

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting 13th November 2007

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th November 2007 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr A Hudson (Chairman), Mrs L Trott (Vice Chair), Mr A Smith, Mrs Culver, Mr Cooke and Cllr M Bonney.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr R Bush.

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2007 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.

Open Space, Panteney Lane: The Chairman reported on his and the Clerks site meeting with the Alan Morolio and Graeme Tuff, Swale Borough Council. In general terms the open spaces on this estate were in good condition with improvements showing from the situation earlier in the year. A small shrub area and a number of trees have been identified for replanting and Swale Borough Council representatives agreed to action these.

Replacement Wooden Bollards surrounding parts of the open space, School Lane: Following Mr Bush's requested that this matter be brought to the attention of Swale Borough Council, it was noted that the wooden bollards are rotten and wearing. Alan Morolio and Graeme Tuff, Swale Borough Council advised that current costs to replace such bollards would be about £80 each and to replace the whole area would be in excess of £5,000 which in the current financial climate would not have high priority. They asked that the Parish Council decide what it wished to achieve in the continued provision of bollards at this site.

Members noted that at the times the bollards were originally requested the concerns were that drivers had lost control travelling down the hill and the vehicles had careered across this area. Should children be using the area for play then a severe accident would result. Members also noted that there had been parking on this area which was considered undesirable.

Members considered this matter and after discussion agreed that, in the current financial climate, Members would not request that all bollards be replaced. It was considered that the trees had become much more substantial and would protect residents should an accident occur. It was agreed to request Swale Borough Council replace bollards with shrubs in areas to protect the integrity of the site.

Subsidence, Village Green: Alan Morolio and Graeme Tuff, Swale Borough Council were shown the village green and the depressions showing across the area. They were advised that this site had been the subject of flint extraction and had been filled with refuse many years ago. The Clerk also advised that he recalled a survey had been prepared regarding the site.

Swale Borough Council would fill areas with spoil from Sittingbourne Cemetery over a period to level the depressions. The Clerk agreed to look for the survey papers and provide them to Swale Borough Council.

Morris Court Close, Open Space: Members agreed that the site had been tidied before the inspection carried out with Swale Borough Council. However, Alan Morolio and Graeme Tuff agreed to carry out more work to tidy the shrub planting.

Damaged Street Nameplates: The clerk reported that Swale Borough Council had ordered two nameplates; “Doubleday Drive” and “Wihfred Road” and that he would press for their installation.

“Bapchild” sign missing: The clerk had reported this matter and would press KCC to end its moratorium on sign replacements.

Litter, Fox Hill: It was noted that a litter pick had occurred.

Wihfred Road, footway repairs: This matter was still outstanding and the clerk was requested to chase this matter.

Overgrown hedge, School Lane: This matter was still outstanding and the clerk was requested to chase this matter.

Village Hall Lettings, notices placed outside hall: Mr Cooke promised to bring this to the attention of the Village Hall Committee.

Planning Matters:

Other:

Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -
The Chairman reported that the Local Plan meetings had now been completed and that the Planning Inspector has published his report to Swale Borough Council for their factual checking process which should take 20 days from receipt of the report. However, the press had printed reports and he had heard from several interested parties with regard to the important matters effecting Bapchild. It would seem that Stones Farm development was to be given the go-ahead but that details were not available regarding the associated provision of the NRR nor was the time frames known. Regarding the Kent Science Park, it would seem that the inspector had rejected any physical expansion as being “not proven” but the some expansion could be considered under certain conditions. Members were in agreement that the consultation with regard to the selection of Stones Farm site for inclusion in the plan was flawed but noted that a judicial review would probably be necessary to change things and the cost would be approx. £30,000

Section 106 planning agreements –
The Chairman outlined problems with the Panteney Lane housing site and that the site still had not been adopted by the Local Authority in terms of highway lighting nor open spaces. He had spoken to Barretts Homes who had taken over Wards and was in correspondence with them as to a lighting issue which had been outstanding for in excess of a year. Cllr Bonney had highlighted deficiencies in the follow up regarding such agreements and had brought this matter up before officers and committees in Swale House.

Applications:

Stables behind Fox & Goose. The Chairman reported that the application had gone round each Councillor and that he would prepare the Parish Council’s response shortly

Bapchild & Tonge C of E Primary School:

1. Renewal of Two Mobile Classrooms – No Adverse Observations
2. Mobile Classroom for Pre-School Nursery. Members did not agree with the comment in the application regarding current arrangements being “unsuitable off-site accommodation”. Members did not agree to the choice of location of the mobile and thought it would be intrusive, particularly to the neighbouring property owner. However, the principle of the application was not objected to.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

- 6 Randle Way – Conservatory - granted
- 45 School Lane – Single Storey rear ext.- granted
- 47 School Lane - Single storey side and two storey rear ext. – granted
- 13 School Lane – Porch ext & single storey rear ext – granted
- 2 Bramley Barn – Pea Shingle driveway with Jackson 5 bar gate – granted

Accounts:

To receive the Audit Commission Completion of Audit notice 2006/07. There were no matters to report to Members.

Replacement Lighting Columns, Ringway – order placed in the sum of £4084.86

It was agreed to draw the following cheques:

EDF Energy – supply and fit lighting control, School Lane £52.84

2008/09 Precept. The Clerk tabled a paper regarding the parish expenses for next year. Members consider each expenditure item. It was noted that the estimate included a sum of £2,084 being the second and final year to recover the expense of replacing damaged lighting columns. It was agreed to precept on Swale Borough Council the sum of £7,444 for parish expenses and £1,700 for parish lighting. The Chairman pointed out that resources had been stretched by the expense of the lighting column replacements and suggested that next year consideration be given to maintaining the precept value to increase balances. This was agreed

Correspondence – It was agreed to note the following correspondence:

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
 - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 327
 - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee – Minutes 03/09/07
 - 1.1.3. Notice of AGM & Annual Report 06/07
- 1.2. Swale Borough Council –
 - 1.2.1. S'bourne & Swale West Area Forum – Agenda 30/10/07
 - 1.2.2. Dog Control Orders
- 1.3. Kent County Council -
 - 1.3.1. Post Office Closures
- 1.4. Local Council Review – Sept '07
- 1.5. Clerks & Councils Direct - Sept '07
- 1.6. DEFRA – Ways to tackle climate change
- 1.7. Town & Parish Standard – Sept '07

Any other business:

Mrs Culver reported that a tree was overhanging the footway close to Toll House.

Mrs Kingsley reported that there were bats in her property.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 15th January 2008 at 19.30hrs.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.05hrs.

Chairman

Date