

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting 11th November 2008

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 11th November 2008 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr A Hudson (Chairman), Mrs L Trott (Vice Chair), Mrs Culver, Mr A Smith, Mrs J Kingsley, Mr Cooke and Community Police Officer, Rachael Spencer.

Apologies were received from Mr R Bush.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Community Police Officer, Rachael Spencer was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. She introduced herself to Members and outlined her past work with the Police Service and her current duties. Her "patch" included Milstead and Bredgar as well as Bapchild. She stated that she walked the parish one to two times a week as well as attending issues as they occurred. She recently met with the Chairman where a fruitful discussion took place outlining some current issues including speeding in the village, speedwatch (a volunteer manned anti-speed system) and vehicle parking inconsiderately on pavements.

A general discussion ensued. CPO Spencer encouraged contact with the Parish Council and stated that any matters brought before her would be dealt with by herself initially. She asked to stay until the end of the meeting.

### Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

*Open Space, Panteny Lane, Replacement Wooden Bollards surrounding parts of the open space, School Lane, Bapchild Village Green:* The Clerk reported that he had spoken again to Mr Tuff, Swale Borough Council to remind him of the works outstanding. This work was promised in the autumn planting season.

*Damaged Street Nameplates:* The Chairman had spoken to Borough Councillor Bonney but that to date no response had been made.

*"Bapchild" sign missing:* The Clerk would continue to report this outstanding issue.

*Wihfred Road, footway repairs:* The Clerk reported that he had attended a seminar by KCC and he had raised this and a number of other issues. Subsequently an engineer had made contact and works on the footpath were promised soon.

*Tree Maintenance – School Paying Field:* The Clerk stated that a letter had been recently sent to the Chairman of the School Governors and a reply was awaited.

### Planning Matters:

Other:

Stables behind Fox & Goose – The Chairman reported that most of the structures had been removed after Swale Borough Council enforcement action and there was one structure left subject to an outstanding planning decision. The Chairman stated that because of the unacceptable delay in this matter, he would write to Swale Borough Council in an effort to conclude this matter.

Proposed diversion of footpath ZR 193, Mr Oliver Doubleday, G.H. Dean & Co and Temporary Planning Permission regarding haulage activity, Hempstead Farm - The Chairman reported that the temporary planning permission regarding the haulage activity would expire in October 2008 and contact would be made with the Council planners. The Clerk reported on correspondence from G H Dean stating that the diversion was now lodged with KCC but that there would be delays of approximately 18 months because of a backlog at KCC.

Planning Appeal – Outline application for construction of two permanent dwellings to replace two residential caravans, land on A2 in Tonge – appeal dismissed, but the Inspectors comments were noted.

Science Park. The Chairman reported that an application was expected shortly to extend the park by approx. 4 hectares. As this was not within the Local Plan the application should be rejected, but a careful watch must be maintained.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

12 Hempstead Lane – side and rear extensions and garage – Granted

16 Morris Court Close – Single storey rear extension and garage extension – certificate of lawfulness granted

Accounts:

*Parish Council Grant Scheme.* Members were reminded of balance in hand of £6,000 after 2008/09 allocation of £835 has been credited. No further monies are to be granted under this scheme and the balance must be used before April 2010 or it will be absorbed into the Borough Council balances. No response had been received from the notice recently published to the effect that there may be monies available to organisation within the parish.

It was agreed to pursue whether allocation of monies could be made towards the Village Hall extension. Also, research as to the costs of a replacement printer used for the publication of the Village Newsletter or whether to sub-contract this printing to a contractor.

*Precept on Swale Borough Council for 2009/10.* The Clerk referred to the report sent out with the agenda. Members discussed this information and noted:

1. Swale Borough Council had not yet made a decision regarding the level of the footway lighting grant. It has been assumed that no change to current arrangements would be made.
2. Village clean up. It has been assumed that Swale Borough Council will stop providing this service.
3. The costs of the renewal of six lighting columns had been collected within the precept between the previous two years therefore no costs would fall this year. However, Members noted that there were a number of columns which may need replacement and Members considered a healthy balance was necessary should replacement become urgent.

It was proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mr Smith and agreed to precept on Swale Borough Council the sum of £6,500 for parish expenses and £1700 for parish lighting grant.

*To receive External Audit Report for year ending 31st March 2008.* The Clerk tabled this report which showed no matters of concern to report to Members.

*Footway Lighting – Notice of Termination of maintenance contract.*

The Clerk reported that a letter terminating the Parish Councils contract with EDF had been received. He was aware of a number of other parishes who would be receiving such notices. It was agreed that the Clerk report back to the Chairman any joint contract negotiations.

*It was agreed to draw the following cheques:*

D Akhurst - Out of pocket expenses, village clean-up for the years 2007 & 2008	£80.00
D Akhurst – Print cartridge and paper	£27.94
Audit Commission – External Audit Fee	£158.63

Correspondence – It was agreed to note the following correspondence:

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -  
 Parish News No's 334  
 Swale Area Committee – Minutes 1/9/08  
 Speed Restriction Review  
 Notice of AGM and Annual Report 2007/08  
 Swale Borough Council –  
 Ambitions for Swale – Swale’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2009/26  
 Recycling Bring Site Review – Sept 2008  
 Kent County Council -  
 Registers of Common Land and Town or Village Greens  
 Environment & Regeneration  
 Southern Water Stakeholders Report  
 The Office of Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant of Kent – Annual Civic Service  
 Kent Link Bulletin  
 Friends of CAB in Swale  
 Town and Parish Standard  
 Update on the South Eastern Plan – a clear vision for the South East  
 Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – Annual Report 2007/08

Any other business:

Mrs Kingsley reported favourably on a recent incident where the Police acted with efficiency.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 19.30hrs.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15.

Chairman

Date