

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting 12th September 2006

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 12th September 2006 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr A Hudson (Chairman), Mrs L Trott (Vice Chair), Mr R Bush, Mr G Cooke, Mrs C Culver, Mrs Kingsley and Cllr Jordan.

Apologies were received from, Mr A Smith.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2006 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Common Land Registration: The Clerk reported no further progress had been made and that affidavits will need to be signed by parishioners who have stated that they are willing to swear that they have used the village green. The chairman stated that help would be provided as necessary.

Village of the year Competition: The Chairman reported that Bapchild had gained a Highly Commended in the IT category and a Commended in the business category. About eighteen parishes entered and some took this competition very seriously.

Planning Matters:

Other:

Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -
Stones Farm –

The Swale Borough Council inclusion of this site in the Local Plan at the last minute, seemingly forced on it by Government housing allocations, has yet to be consulted upon in the Local Plan process. This would happen probably in the next month or so.

The campaign and signs had gone very well and much media coverage had been generated. The responses to Swale Borough Council had numbered 244, which was incredible.

Bapchild PC's view was that Swale Borough Council had over-estimated the number of houses required from the plan and that there were good planning reasons for Stones Farm to be not included as preferred site; the site north of Senora Fields was far preferable as it was lower quality agricultural land and closer to road infrastructure

Kent Science Park –

The KSP consultation was not very well received and many did not know how to best respond because of the confusing presentation of the information.

Applications:

Land rear of The Street, Bapchild – retrospective application for wooden stables – letter of objection has been sent regarding Members observations. As no decision had yet been received, the Clerk was requested to enquire of the current position regarding this application as the riding stables business is in full swing.

55 Doubleday Drive – 1st floor side extension & rear conservatory. No adverse observations.

38 Doubleday Drive – rear conservatory. No adverse observations.

200 Canterbury Road – two storey side extension. No adverse observations.

2 Wihfred Road – thin tree by 10% No adverse observations.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

Pomphreys, Bapchild – application for non-illuminated signs – granted

Pomphreys, Bapchild – application for illuminated signs – refused

55 Doubleday Drive – 1st floor side extension & rear conservatory – granted

50 Randle Way – relocation of fence – granted

2 Wihfred Road – thin tree by 10% - granted

Accounts:

Parish Council Grants Scheme. The Clerk reported that Swale Borough Council had a credit balance in hand of approximately £6,500 in the "Bapchild Account". It was agreed to receive costings/estimated at the next meeting.

Annual External Audit for 2005/06. The Clerk produced the statement of Completion of Audit and that there was an unqualified report on the accounts.

Street Lamps. The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation from EDU in the sum of £797.50 for each of six columns which were reported as being in need of replacement. Members noted this and requested that an alternative quotation be obtained before any decision would be taken.

Receipt of Anonymous donation of £1,750 to fight the Stones Farm planning proposal. Members noted the donation and the Clerk reported that he had checked with KAPC the legality of such a transaction. Confirmation had been received to the effect that such a transaction was within the powers of the Parish Council.

It was agreed to draw the following cheques:

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| Lansdown Solicitors – submission re planning objection, Stones Farm | £1,410.00 |
| L Trott – timber re signage, anti housing | £55.88 |
| Kent Assn of Parish Councils – stationery | £30.86 |

Cheque already drawn – it was agreed that this account be approved for payment:

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| The Image Corporation (Signs) Ltd – signage, anti housing | £587.50 |
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Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence –

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
 - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 316 317, & 318
 - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee – Minutes 05/06/06
 - 1.1.3. Swale Area Committee – Agenda 04/09/06
- 1.2. Kent County Council -
 - 1.2.1. Youth Opportunity Fund
 - 1.2.2. KCC Annual Plan, June '06
 - 1.2.3. Minerals Framework
 - 1.2.4. Towards 2010
 - 1.2.5. Kent Waste Development Framework
- 1.3. Kent Fire & Rescue – Service Performance Plan
- 1.4. Kent Police -
 - 1.4.1. Mid Kent Matters
- 1.5. Swale Borough Council
 - 1.5.1. Economic Development Strategy 2005 – 2008

- 1.5.2. Funding Advice
- 1.6. Clerks & Council Direct – May '06
- 1.7. Local Council Review – May '06 and July '06
- 1.8. Applause Rural Touring
- 1.9. OPDM - Byelaws
- 1.10. Letter – Mr Kitchiner
- 1.11. Friends of CAB in Swale.
- 1.12. The Playing Field
- 1.13. Action with Communities

Any Other Business:

The Chairman raised the issue that he had received a number of complaints regarding serious problems caused by youths congregating at the children's play area, Panteny Lane. The Clerk reported on receiving complaints regarding similar issues on the green, School Lane. It was evident that youths were travelling to these locations by car and staying many hours sometimes to early hours. Reports received included damage to gardens, damage to the roundabout (post meeting note: which has been taken away by Swale Borough Council for repair) and noise nuisance.

Mrs Culver reported that Swale Borough Council were aware of these problems and the antisocial unit has been advised. The Clerk reported that a resident had called the police three times.

It was believed that the youths were not residents of the parish.

Although Members were concerned at these events, it was noted that problems had occurred in the past and the authorities notified but then the situation resolved itself over a short period of time. Members considered that parishioners should be advised to contact the Police at all times when disturbances and/or criminal damage occurs and the situation should be monitored for the time being.

Mr Bush stated that the Parish Council owned bus shelter had suffered graffiti damage and now considered that the shelter should be replaced with a sponsored one provided through Swale Borough Council. It was agreed to progress this if possible.

Mr Bush raised an issue that a fence was leaning across the footway adjacent to 2 Wiltred Road. The Chairman stated that he would have a word with the occupier.

Members noted that the re-cycling bins at the fruit stall had now been removed. Evidently, this was as a result of failed negotiations between the lessee of the land and Swale Borough Council. Cllr Jordan stated that the new refuse contract will amend residents opportunities to recycle and this would start next year.

Mrs Trott raised the issue that Fox Hill, north side, was becoming overgrown such that a disabled person could not use the footway. Mrs Culver reported that this had been reported.

Mrs Trott asked on behalf of a resident whether the Parish Council would provide a clean-up service of, say, a couple of hours a week, in the same way that Lower Halstow does. Members were immediately concerned with regard to insurances and Health and Safety issues. Members noted that through Swale Borough Council, Biffa has a manual sweep service for when there was litter and this has been used often. It was thought probable that the Fruit Stall area would have need of this service now the recycling bins had been removed and the consequent clean-ups would stop. It was agreed to continue to use the Biffa service for the present.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

