

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th September 2005 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies were received from Mr A Smith

Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th May 2005 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

### Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

#### Footway and Highway Matters:

Footpath, Panteny Lane to Dully Road. Confirmation had been received from KCC that the Public Right of Way has been confirmed after the appeal process. It was agreed to publicise this so that parishioners are aware of this.

*Common Land Registration:* Nothing to report.

Caravan – Hempstead Lane: The clerk reported that a planning appeal had been lodged and the results were awaited.

Morris Court Footpath: Mrs Culver stated that she had registered a complaint with regard to the overgrowth. It appeared that the officer at Swale Borough Council dealing with this matter is not able to progress this matter at the moment and members agreed that a longer-term solution to the perennial problem of the unkempt area was required. It was agreed to investigate whether the Parish Council could adopt this small piece of land as well as pursuing a solution through joint working with Swale Borough Council.

### Planning Matters:

Other:

Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -

The Chairman gave a resume of the current position. The Parish Council had responded to the Local Plan enquiry through the Five Parishes Group. The public enquiry was to be held in January 2006.

KCC – Part two Consultation on the South East Plan 05/09/05 to 17/10/05. Cllr Jordan pointed out that this plan did not refer to as many houses for this area as had been previously assumed. It was agreed that this would need some clarification. There was to be a meeting next Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and Cllr Jordan was to question this aspect of this plan and recommended that members attend if possible.

KCC Proposals for two interactive Speed Limit Signs – A2 The Street. The proposal to place these two interactive signs was noted. It was mentioned that the Parish Council had requested these some time ago. It was agreed to write to KCC stating the Parish Councils agreement in principal but pointing out that Fox Hill was an area of concern regarding traffic speed. The letter should reflect that it is the Parish Council's aim to reduce the speed limit to 30 m.p.h. on Fox Hill so that this limit extends from Sittingbourne to the east of Bapchild.

It was mentioned by Mrs Culver that the Police were asking parishes to provide people to wear yellow jackets and to sport cameras to encourage motorists to keep to the speed limits. This idea was rejected by Members.

GOSE – Proposed Changes to Regional Planning Guidance for the South East – Waste Materials. Noted

Applications:

- 77 The Street – Conservatory – No adverse observations
- 35 the Street – Listed building consent re provision of a mild steel cross tie – No adverse observations
- 69 Randle Way – Conservatory – No adverse observations
- Sittingbourne Community College – Synthetic sports pitches with fencing and lighting, new single storey facility, access paths and new planting – It was agreed to write to KCC asking that restrictions on use should be applied so as to protect near neighbours privacy during out of normal hours.
- 16 Doubleday Drive – Extension to provide down stairs toilet for disabled person - No adverse observations
- 63 The Street – Side and rear extension - No adverse observations

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

- 35 the Street – Listed building consent re provision of a mild steel cross tie – Granted
- Bapchild & Tonge Village Hall – Side Storey Extension – Granted
- 28 Randle Way – Conversion of double garage to workshop/store/office - Granted

Accounts:

The Chairman presented a cheque to the Parish Council in the sum of £250 being the prize attained by entry for the Parish Council Website. The Chairman also tabled the plaque to be placed next to a suitable tree. It was agreed that the Parish Council have no objection to a tree being purchased and placed in a prominent position in the School grounds. The Chairman also mentioned that the Parish Council attained a Highly Commended in the Business Environment category. Members expressed much pleasure on these attainments and congratulated the Chairman on his efforts in securing this success.

The Chairman advised Members that Mrs Norris had won a computer at the Kent Show and had presented it to the Parish Council. Discussions had taken place as to where to keep it and how best to use it. It was agreed that to store it at the Village Hall was not recommended and it was probable that the PC should be lent out and used, partly, for PC training. The Parish Council would need to insure it .

Receive Statement of Internal Control 2004/2005. The Clerk produced the Statement of Internal Control for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 and gave explanations as necessary. The Statement was agreed and the Chairman and Clerk signed it.

Receive External Audit Report for the year 2004/2005. The Clerk presented this document which showed no matters of concern.

Parish Council Grants Scheme. A letter had been received from Swale Borough Council which give notice of the Parish Councils allocation for the year 2005/06. This was noted as £2720. The clerk stated that he had not heard from Swale Borough Council engineers regarding the footpath works requested in particular how much would the footpath cost. He was advised that a costing would be available within a month.

It was agreed that the following cheque should be drawn:

EDF Energy Contracting Limited – Repairs PL o/s 24 Wihtrred Road	£43.75
K Funnell– Internal Audit fee	£35.00

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence –

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
  - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 309, 310
  - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee –Minutes 06/06/05, Agenda 05/09/05
- 1.2. Swale Borough Council –
  - 1.2.1. Funding Advice
- 1.3. Kent County Council -
  - 1.3.1. Annual Plan 2005/06
  - 1.3.2. Kent Trails
  - 1.3.3. Community Paths Project – Grants for Rights of Way Improvements
- 1.4. Kent Police -
  - 1.4.1. Swale Matters
- 1.5. Local Council Review –July '05
- 1.6. Clerks & Councils Direct May, July '05
- 1.7. Kent Fire & Rescue Service – Service Performance Plan 2005/06
- 1.8. Draft Design Guide – Public Consultation
- 1.9. Community Safety Partnership – Swale Community Safety Strategy 2005/08
- 1.10. DEFRA – Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005
- 1.11. Technology Enterprise Kent
- 1.12. SWA Sprinkler & Unattended hosepipe restrictions
- 1.13. The Playing Field
- 1.14. Standards Board for England Town & Parish Standard 04
- 1.15. The Local Channel
- 1.16. Swale Forward – Annual Report 2004 & Business Plan to 2008
- 1.17. Swale Forward – Interim Regeneration Framework 2005/06
- 1.18. Swale Local Strategic Partnership – Swale Sustainable Communities Plan to 2016

Any Other Business:

Mr Bush raised the issue that bushes were overgrowing the footway at the junction of the A2 with Panteny Lane. This was causing visual difficulty for motorists when exiting on to the A2. It was agreed to chase Swale Borough Council again regarding this.

Mrs Trott stated that in the correspondence there was a useful listing of telephone numbers and she suggested that these be published in the newsletter. This was agreed.

Cllr Jordan made reference to Swale Borough Councils consideration of Town Centre Scheme schemes. These were being considered now as they would need to go into the Local Plan consultations. Schemes were substantial and involved changes and improvements to the High Street and beyond the railway. All this was dependant upon the completion of the Northern Relief Road. However, there was no public funding available so it would be prudent to expect a developer funded road scheme.

Mr Hudson reported on an incident involving a parishioner and some yobs who had assaulted him. It was clear that the Police response was poor. Mrs Culver reported that the Community Safety Partnership did not want to know about these complaints and she was also disillusioned as to the anti-social helpline; this was of little or no help at all. They appeared to want to consider bigger more important things. Members agreed that this situation was most unsatisfactory.

Mrs Culver stated that repairs had been made to the footway in Ashtead Drive but that the Footway in Wihtrred Road was as bad if not worse. It was agreed to request repairs to Wihtrred Road.

A question was raised regarding the Susidiarity Scheme and it was confirmed that this was now renamed as the Parish Council Grant Scheme.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

