Officer when completing the form.
2. Financial Risk Assessment – Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Clare, agreed and adopted.
3. Statement of Internal Control – Proposed by Cllr. Ball and seconded by Cllr. Clare, agreed and adopted.
4. **Accounts and Cheques Raised** – Proposed by Cllr. Morgan-Brown and seconded by Cllr. Clare, agreed accounts to the 30 June 2020 and the following Cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
04.04.20	0711	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for March	£85.40p
04.04.20	0712	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for April	£85.40p
04.04.20	0713	K.A.L.C.	Subscription 2020/21	£915.14p
04.04.20	0714	K.A.L.C.	Balance due for 2 places Planning Conference	£96.00p
04.04.20	0715	Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription 2020/21	£202.00p
14.05.20	0716	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for May	£85.40p
14.05.20	0717	Came & Company	Insurance Premium 2020/21	£507.81p
01.07.20	0718	L. Fisher	Expenses claimed for March to June – phone, use of home, mileage (Noticeboards – only March) stamps, ink cartridges, stationery	£96.40
01.07.20	0719	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for June	£85.60p
01.07.20	0720	Steve Wakeling	Grass Cutting April and May	£280.00p
01.07.20	0721	GDPR-Info Ltd	Data Protection Officer Service	£420.00p
Twelve (four for July) cheques in total				

Paid by Standing Order:

Clerk's Salary – March 2020:	£341.98p	Paid by Standing Order
Clerk's Salary – April 2020:	£341.98p	Paid by Standing Order
Clerk's Salary – May 2020:	£341.98p	Paid by Standing Order
Clerk's Salary – June 2020:	£341.98p	Paid by Standing Order
Invicta IT Solutions – Mailboxes & 365 March	£52.32p	Paid by Standing Order
Invicta IT Solutions – Mailboxes & 365 April	£52.32p	Paid by Standing Order
Invicta IT Solutions – Mailboxes & 365 May	£52.32p	Paid by Standing Order
Invicta IT Solutions – Mailboxes & 365 June	£52.32p	Paid by Standing Order

Paid in:

Swale Borough Council Precept 1st Instalment	£10023.00p	Paid by BACs
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9. **Parish Councillors' Reports**

Cllr. Clare – mentioned Travellers and providing maintenance; this relates to an area on the Isle of Sheppey and the land in question is owned by KCC; the maintenance is due to Covid-19.

Cllr. Ball – has received comments relating to work on Key Street Roundabout; the Parish Council has only recently received details of the planned work. He and Cllr. Morgan-Brown attended the KALC Area Committee meeting on Monday; the meeting was held via Video. The Chief Inspector sent a detailed report (due to security, Police are not permitted to attend Video conferencing meetings), which explained some of the problems the Police have had with enforcing Covid-19 regulations.

Cllrs. Morgan-Brown and Randall – nothing to report.

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

11. **Next Meeting(s)**

Wednesday 5 August 2020, 7.30 p.m. venue depending on Covid-19 situation.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____