

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting 15th January 2008

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th January 2008 at 7.30p.m.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2007 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Open Space, Panteney Lane: The Chairman reported that the planting of replacement whip shrubs had been completed by Swale Borough Council. The replacement trees had not yet been provided. The Chairman stated that a resident was not satisfied with the work completed by Swale Borough Council and it was agreed that an complaints should be forwarded on to them.

Replacement Wooden Bollards surrounding parts of the open space, School Lane: The Chairman stated that there were a number of uprooted bollards still on site. Mr Bush reminded Members of the circumstances regarding the original provision of these bollards. The Clerk reported that the bollards provided on the footpath at the junction of Ashtead Drive/ School Lane would be the highways Authority's responsibility. The Clerk was requested to notify KCC, as the Highway Authority, the request for the missing bollards to be replaced.

Subsidence, Village Green: It was agreed to ask Swale Borough Council, Mr Graeme Tuff, what progress will be made in this matter.

Damaged Street Nameplates: The clerk reported that Swale Borough Council had not ordered the two nameplates; "Doubleday Drive" and "Wihfred Road" previously requested for replacement by the Parish Council and that the request lay amongst many other requests in an order pending book. The Clerk stated that an engineer had advised him that the way to quickly provide the nameplates was for the Parish Council to pay for the replacements at approx. £100 each.

Members discussed this matter and agreed that it was for the Borough Council to maintain and pay the nameplates. Members further agreed that this is a matter of principle and could be used by higher Authorities to save money at the expense of Parish resources.

It was agreed to follow this up in the first instance with Borough Councillor Bonney.

"Bapchild" sign missing: No further progress had been made. The Clerk reported that KCC had replaced the Liaison Officer for this area, probably the third time this had occurred in the past year and this was systematic of the problems within KCC highways.

Wihfred Road, footway repairs: This matter was still outstanding.

Overgrown hedge, School Lane: This matter was still outstanding.

Village Hall Lettings, notices placed outside hall: Mr Cooke had brought this to the attention of the Village Hall Committee and they were looking into providing suitable wording within the lettings documentation.

Bollards and Keep Left High Visibility signs. Mr Bush raised the matter of these road signs and the poor condition they had become. It was agreed to request KCC to maintain this area properly. Further, the recent rains had caused flooding and it was requested that KCC clear the roadside drains.

Footway Lighting: The Chairman stated that he had been approached by the Chairman of Iwade Parish Council with regard to Swale Borough Council's notice of intent that they were looking for savings in their footway lighting budgets; this might mean additional costs to the Parish Council. The Clerk reported on a similar telephone conversation and the Clerk and Mr Bush gave Members explanation regarding footway and highway lighting costs.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Panteney Lane development open spaces and street lighting arrangements still had not been adopted and taken over by the Local Authorities concerned. This situation was well known (and had been mentioned at a previous Parish Council meeting) and there was a considerable backlog of section 106 agreements at the Borough Council where developers were unable or had not resourced satisfactory arrangements in order that the facility could be properly taken over by the Local Authority. In this instance, a resident had complained about a street light malfunction without success over a period in excess of a year.

It was agreed: 1. To continue to press Swale Borough Council to enforce the section 106 agreement, 2. to offer to hand over responsibility to Swale Borough Council the entire Parish Council footway lighting, which will be in good order after the six new replacement columns had been installed.

Planning Matters:

Other:

Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -

The Chairman reported that the Planning Inspector had published his report. It appeared that Stones Farm development was to be given the go-ahead but at a timetable which could not be anticipated but could feasibly be after 2011 or much later if the housing numbers required by Swale Borough Council can be satisfied by other developments elsewhere. There had been policy statement that there must be buffer between the development site and an open space.

The Inspector also agreed to the provision of the NDR but the Chairman did not think a section 106 agreement on Stones Farm could fund a road which would be built some distance away.

Stables behind Fox & Goose –

The Chairman reported that the application would now be considered by the planning committee of Swale Borough Council at the end of the month.

Bapchild & Tonge C of E Primary School, Mobile Classroom for Pre-School Nursery –

Members considered KCC's latest letter in this matter. Members were concerned that this temporary development could last until much after 2010 as it was understood that funding was a problem before this time. Also, with the proposal being close to the entrance of the School, Members were concerned with regard to traffic management. The Parish Council had not received a plan which would demonstrate safe ingress and egress from the School, especially if the Village Hall withdrew permission for use of their car park site (the Village Hall would need to let the hall during the day which might interfere with car parking).

Proposed diversion of footpath ZR 193, Mr Oliver Doubleday, G.H.Dean & Co. Members were concerned with regard to this proposal. In view of this the Clerk had requested a site meeting with Mr Doubleday to clarify various points and also address the issue of the transport depot being on-site.

Applications:

- Fox & Goose Public House – Open sided extension for use as smoking area
- 8 Avent Walk – Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension with dormer window loft conversion
- 18 Wihtrred Road – proposed rear extension and porch

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

- Fox & Goose Public House – Open sided extension for use as smoking area- granted
- 18 Wihtrred Road – proposed rear extension and porch - granted

Accounts:

It was agreed to draw the following cheques:

Audit Commission – External Audit fees £217.38

Correspondence – It was agreed to note the following correspondence:

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
 - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 328, 329
 - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee – Agenda and Minutes 03/12/07
- 1.2. Swale Borough Council –
 - 1.2.1. Swale Borough Council – Draft Service Standards
 - 1.2.2. Housing Register
- 1.3. Kent County Council -
 - 1.3.1. KCC's Annual Transportation and Safety Package Programme
 - 1.3.2. Subsidised Local Bus Services
 - 1.3.3. "Love Food Hate Waste"
- 1.4. Local Council Review – November '07, January '08
- 1.5. Clerks & Councils Direct - November '07
- 1.6. Kent Police Authority – Policing Kent 2008/09 Survey
- 1.7. Kent Fire & Resue – Integrated Risk Management Plan2008/09
- 1.8. Kent Air Ambulance Trust
- 1.9. The Isle of Sheppey Academy Project
- 1.10. Groundwork News – Winter '07
- 1.11. Water Resources Update
- 1.12. Kent Primary Care Agency – Rurality of Area

Any other business:

Mrs Kingsley reported that there had been interest in providing a pharmacy at the rear of her property.

The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday 11th March 2008 at 19.30hrs.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.15hrs.

Chairman

Date