

BOBBING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 15 May 2019

Present: Cllr. G. Herbert - Chair
Cllr. R. Ball – Vice-Chair
Cllr. L. Major
Cllr. P. England
Cllr. G. Randall

Cllr. E. England
Cllr. A. Cavanagh
Lynda Fisher, Clerk
Borough Cllr. Baldock
2 Parishioners

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair formally welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Borough Cllrs. Hunt and Hampshire, the PCSO and Community Warden.

2. **Visitors/Public Time**

1. **Residents** – raised concerns regarding the Meads Woodland; six trees have been stripped of their bark; a speed pit has been dug out; people are using the Henge area for drinking and drugs, at times lighting fires – why was the area not monitored by the Police. Clerk to contact Police and copy Borough Cllr. Hunt into any correspondence. **Action: Clerk**

2. **County and Borough Councillors** – Borough Cllr. Baldock mentioned the recent Elections; Swale now has no overall control; it's a hung Council, but it looks as though various parties might group together.

County Cllr. Whiting submitted a written report - has been in correspondence with McDonalds regarding progress on road improvements following yet another accident along Bobbing Way; will continue to raise this and is awaiting a reply from Kent Highways. Noted the Keep Clear signage on the Key Street roundabout. However, was disappointed they did not include the part where Keycol Hill meets the roundabout; has raised this with Highways and await their further reply. Now has a holding reply from Network Rail regarding temporary fencing in Hilton Drive. Is hopeful that a full reply will be forthcoming once their engineers have investigated. On behalf of residents, would like to thank Cllrs Dewar-Whalley and Stokes for their work over a number of years. Both stood down.

3. **Community Warden/PCSO** – No report from Community Warden. PCSO sent a written report advising of nuisance motorbike in the Rook's View area – patrols stepped up, but nothing found so far. Report of stolen vehicle found in fields around Bobbing – vehicle recovered to police pound. Report of bicycle stolen from young male – member of the public managed to get the bike back, but there was no trace of the offender.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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

4. **Declarations of Interest** – None.

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

1. **Network Rail Temporary Fencing, Hilton Drive** – See Cllr. Whiting's comments in 2.2. Cllr. P. England has also chased and received a response – fencing installed by Network Rail and does constitute a safe barrier to the Railway. They found a gap next to the Railway Bridge, which they secured and a gap in the fencing in the woodland area, again they secured this. They will report back to the Kent Incident Control Centre, advising the site should be inspected and evaluated for possible better fencing. They asked that if people see public going onto the railway, to mark the area where they are getting

through the fence with something bright, like cloth or tape and report it, so that they can secure that area. Members were confused because Network Rail referred to it as 'fencing' whereas the query related to Heras Fencing. Cllr. Baldock agreed to take this up with the Kent Community Rail Partnership. Keep on the Agenda. Action: Cllr. England/County Cllr. Whiting/Cllr. Baldock

2. **Sheppey Way (near Bobbing Apple) – Alterations to road layout and bollards** – See Cllr. Whiting's comments under 2.2 above – keep on Agenda. Action: Clerk/County Cllr. Whiting
3. **Bus Shelter, Crematorium** – Cllr. Ball still looking at prices. Clerk to ask the Crematorium whether they own the land where the shelter needs to be located. Action: Cllr. Ball/Clerk
4. **Clean up Sheppey Way** – response received from Swale Borough Council, but they have not picked-up on the area that needs cleaning. Clerk to go back and point this out. Action: Clerk
5. **Issues outside/nearby 'One Stop'** – Clerk advised she has received a holding response from 'Tila Commercial' but no actual response to the issues raised. Clerk has chased and is awaiting a reply.

6. Councillors' Report

Cllr. Randall suggested awarding the Freedom of the Parish; Clerk to investigate and update at next meeting.

Cllr. Cavanagh attended the Green Grid Forum, representing the Parish Council; it was an opportunity to network with other Councillors. She advised that Southern Water had acted quickly to repair a damaged water meter cover.

Cllr. Ball believes quite a considerable sum has been wasted by KCC painting 'Keep Clear' markings on roundabouts; hardly anyone notices them, abides by them and some markings appear to be in the wrong place or missing.

Cllr. Major believes the new charges at landfill sites will only encourage fly tipping.

Cllrs. P. and E. England advised residents in The Meads were concerned at the amount of robberies the local shops were experiencing (all incidents have been reported). Children smoking dope and anti-social behaviour are on the increase, all of this is having an effect on the local community; why are the Police not involved? Clerk to contact the Chief Inspector regarding this; was also suggested residents write expressing their concern. Cllr. P. England asked Borough Cllr. Baldock for the yellow lines in Quartz Way to be refreshed. Action: Cllr. Baldock

7. Correspondence - None

8. Planning Applications

1. **19/500837/OUT Bobbing Car Breakers Sheppey Way Bobbing Sittingbourne Kent** – agreed to respond that Bobbing Parish Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds:

Referring to planning appeal APP/V2255/W/16/3153537 (15/505488/OUT Land At Church Farm Sheppey Way Bobbing Kent); the Inspector comments:

“The proposed development either side of the existing dwellings and commercial buildings would completely remove this sense of openness which is currently experienced along this section of Sheppey Way. This would be in direct conflict with LP policies E6, E7 and SH1 which seek to protect the countryside and SLP policy ST3 in so far as it sets out that development proposals outside of built up areas should enhance the intrinsic value, landscape setting, tranquillity and beauty of the countryside.”

And,

“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

