

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 2 December 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	Cllr. L. May
Cllr. N. Clare	Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Cllr. G. Randall	County Cllr. M. Whiting

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the Zoom video conferencing meeting and in particular welcomed new Parish Councillor Lana May to the Council. Apologies received and accepted from Parish Cllr. Major, Borough Cllrs. Baldock and Hunt, 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.

- Residents** – None attended, and nothing raised.
- County and Borough Councillors** – County Cllr. Whiting – written report – thanked everyone for their efforts locally in the fight against Coronavirus. The infection rate in Swale remains one of the highest in the country, but today's figures confirm that they are, at last, reducing - down from some 650 cases per 100,000 to 546 cases as at 19 November. Let us hope that trend continues. It is vital we continue to obey the rules around social distancing, wearing a mask and hand washing. Dealt with many reports of blocked drains, overgrown pavements, potholes etc, which I have passed onto KCC highways on behalf of residents. Reminded of the County Council's "Report a fault" web page, which provides a reference number and allows for the tracking of reported faults. It can be found at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>. KCC introduced a 'Top-up' scheme this September to compliment the Government 'Gigabit Broadband Voucher' initiative. Bobbing primary school had asked for some mini-bus-only parking bays outside the school to assist in the mornings when children arrive by mini-bus from the breakfast club at Iwade. Swale Council has now come up with proposals, and these will be out for consultation imminently.
- Community Warden/PCSO** – Community Warden – No report.
- PCSO's - **Bobbing** - Crimes of note: Sheds broken into on adjacent properties on Bobbing Hill. Bicycle stolen from one shed; bicycle wheel stolen from the second. This is still be investigated but is thought to have occurred over the past week. General: I would like to wish the councillors, clerk, and all Bobbing residents a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The Grove - Crimes of note over three-month period: There have been numerous Covid-19 breaches across the whole Grove area since the second lockdown restrictions were put in place on the 5th November 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. Clive Road – Vehicle Crime – Reports of vehicles that had had the wing mirrors removed. Due to no evidence of this being malicious criminal damage, a crime report was not recorded. Reassurance patrols completed. Sandford

Road – Nuisance Vehicles – It was reported that vehicles were being inconsiderately parked along the paths of Sandford Road at school kick-out time. After speaking to the informant, I have been regularly attending the area at that time and giving suitable words of advice to any vehicles blocking the pavement. Key Street – Theft of Motor Vehicle. It was reported that a car was stolen. A crime report was recorded. Hilton Drive – Burglary – It was reported that overnight a garage was broken into. A crime report was created. Sandford Road – Nuisance Youths – It was reported that youths were throwing conkers at an address. On attendance, there was nobody at the scene, and no damage had been caused. Reassurance was given to the resident. Staplehurst Road – Nuisance Youths – Reports of youths from Westland’s School causing a nuisance to businesses along the road. I have attended the area on multiple occasions for some high visibility prevention. The Grove – Nuisance Vehicles – Reports of nuisance motorbikes being ridden across the cricket ground, through the wooded area, and across the rugby fields at the back. This is a repeat issue, and patrols have been increased in the area. Gore Court Cricket Ground – Nuisance Vehicles – Reports of nuisance motorbikes. Patrols attended, however it resulted in an area search no trace. Patrols have been increased in the area. 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 has been given. I have not found any evidence of drug use at this location for the past 5 weeks. Multiple crime reports for Criminal Damage have been taken for damage caused in the cricket ground. I am working with the groundskeeper to implement deterrents in the area. Multiple reports of youths throwing conkers and stones at properties across The Grove estate. CCTV images of these youths meant that I was able to get a positive ID for who the offenders were. I spoke to the youths and the parents regarding the incidents. No further incidents have been reported. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Clare and seconded by Cllr. Morgan-Brown, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4 November 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** - None

6. **Parish Councillors’ Reports**

Cllr. Clare advised that Borough Cllr. Baldock had given a grant of £150 for the Grove Christmas tree, which is sited outside Gadby Road shops and looks lovely. She attended a meeting of the Western Area Committee, which is trying to correlate all the roads across the Western area relating to walking and cycling routes around villages. She mentioned Geocaching and its website; there are several trails that cover the Bobbing area, and it might be worthwhile looking at them. The Committee discussed Brown Signs, Heritage issues, conservation, litter, and maintenance and care of woodlands. We will be receiving a letter regarding recycling; if we were to separate out our recycling more the Borough Council would receive increased more income from this. Ten Borough Councillors sit on the Committee; each has £4,000, giving a total funding pot of £40,000 and Parish Councils with projects can bid for this funding. Newington (£4000) and Upchurch (£4655) have both come forward with these funding requests; Bobbing Parish Council has not been formally advised that funding is available. Cllr. Clare asked Members to put forward funding ideas – one suggestion was for a disabled door at the Village Hall the other was for adult exercise equipment.

Action: All Councillors

Cllr. Randall thanked the Parish Council for its donation to Sittingbourne Christmas Lights.

Cllr. P. England thanked Cllr. Clare for her report. He advised that older teenage children are stealing Christmas decorations. Cllr. Ball mentioned he too was concerned about criminal activity.

Cllrs. Ball, E. England and Morgan-Brown – nothing to report.

7. Correspondence

1. **Kent County Council Safeguarding SPD and Statement of Community Involvement** – Noted.
2. **Bobbing Church Christmas Events** – Noted.
3. **KALC Community Awards Scheme 2021** – Bring back to next meeting. Action: Clerk

8. Planning Applications

1. **20/502559/FULL:** Land Adjoining The White House Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent: Erection of 4 stables on concrete base and open menage measuring 40m x 20m – Agreed to respond the Council’s previously submitted objections still stand.
2. **20/505134/FULL:** 51 Balas Drive Sittingbourne Kent ME10 5AS - No objections but would ask that the Planning Officer takes neighbours' comments into consideration when considering this application.
3. **20/504756/FULL:** Red Roofs Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent: Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of a single storey rear extension – No comments.
4. **20/504794/OUT:** Outline application for the erection of up to 51no. residential dwellings, including a minimum 40% affordable housing, open space, drainage, infrastructure and other associated works (Access being sought): Land at Pheasant Farm Bramblefield Lane West Of Iwade Bypass Sittingbourne ME9 8QX - agreed to object on the following grounds:
 - Lack of infrastructure
 - Traffic and pressure on local roads
 - Medical Facilities – limited capacity, backed up by the NHS, who would need money through S.106 contributions to shore up facilities and assist with difficulties in obtaining Doctors.
 - Lack of School places, Bobbing and Iwade both operate Sibling Policies, both Schools are full
 - There is an issue with water supplies, as mentioned by S.W.A.
 - Loss of agricultural land.
 - No sewage pipe drainage, the land drains on to the A249; Highways England might have concerns regarding this.
 - The applicant points out that a larger adjacent area is also under their ownership and they highlighted the area on the plan. This of concern to the Parish Council as it seems to indicate that they will be looking to submit a future planning application on this adjacent land.
 - We would refer you to Appeal Ref: APP/V2255/W/16/3153537 Land at Church Farm, Sheppey Way, Bobbing, Kent, ME9 8RJ – it refers to the Sheppey Way, the area between Bobbing and Iwade settlements - the Inspector’s decision states:

Character and appearance

16. There is no dispute that the site is located in an area that is identified as an ‘important local countryside gap’ within the LP policy E7 and SLP policy DM25. The aim of the countryside gaps is to prevent settlement coalescence. LP policy E6 also seeks to protect the quality, character and amenity of the countryside. This is consistent with an aim of the Framework which is to the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

17. Within the Swale Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal (LCA) the site is located within the ‘Iwade Arable Farmlands’. The LCA describes the area as a gentle undulating rural landscape. It also identifies that housing is clearly evident in views across the surrounding landscape and that several major transport routes cut through the area. One of these routes is the A249 which is adjacent to the appeal site. Nevertheless, it goes on to set out that ‘...in spite of the intrusive effects

of these heavily trafficked routes, many parts of this character area retain a sense of isolation and tranquillity...’

18. The LCA identifies that the landscape is generally in ‘poor’ condition and that this is in part to residential ribbon development that has taken place in a number of styles thus creating an incoherent character. However, this does not alter the importance of the site as a gap. In addition, the LCA is clear that the areas strength and character should be restored.

9. **Finance**

1. **Quote re Repairs to Bench, Churchyard** – bring back to next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Grove Park Community – Donation of Xmas Tree** – see Item 6 above.
3. **Completion of External Audit and Explanation for High Reserves** - Clerk advised that the Audit has been signed off with no issues raised. She has posted the legally required notices on the Parish Council’s website. Members agreed the additional submitted figures under Explanation for High Reserves’ of £4500 earmarked for three Defibrillators and £2500 earmarked for trees and bulbs.
4. **Quartz Way roundabout - reinstatement of double yellows** – Issues with parked cars causing an obstruction. County Cllr. Whiting volunteered to look into this, with a view to installing protection lines. Clerk to email reminding him. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Trees** – Proposed by Cllr. P. England and seconded by Cllr. N. Clare, agreed the sum of £3743.28p to purchase 12 x 16/18 girth mature Alder trees to provide shade for the children (and assist with poor drainage) for Grove Park and Aspire Schools.
6. **Precept 2021/22** – draft Budget template circulated; Members to consider and Clerk to bring back to next meeting for agreement. **Action: Clerk**
7. **Projects 2021/22** – Members to bring back suggestions to next meeting in order to build costs into the 2021/22 Budget. **Action: All Councillors**
8. **Bollard Advertising** – The Chair described as ‘advertising sleeves that slot over the top of bollards’ – something to consider in the future?
9. **ICT Tablets** – agreed, not needed at the present time.
10. **Accounts and Cheques Raised** – Proposed by Cllr. Morgan-Brown and seconded by Cllr. Clare, Members noted the budget figures, agreed the accounts to the 30 November 2020 and the following cheques were agreed and signed:

Date	Cheque	Details		Amount
02.12.20	0741	L. Fisher	Expenses: telephone, use of home, Poppy Wreath - November	£55.99p
02.12.20	0742	H.M. Revenue & Custom	Tax due for November	£85.60p
02.12.20	0743	Sittingbourne Christmas Lights	Donation – S.137	£50.00p
02.12.20	0744	Waller Associates Limited	Valuation No. 1 – Building Materials for Village Hall Work	£5981.86p
Four cheques in total				

Paid by Standing Order:

Staff Salary – November 2020:	£341.98p	Paid by Standing Order
Invicta IT Solutions – Mailboxes & 365 November	£52.32p	Paid by Standing Order

10. **Any Other Matters Arising**

Cllr. Clare advised the parking restrictions (zigzag lines) outside Grove Park School have been suspended whilst the School is closed.

Cllr. Ball was pleased to see that the Parish Council has a new Councillor in times when there is a shortage of volunteers. He asked for ideas on what people would like to see the Parish Council do; he would like to get more people involved.

It would appear that some residents have received postcards referring to the A249 Key Street Roundabout and Grovehurst Interchange improvements public consultation; the Parish Council has not been made aware of this.

11. **Next Meeting(s)**

Wednesday 6 January 2021, 7.30 p.m. venue depending on Covid-19 situation.

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____