

## **Bobbing Parish Council**

### **Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 15 May 2019**

#### **Chairman's report**

Good evening everyone, welcome and thank you for attending tonight.

Bobbing Parish Council serves the communities of Bobbing Village, Howt Green, Rooks View, Watermark, Keycol and Bobbing Hill plus parts of Grove Park, the Meads and Key Street. The Parish also includes the Western area towards Newington, Lower Halstow and Iwade.

During the past year, the Parish Council held 12 regular meetings, plus the Parish and Annual Parish Council meetings. Parish and Borough Elections on 2 May 2019 saw changes at the Borough Council but no the Parish Council.

Discussions at meetings during the year were varied, covering everything from litter to lorry parking, data security to town planning, not forgetting Hedgehog fencing to rail track fencing! We also received the never-ending consultations, questionnaires and dictates from central and local Government. However, the most controversial and concerning issues were planning and traffic, with infrastructure a close second.

The proposed large residential developments at Quinton Road (North side), the Bobbing 'Garden Village' proposal and Wises Lane, not to mention smaller developments at Howt Green, Manor Farm and Southlands, will have a detrimental effect on every Bobbing resident unless the traffic and pollution issues on the A249 and A2 can be resolved. I will not even mention Schools, Doctors and increasing litter everywhere!

Bobbing Parish Council meetings are generally well supported by County and Borough Councillors, who are fully aware of local issues and are doing what they can to improve Bobbing. Unfortunately, their messages at County or Borough Council meetings sometimes fall on deaf ears. We also receive regular updates from the PCSO and Community Warden, which we find useful and informative.

Finally, before I stop, on behalf of the Parish Council and myself in particular I would like to express a big 'Thank you' to Lynda, our Parish Clerk. She does not have an easy job trying to understand all the details attached to regulations and procedures. Once again, thank you.

I have produced my usual statistics to continue the series - there were 21 planning applications for comment (one less than last year) and the precept was £19.95p for a band 'D' property, the same as the last two years. I also give below Parish Councillor Attendance at meetings during 2018/19:

#### **Bobbing Parish Councillors attendance at Council Meetings May 2018 to April 2019**

<b>Councillors – Nine in total</b>	<b>Attendance (Max 12 meetings)</b>	<b>Expenses Claimed</b>
Robert Ball – Vice-Chair	12/12	Nil
Ann Cavanagh**	11/12	Nil
Nikki Clare	05/12	Nil
Duncan Dewar-Whalley (Ward Cllr)*	03/12	Nil
Graham Herbert – Chair	10/12	Nil

Larry Major	09/12	Nil
Elizabeth England	12/12	Nil
Peter England	12/12	Nil
Gareth Randall	09/12	Nil

\* Cllr Dewar-Whalley (Ward Cllr) attends SBC meetings, which sometimes clash with BPC meetings.

\*\* Cllr. A. Cavanagh co-opted onto the Council and only served 11 months.

Ward and County Councillors attending Parish Council meetings during 2018/19

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley (Conservative) SBC Bobbing, Iwade & Lower Halstow

Cllr James Hunt (Conservative) SBC the Meads

Cllr Nicholas Hampshire (Conservative) SBC Borden & Grove Park

Cllr Mike Whiting (Conservative) Kent County Councillor, Swale West

Cllr Mike Baldock (Independent) SBC Borden & Grove Park

Cllr Ben Stokes (Conservative) SBC Bobbing, Iwade & Lower Halstow