

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7 August 2019

Present: Cllr. G. Herbert - Chair
Cllr. L. Major
Cllr. A. Cavanagh
Cllr. P. England
Cllr. E. England

Cllr. G. Randall
Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Nick Mayatt, Community Warde
21 Parishioners

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Parish Cllr. Ball, County Cllr. M. Whiting, Borough Cllrs. Woodford, Hunt, Hampshire, Baldock, and the PCSO.

2. Visitors/Public Time

- Residents** – Residents attended to put forward their concerns regarding No. 1 Norwood Walk relating to work to the existing property and to the planning application for a new adjacent property. Main concerns for the new property were parking, issues with sewage and overlooking; with the existing property (permitted development), noise and contractors working at 5.00 a.m. in the morning.
- County and Borough Councillors** –Written report from County Cllr. Whiting – A2 and recent disruptions - the gas main will be replaced before the planned resurfacing of the road. He will be arrange a public meeting, in Newington, with the police, Gas Company and Kent Highways. It will be an opportunity for members of the public to feed back about some of the issues relating to the last closure and to hear about the planned works moving forward. He will advise of the date in due course.
- Community Warden/PCSO** – Checked shops, Grove Park recreation ground and fly tipping hot spots; carried out a reassurance visit to a Scam victim. Carried out smart water marking at 20 properties; this is done free by the CSU. Nick advised that this would be his last meeting, as he is retiring in September; the Chair thanked Nick on behalf of the Parish Council for all the work he had undertaken in the Parish.

Lee Fennell, the PCSO, sent a written report – Bobbing - Possible attempted break-in at a property on Sheppey Way – patrol attended, no damage, nothing stolen. Report of burglary in progress at commercial address on Bobbing Hill – patrol attended no evidence of break-in. People fighting in Ladyfields Close – police attended and crime reports submitted. The Meads - Youths gathering near Fire Opal Way – patrol attended, no one was found. Assault in Olivine Close – patrol attended and crime report submitted. Two reports of shoplifting from One-Stop on Quartz Way over past month. Dog attack reported in Emerald Crescent – patrols attended and crime report submitted.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. Randall and seconded by Cllr. P. England, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 July 2019 were agreed and signed as a true transcript.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Randall declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.2.

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

- Sheppey Way (near Bobbing Apple) – Alterations to road layout and bollards** – Members noted the cost put forward by KCC; agreed to arrange site meeting in respect of the bollards. **Action: Clerk**

2. **Bus Shelter, Crematorium** – Agreed not to pursue this.
3. **Parish Councillor Vacancies** – Notice placed in Bobbing Reporter, closing date 14 September.

6. Councillors' Report

1. Illegal shooting of animals Meads Community Woodland - Cllr. Cavanagh advised this is happening and animal carcasses are often left by the cinder path where school children walk. The Police are aware. She praised community support when looking for a lost dog. A stranger approached a child at Grove Park School; parents are now keeping a close eye on their children. She hopes to attend the Community Led Housing meeting in September. A yellow handbag snatched in the area; if anyone spots this please hand in to the Police. Will contact Network Rail to arrange a meeting regarding the fencing and the embankment, subsidence soil from which is causing a damp nuisance to garages in Grove Park. **Action: Cllr. Cavanagh**

Cllr. P. England reported to County Cllr. Whiting speed signs down Staplehurst Road obscured by vegetation. Opal House residents have complained about contractors doing groundworks and then using a blower to spread mess around. Clerk to ask Borough Cllr. Hunt who manages this area. **Action: Clerk**

Cllrs. E. England, Randall and Major – nothing to report.

7. Correspondence

1. **Environment Agency letter to Parish Councils** - Does not apply to Bobbing.
2. **Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Consultation** – Cllr. Randall delegated to respond. **Action: Cllr. Randall**
3. **Annual Policing Survey** – Agreed Members to respond individually. **Action: Councillors**
4. **Changes to the NHS healthcare system** – Members to respond individually. **Action: Councillors**
5. **Swale Landscape Sensitivity Assessment - letter regarding invitation to comment** – Cllr. Herbert advised that he was disappointed that a paper copy of the draft was not distributed; the document is 300 pages long and it is difficult to read on screen and to research and highlight areas of concern. He had spotted several discrepancies within the document, but trying to go back and find them again was extremely difficult. Clerk to pass this comment on to Swale Borough Council. **Action: Clerk**
6. **NALC Policy E-Briefing PC8-19 – Consultation - Draft Data Sharing Code of Practice** – noted, NALC responding on behalf of Parish Councils.

8. Planning Applications

1. **19/503015/FULL: Erection of a new three bay garage with storeroom above and erection of a single storey rear extension: Eldon Lodge Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8PL** – no objections.
2. **19/503517/FULL: Erection of two storey 3 bedroom end of terrace dwelling: 1 Norwood Walk West Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1QF** – Agreed to respond as follows:

The Parish Council strongly objects to this application and hopes that Swale Borough Council's Planning Committee hold a site meeting to appreciate the implications. The Parish Council would welcome an invitation to attend any site meeting.

The Parish Council's grounds for objection are as follows:

Visual Appearance - the building will be out of context and not in keeping with other properties in Norwood Walk.

This is an infill development.

An over-intensive development of the site.

Intrusion of privacy - The development will overlook windows and gardens of adjacent properties.

Parking – there is limited parking on Hilton Drive and surrounding areas. Some houses on the estate have either a garage in a block or an integral garage. However, it is common knowledge that parking is so bad that emergency vehicles have difficulty gaining access. We have been informed that the existing property (No. 1) is being converted into an HMO? If this is correct then vehicles used by residents in that property, added to those of residents in the proposed property will only add to the parking problem.

Sewage issues – We understand Southern Water originally would not adopt the Norwood Walk sewage system because it was not up to their standard, but we believe have done so fairly recently. It is understood there is not enough of a decline and Sewage has often built up in the garden of 44 and then backs up with sewage in the drain row between 1 and 15 Norwood Walk. All residents can do is keep telephoning Southern Water when this happens, but so far no solution has been found to this problem. The addition of this extra property will only add more strain on the poor drainage system.

An application for a single storey side extension in Norwood Walk – SW/11/1036 – was refused on the grounds that: “The proposed side extension, by virtue of its size, bulk and location would create an unacceptable overbearing effect within the street scene and would have an unacceptable detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the area.”

9. Finance

1. **Scrolls** – Agreed to go with the Kent Coat of Arms, Clerk to approach KCC for permission to use. If refused to leave area blank. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Accounts and Cheques Raised** – Proposed by Cllr. Cavanagh and seconded by Cllr. P. England, agreed accounts to the 31 July 2019 and the following Cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
07.08.19	0671	L. Fisher	Expenses: Telep, Office Use, Refreshments - July	£18.25p
07.08.19	0672	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for July	£85.60p
07.08.19	0673	Steve Wakeling	Grass Cutting June and July	£240.00p
07.08.19	0674	Bobbing Village Hall	Hall hire October 2018 to March 2019	£200.00p
07.08.19	0675	Swale Borough Council	Printing Bobbing Newsletter	£91.00p
Five Cheques in total				

Paid Out:

Wages - salary July

£341.98p

Paid by Standing Order

10. Any Other Matters Arising

Cllr. P. England expressed concern that waste from European countries is being compressed and taken to the Pacific Islands and the material is stacking up. Clerk to check with Swale Borough Council as to what happens with our collected plastic waste. **Action: Clerk**

11. Next Meeting(s)

Wednesday 4 September 2019, 7.30 p.m. in the Bobbing Parish Hall’s small Committee Room.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____