

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting 14th September 2004

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th September 2004 at 7.30p.m.

Present:, Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs L Trott (Vice Chair), Mr A Smith, Mr A Hudson, Mrs J Kingsley and Cllr D Jordon.

Apologies were received from Mr G Cooke and Mrs C Culver.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th May 2004 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Footway and Highway Matters:

Panteny Lane, "unofficial" bollards. The Highway Authority's response was read to the meeting. It was noted that the letter ignored the Parish Council's point altogether. The Clerk was requested to ask for a full response.

Members considered the safety of Panteny Lane and the request for a footway along the length of it. The Highway Authority's response was that the cost would be prohibitive as there would be a need to compulsory purchase land as the road was not wide enough to take a footway. Road improvements would need to be added to funding requirements as requested by KCC.

Fox Hill – 30 mph extension re speeding traffic. Mrs Culver attended the recent Highway Authority open evening. It was evident that a 30 m.p.h. limit was only possible if both sides of the carriageway was built up. Should one side be built up a limit would only be possible of 40 m.p.h. However, Mrs Culver was able to report that the 30 m.p.h. limit would be introduced when the Swanstree Avenue road link was in place. It was agreed that the Parish Council write to the Highway Authority to confirm this.

Regarding road maintenance, Mrs Culver reported that country roads where the road-sides were being eroded, the sides would not be repaired, only the main carriageway.

Overgrowth – School Lane. It was reported that shrub overgrowth is causing the road to narrow close to the road humps, east of the Church. It was agreed that Mrs Trott would photograph this situation and pass it to the clerk for action by the Highway Authority.

Brickearth Extraction. It was reported that the brickearth extraction had now been completed for the year. The field had been left with sheer walls of earth. It was agreed to write to Ibstock Bricks to alert them of this hazard.

Footpath, Panteny Lane to Dully Road. No further progress had been reported by KCC.

Common Land Registration: Nothing to report.

Unsocial Behaviour in the Village:

No reports of bad or unruly behaviour had been received over the summer school holiday break.

Parish Website: Mr Hudson reported that the Web site had won a prize in the Calor-Gas competition and had a commendation in the LCR Website of the year. Members thanked once again Mr Hudson for the huge benefit residents are now benefiting from Bapchild's exceptional website and congratulated him on the recognition of success so far received. Currently there were about 10-15 hits a day on the site.

Recycling Scheme: A letter had been received from Mr Kitchener asking that the waste collection be returned to the once a week collection previously enjoyed. Members were aware that Swale Borough Council were wanting to extend the trial area for recycling and that there was probably no chance at present for any reversal of policy by Swale Borough Council. The clerk was requested to respond to Mr Kitchener and to follow up the situation with Swale Borough Council regarding kitchen waste.

Caravan – Hempstead Lane: A note had been received from Swale Borough Council planning enforcement team to say that they would give the occupants and their advisor a time limit to put in the application previously promised.

Planning Matters:

Other:

Kent Science Park – Kent & Medway Structure Plan

A full and frank discussion took place on this subject. Mr Hudson outlined the situation regarding the 5 Parish group to date. Cllr Jordan spoke at length regarding his stance as Swale Borough Council Member for the area and his view of Swale Borough Council's position. Brief notes on the discussion held are as follows:

- An open meeting for everyone will be held Friday 24/9/04 at the Wyvern Hall, Sittingbourne.
- The K&MTSP process is now at the stage of hearing evidence from interested parties.
- The action group of Parish Councils think that the overall cost of objections to the plan could reach £40K - £60K. Public collection so far = £3K.
- By the end of this week a circular will have been delivered.
- The action group of Parish Councils would like volunteers for fund raising.
- Bapchild Parish Council's commitment at present is £500.
- There is a separate bank account for fund raising.
- Cllr Jordan explained his view of Swale Borough Council's (SBC) position – 1. Swale area, biggest leakage of graduates/lowest graduate numbers. 2. Finding high quality jobs for Swale is a priority. 3. SBC supports the concept of the KCP. 4. Recognise that there is not enough public money to finish the NDR and the SDR to the M2 therefore the requirement to obtain funding by development. 5. Probably need 5,000 houses to fund the southern route. 6. KCC will object to the proposal. 7. Cllr. Jordan is against the proposal.
- Planners will decide where the houses will be built.
- Transport study says the SDR is feasible but conditional upon 31.8% not travelling by car and this has never been achieved before resulting in traffic chaos.
- Average density in the KSP plan = 49 which is higher density than Sanora Fields development.
- There is concern that there is not enough money to finish the NDR route to the A2. If this is delayed or possibly not finished it is impossible that the SDR will connect.

GOSE Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East, Tourism & Related Sports & Recreation

Notice of Appeal: 2 Wihtrred Road – Removal of Hawthorn Tree

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

1 Apple Barn–Garage extension, granted
22 School Lane – detached double garage, granted
2 Wihtrred Road – Removal of Hawthorn Tree, refused
200 Canterbury Road – Dropped Kerb, granted
38 The Street – Conservatory, granted

Applications:

67 The Street – Roof conversion – No adverse observations.
200 Canterbury Road – Dropped Kerb– No adverse observations.
38 The Street – Conservatory– No adverse observations.
Sittingbourne Community College – redevelopment. Observations forwarded to KCC

Accounts:

2003/2004 Accounts – Receive Audited Accounts. These were received from the external auditors and included the external and internal audit reports. Members noted the reports.

It was agreed that the following cheques should be drawn:

EDF Energy Contracting Limited – repair pl o/s 57 School Lane	£39.80
K Funnell – Internal audit fees	£30.00

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence –

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No's 301, 302

Swale Area Committee – agenda 7/6/04 and 6/9/04, minutes 7/6/04

Swale Borough Council –

Funding Advice

Request for funding – re Schools fitness initiative

Working together – A partnership Compact for Swale

Further advice in relation to “dual hated” member

Kent County Council -

Kent Annual Plan

Kent Trails

KCC Member Community Grants

Rural Revival Grants

Unauthorised Encampments

Swale Highway Unit – Improving Service Delivery

Local Council Review – July '04

Clerks and Councils Direct – May '04 and July '04

The Standards Board Town & Parish Standard 01

ODPM – Local Investigation of allegations of misconduct

Mid Kent Water – Final Business Plan 2005-10

SERPA

Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Services – Rural Youth Conference

Groundwork

Kent Police – Kent Matters

Kent Police Kent Special Constabulary

Kent Rural Community Council – Funding

Victim Support Swale – donation request

Environment Agency – Kent Flood Fair 2004

Letter from Mrs Mantle. It was agreed to notify Swale Borough Council Highways regarding the issues raised.

Any Other Business:

Mr Hudson reported that funding was available should the Parish Council wish to produce a Parish Plan. This was noted.

Mrs Trott reported that the Neighbourhood Watch signs were in need of replacement in the village and they could be replaced at £15.00 per sign. This was agreed in principle.

Mrs Trott reported that there were no village youths that had attended this summer scheme.

The Chairman requested that members consider the appointment of a replacement Chairman as he was unfortunately obliged to resign as Chairman at the next meeting, but

would be happy to continue as Member. It was agreed that Members consider this situation before the next meeting and that this be put on the agenda at the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 16th November 2004 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman.....
Date.....

The Annual Assembly of Parishioners of the Parish of Bapchild was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th May 2004 at 8.45p.m.

Present:, Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs L Trott (Vice Chair), Mrs C Culver, Mr A Hudson , Mrs J Kingsley and Mr G Cooke. Also attending were parishioners Mr Holton, Mrs Read, Mr & Mrs Foulger, Mr Slane, Mr Palmer and Cllr Don Jordan.

Apologies were received from. Mr A Smith.

Minutes of the last Annual Assembly held on 13th May 2003 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Matters brought to the meeting:

Mrs Read raised the following issues:

With regard to the Kent Science Park (KSP) she did not think the Parish Council had done enough to publicise this issue The Chairmen informed the meeting that the Parish Council had sent to every household an information sheet and that the web-site held full details

There were no road markings on the junction between Ashtead Drive and Wihtrud Road. There was too much loose gravel following the top dressing of the roads.

It was agreed to contact Swale Borough Council regarding the roads issues.

Particularly during the summer when kitchen waste decomposes quickly, the fortnightly waste collection imposed by Swale Borough Council is not acceptable and should revert to a weekly collection. It was agreed to follow up Swale Borough Council's response to the Parish Council's letter asking for help in this matter.

Mr & Mrs Foulger raised the following issues:

Now the concrete slip road has been overlaid by bitumen there is concern with regard to water flowing onto their property. It was agreed to contact Swale Borough Council regarding this.

Mr Foulger has seen engineers measuring along School Lane. He asked them what they were doing and they said they were measuring with regard to the introduction of road humps. His preferred method of traffic calming would be by road chicane. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had no knowledge of this, it was agreed to enquire of Swale Borough Council as to what the engineers are doing in School Lane.

Mr Slane raised the following issues:

Mr Slane agreed with earlier comments that the Parish Council communication left a lot to be desired and that there was no clear message published by the Parish Council regarding the KSP development. After discussion it was apparent that Ashtead Drive had not received the circular regarding the KSP although Mr Cooke mentioned that the circulars were delivered to the distributors. Mrs Foulger stated she did not have a circular but the deliverer of School Lane stated that one was delivered to every property in that area. Members noted Mr Slane's comments and the Chairman would publish a note in the Parish Newsletter.

Concern was expressed with regard to the recent road repairs and damage caused to footpaths. The Parish Council had noticed this problem and Mrs Culver and the Clerk had reported this issue. It was agreed to follow up these complaints. Cllr Jordan was also going to follow this up.

Regarding road humps, Mr Slane stated that these damaged his car and therefore preferred pinch points as a traffic calming measure, particularly if these were to be introduced in School Lane and Panteny Lane.

Mr Palmer raised the following issues:

The junction of Ashtead Drive and School Lane had low kerbs and traffic run over these and on to the footway. The bollards had been damaged and he asked that they be replaced with more robust ones. Mention was made regarding the table top junction and the other road humps and Mrs Culver advised that she had raised this again with Mr

Haratbar whop had promised to look again at the specification of these humps This was agreed and the Parish Council would contact Swale Borough Council regarding this. Concern was expressed with regard to dog fouling and the lack of enforcement. A report would be published in the Parish Newsletter and the matter would be raised with Swale Borough Council.

Mr Palmer stated that anti vandal paint would stop youths climbing over the trellis fence close to Lords Close garages. The trade name was KOOVER. It was agreed to ask Swale Borough Council to treat this trellis with this paint.

With regard to the KSP, Mr Palmer stated that Bapchild residents had responded in great numbers and had provided by far the most comments to Swale Borough Council. He said that it was his and others opinion that the Parish Council had done very little in this matter. He asked Cllr. Jordan, through the Chair, to respond.

Cllr Jordan.

Cllr Jordan outlined the position regarding the local plan. All development must follow the policies as laid down by the agreed local plan. The consultation regarding the first review is now over and the Swale Borough Council would now review these comments in the next three months or so. About 400 objections including those from the five parishes was the bulk of the comments received. His stance would be to support his constituents. He was on the local plan panel. The revised version of the first review would then be issued for consultation and will include the KSP. He understood that the five parishes would challenge the Kent Structure Plan.

Swale Borough Council does not know what the ODPM has in mind. Swale Borough Council need the Thames Gateway money and he perceived that there was a lack of transparency although not from the Parish Councils. KSP plans are commercially sensitive and Cllr Jordan confirmed that all Swale Borough Council members were aware last year of a possible development and earlier this year a ministerial visit would have this issue discussed but still at confidential level because of its commercial sensitivity.

KSP want a link to the M2 and the highways agency has only once agreed a single spur. The KCC chairman has stated that any significant development required to provide road infrastructure for the KSP would be opposed by him. It was reported that the ODPM's current view is that Northern relief road should be finished before the southern road is considered.

Mr Holton raised the following issues:

Mr Holton thanked the Parish Council for the arranging the repair of the trellis fence.

Hr Holton enquired as to when the last time the KCC members had attended parish meetings as he remembered previous KCC members always attending.

Mr Holton stated that Rodmersham PC was far ahead of the others including Bapchild in the comments regarding the KSP. Bapchild should have had a public meeting and perhaps an action committee could have come out of the meeting. He was also concerned with regard to regional planning by un-elected members and the County Council loosing control of strategic planning.

Chairman.....

Date.....