

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting 14th November 2006

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 7.30p.m.

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

Also in attendance were Mr and Mrs Back for the item regarding motorcycle noise nuisance.

Apologies were received from, Mr A Smith and Cllr Jordan

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2006 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Use of motorcycles on farmland. The Chairman welcomed Mr and Mrs Back to the meeting. They explained that for several weeks now a number of motorcycles were being driven over agricultural land close to the houses in The Street. Police had been called on several occasions and although sympathetic, did not stop the nuisance.

Mr Cooke explained the situation, as he understood it.

Members agreed that there were concerns; the planning issue of change of use from agricultural to the motor vehicle use and the noise nuisance itself. There was also a concern that the activity could escalate, the number of motorcycles had increased and now cars were being driven on the land in similar "grass track" style.

It was agreed for the Parish Council to contact the Anti-social section in Swale Borough Council who would bring together all agencies to look carefully at the situation and also to write directly to the landowner, Mr Heathfield.

Mr and Mrs Back then left the meeting.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Common Land Registration: The Clerk reported no further progress had been made.

Unsocial Behaviour: Members noted that no complaints had been received recently and concluded that the situation had now improved. The play area apparatus had not yet been replaced.

Bottle Bank Closure: The clerk reported that the new waste recycling arrangements would start in the new year and Swale Borough Council had published the first of a number of information advises on this matter. Glass would have a recycling tray within the recycling bin. Members noted that there was a cost of recycling garden waste of £30pa.

Fence, Wihfred Road: It was noted that the fence was now upright.

Fox Hill, overgrown bushes: It was noted that this work had still not been completed and that pedestrians were not able to walk on the footpath.

The Clerk stated that he had at last arranged a meeting with KCC traffic engineers for the end of the month and this would be raised with them. As this site visit was imminent, Members agreed to await KCC response before inviting them to explain themselves. The clerk was requested to report that surface water was still a problem on the A2 south side adjacent Toll Bungalow.

Planning Matters:

Other:

Route of the Northern Relief Road. A joint meeting had been held with Tonge Parish Council at the instigation of Jacobs, a company appointed by KCC to advise on possible future routes of this road. Jacobs had promised to advise the Parish Council as to their recommendations and this is likely to be January at the earliest.

Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -
Stones Farm –

The Chairman reported on the latest situation. The hearing of the Local Plan considering this issue will be held on 30th November 2006. There were to be restrictions as to who will be able to speak and what can be brought up. In addition to the Parish Council, only one parishioner will be allowed to speak, but a good number of parishioners will attend anyway. The Chairman has, after much effort, arranged an appointment to meet with Swale Borough Council Leader Cllr Bowles and Ward Cllr Jordan and all are welcome (post meeting note: this date is Tuesday 21st November 2006).

Kent Science Park –

The Chairman reported that he had stepped down as Chairman of the Five Parishes Group but that at present he was still Bapchild's representative on the group. Two Saturday mornings in Sittingbourne town centre collected 1700 signatories opposing the current proposal put forward by KSP representatives. Further village efforts to collect signatories will be initiated shortly.

Applications:

Land rear of The Street, Bapchild – retrospective application for wooden stables – The Chairman reported that he had asked Swale Borough Council for an update on this application. The application was in abeyance awaiting further information from the applicant, which was not forthcoming. A deadline had been given and we should hear shortly the result of these enquiries
53 Randle Way – single storey side extension. No adverse observations.
2 St Lawrence Close – single storey rear extension. No adverse observations.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

53 Randle Way – single storey side extension - granted

Accounts:

Parish Council Grants Scheme. Mr Cooke agreed make some enquiries as to the status of the works put forward by the Village Hall Committee to be funded out of this reserve.

Street Lamps. Members noted the quotation from EDU in the sum of £797.50 for each of six columns which were reported as being in need of replacement. This totalled £4,785. The Clerk reported that the KCC were arranging a new street lighting maintenance contract which was to commence next April. It was considered that the successful tenderer would be the appropriate contractor for competitive tenders for Bapchild's works.

It was agreed to consider the expenditure commitment when discussing the Precept, later on this meeting.

Receipt of Anonymous donation of £1,500 to fight the Stones Farm planning proposal. Members were asked to note this receipt. This was the second donation to be received, the first being in the sum of £1,750. The Chairman stated that all of the money

may not be required to cover expenses and that a refund might be required in due course.

It was agreed to draw the following cheques:

A Hudson – photocopying charges	£4.40
Audit Commission – external audit fees	£141.00
K Funnell – internal audit fees	£35.00

2007/08 Parish Precept. The clerk referred to the paper attached to the agenda and explained the information contained in it. Members considered the issue regarding the damage to footway lighting columns and agreed that the precept should be increased over two years to pay for this expenditure; the sum to be included for two years was £2,000 p.a.

It was agreed to precept on Swale Borough Council the sum of £7,135 for parish expenses and £1,300 for parish lighting.

Correspondence – It was agreed to note the following correspondence:

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No's 319, & 320
Swale Area Committee – Minutes 04/09/06
Annual Report 2005/06 & Notice of AGM

Kent County Council -

Youth Opportunity Fund & youth Capital Fund
KCC Annual Plan, June '06
Kent Carshare
Towards 2010
Link to Kent Website
Kent Highway Services – Leaflets
Setting Local Speed Limits
Guide to Development Contributions & the Provision of Community Infrastructure

Kent Police -

Mid Kent Matters

Parish Council meeting – minutes 10/08/06

Clerks & Council Direct – Sept '06

Local Council Review – Sept '06 and Nov '06

Drought Update

English Rural Housing Assn. – Affordable Housing

Groundwork Update

Southern Water – programme of work 2005-2010

South East Regional Assembly – Provision of Gypsy & Traveller Sites

Any Other Business:

Mrs Culver raised the issue of the fundraising letter sent out by the Parochial Church Council and the implication that the clergy were not being paid. Mr Cooke and Mr Bush were able to explain the background to this situation, clarifying that the clergy were being paid by the Diocesan. However, the PCC were for the first time falling short of the monthly payment to the Diocesan. Members considered whether there were any specific items of expenditure that the Parish Council could fund. After discussion, it was agreed to consider requests from the PCC as and when received.

Mrs Trott reported that the village sign was missing, bordering Rodmersham

Mr Bush asked if the street nameplates could be replaced where they had been damaged and the paint scratched. It was agreed to report this to the Highway Authority.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 16th January 2007 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

