

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 13th May 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th May 2008 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr A Hudson (Chairman), Mrs L Trott (Vice Chair), Mrs Culver and Mr Cooke. Also in attendance was Ms Dee Ainsworth.

Apologies were received from Mr A Smith, Mrs J Kingsley and Mr R Bush.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Ainsworth to the meeting. Ms Ainsworth asked Members to consider the speeding traffic passing through The Street, Bapchild particularly at times when there is not much traffic to restrict speed. It was noted that the Parish Council had raised a number of issues to the Police and KCC and that the inter-active 30 mph signs and the pedestrian crossing were the recent improvements to be seen. Mr Cooke reminded Members that a proposal to erect stop lights if not this then a roundabout to be installed at the junction of Panteny Lane when the estate was built was ultimately rejected. Members also commented that Police and KCC used accident recording evidence when deciding on any speed reduction improvements and it would appear that there would need to be incidents happening for the Authorities to act. However, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Police and the Community Police Officer asking for help in reducing speeding through the village.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2008 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Election of Chairman: It was proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Culver that Mr Hudson be re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed.

Election of Vice-Chairman: It was proposed by Mrs Culver and seconded by Mr Cooke that Mrs Trott be re-elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Open Space, Panteny Lane: The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mr Tuff, Swale Borough Council to chase up the Borough Council's response to this issue.

Replacement Wooden Bollards surrounding parts of the open space, School Lane: This matter was still outstanding. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mr Tuff, Swale Borough Council to chase up the Borough Council's response to this issue.

Subsidence, Village Green: This matter was still outstanding. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mr Tuff, Swale Borough Council to chase up the Borough Council's response to this issue.

Damaged Street Nameplates: An email had sent an email to Borough Councillor Bonney but that to date no response had been received.

"Bapchild" sign missing: An email had sent an email to Borough Councillor Bonney but that to date no response had been received.

Wihfred Road, footway repairs: The Clerk reported on continuing difficulties in corresponding with KCC Highways. This matter was still outstanding. The clerk would continue to press KCC on the outstanding matters.

Overgrown hedge, School Lane: The Clerk reported on continuing difficulties in corresponding with KCC Highways. This matter was still outstanding. Mrs Trott asked that the overgrown bank north side of Fox Hill be added to clean-up. The clerk would continue to press KCC on the outstanding matters.

Condition of Parish Council owned Bus Shelter: The Clerk reported that Adshell had responded to the Parish Council's request for them to replace the bus shelter with one of their own. They declined to do this as at present funds were not available and they had enough advertising coverage for the area. It was agreed that the graffiti was a nuisance and that quotations be obtained for the cleaning of the polycarbonate panels. Also was it possible that the Environmental Response team might clean up the graffiti. The Clerk was asked to find out.

Date of Village Clean-up: It was noted that the date was 11th October 2008.

Planning Matters:

Other:

Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -
Members noted the update on the NRR provision, including a very recent decision made by KCC regarding the height of the bridge over Milton Creek and Stones Farm issues.

Stables behind Fox & Goose –
The Chairman reported that no further progress had been made on this long-outstanding issue.

Proposed diversion of footpath ZR 193, Mr Oliver Doubleday, G.H.Dean & Co. The Chairman reported on his visits to the site. Mr Cooke stated that the lorry depot continued to operate on Saturdays. The Chairman would continue to monitor usage and contact Swale Borough Council as necessary in view of the fact that the temporary planning permission would expire in October 2008.

Sittingbourne Town Centre and Milton Creek Consultation – a letter had been received inviting consultees to meetings in the near future. This was noted and Members invited to attend.

Applications:

Bapchild & Tonge C of E Primary School, extension to playground. No adverse observations.

East Hall Farm parcels F & G – Application for non-compliance with condition limiting occupation of dwellings to 550 units until NDR is open to traffic – It was agreed to object to this proposal on a matter of principal. Should the planning authority impose planning restrictions then these should not be ignored.

Bapchild Court – Conversion of Swimming Pool and Gymnasium to holiday let – Mr Smith to declare interest. No adverse observations.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

22 Ashtead Drive – extend existing roof and provide spiral brick column – granted

192 Canterbury Road – Fell Oak Tree - granted

Accounts:

Parish Council Grant Scheme. Letter from Swale Borough Council had been received advising 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. A number of ideas were muted and the Chairman requested that Members consider this issue so that it can be discussed fully at the next meeting.

To receive Annual Accounts for year ending 31st March 2008.

The Clerk produced the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008 and gave explanations as necessary. It was agreed that the accounts be accepted and be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

To receive Statement of Internal Control, review effectiveness of system of internal control and review of internal audit for year ending 31st March 2008.

The Clerk produced the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31st March 2008. and gave explanations as necessary. The Statement was agreed and the Chairman and Clerk signed it. Members agreed that the effectiveness of internal control was adequate and that the internal audit arrangements were satisfactory.

Footway Lighting:

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from KCC regarding them taking over responsibility for Bapchild PC owned footway lights.

The Clerk reported on a number of telephone calls between him and Ringway, the Parish Council's contractor to replace six concrete footway lighting columns. Initially, the sum payable to EDF for the electrical disconnection and reconnection was to be £4,000, more or less the same cost as the replacement columns. It had been confirmed that EDF had the monopoly regarding this work. Most recently, following pleadings from the Clerk, Ringway had promised to absorb these energy connection charges. Members expressed much pleasure on receiving this news and agreed to publicise this generosity after the work had been completed.

Cheques already drawn:

Members agreed to authorise the following cheques already drawn –	
Swale Borough Council – grounds maintenance	£1,570.08
KALC – annual membership	£357.83

It was agreed to draw the following cheques:

Allianz Cornhill – insurance premium	£460.36
--------------------------------------	---------

Correspondence – It was agreed to note the following correspondence:

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
 - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 331
 - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee – Minutes 3/03/08
- 1.2. Swale Borough Council –
 - 1.2.1. Parish Council Equality Duty
 - 1.2.2. Swale Action on Waste
 - 1.2.3. Talking Rubbish
- 1.3. Kent County Council -
 - 1.3.1. Kent County Councils Draft Permit Scheme Consultation
 - 1.3.2. The Speed Limit Review
 - 1.3.3. Proposed changes to planning application process
 - 1.3.4. Access to Hospitals new leaflets launched.
- 1.4. Local Council Review – May '08
- 1.5. Clerks & Councils Direct – March '08
- 1.6. Kent Primary Care Agency – Pharmacy Application, Easthall Development.
- 1.7. Action with Communities in Rural Kent – invitation to join.
- 1.8. Eastern & Coastal Kent NHS –
 - 1.8.1. PCT Health & Wellbeing Spring Roadshows
 - 1.8.2. Improving access to local medical services
- 1.9. Derek Wyatt MP – Climate Change and noted of surgery dates
- 1.10. Standards Board for England – March '08
- 1.11. Kent Annual Public Health Report

- 1.12. Kent Police – Kent KeyLink
- 1.13. South East Kent Regional Housing Strategy 2008-11.
- 1.14. No Use Empty
- 1.15. Swale Seniors Forum

Any other business:

Mrs Culver reported that a number of dog owners were not acting responsibly by clearing up dog waste and also allowing children to walk their dogs. It was agreed to write with this concern in the Parish Magazine.

Mrs Trott asked if the Swale Seniors Forum correspondence could be featured in the Parish Magazine. This was agreed.

Mr Cooke asked with regard public liability insurance covering the Panteney Lane play area. It was noted that this would be the responsibility of Swale Borough Council.

The Chairman asked if the Parish Council would cover the cost of issuing about 450 leaflets regarding the current situation of the provision of the NRR, particularly as the Parish Council still has funds left from a donation. This was agreed

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 16th September 2008 at 19.30hrs.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.35hrs.

Chairman

Date