

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting 16th November 2004

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th November 2004 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies were received from Mr R Bush (Chairman) and Cllr D Jordon..

Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th September 2004 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Chairmanship of the Parish Council. Members noted a letter received from Mr Bush stating that because of work pressures he was unable to continue in his capacity as Chairman. Members wished to record their thanks to Mr Bush for his hard work and leadership over the last fifteen years he has acted as Chairman. It was proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Culver that Mr Hudson be elected Chairman and that it be recorded that there would be delegation on specific issues to Members to spread the load of work. Mr Hudson signed the acceptance of office form. Members present signed the declarations of Members interests and the Clerk explained that this would be an annual requirement.

### Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

#### *Footway and Highway Matters:*

Panteny Lane, "unofficial" bollards. The clerk stated that he had asked the Highway Authority if the bollards were acceptable. The Highway Authority has stated that they will not act to remove them.

Fox Hill – 30 mph extension re speeding traffic. It was noted that no action was to be taken regarding this issue until further road improvements took place, specifically the Swanstree Avenue road link. Mrs Culver and the Clerk would monitor this situation.

Overgrowth – School Lane. The Clerk stated that he had forwarded Mrs Trott's photograph and that the Highway Authority had agreed to add this to the general maintenance work to cut back the overgrowth.

Electronic Speed Restriction Interactive Signs. The Highway Authority confirmed that they were still reviewing this request but that they perceived difficulties in the positioning of the signs.

Road Humps, School Lane. The Highway Authority agree that the humps were not installed to the correct specification and that corrective work would need to be budgeted for.

Parking in Village. Mrs Culver stated and it was agreed that vehicle parking outside School House in School Lane and the BMW garage was still a problem. It was noted that the police had been informed a number of times regarding this. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Police asking for an explanation as to the continued hazard.

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

*Common Land Registration:* Nothing to report.

*Brickearth Extraction.* Ibstock Bricks response to the Parish Councils letter was noted.

*Parish Website:* Mr Hudson reported that the Web site had won a prize in the Calor-Gas competition and that he was to attend the awards meeting in early December.

*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

Mr Hudson outlined the situation regarding the 5 Parish group to date. The publication of the results of the consultation was awaited. The communications group were about to publish an update and it will be sent to everyone. A letter of support from Lynsted Parish Council was read to the meeting. It was noted that a good number of Bapchild residents had come forward to help in this matter.

Planning for Mineral in Kent 2004-2021. This publication recently received was to be studied and any matters would be brought to Members attention.

Appeal Decision: 8 Morris Court Close – Appeal refused.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

Bapchild & Tonge C of E Primary School – Mobile classroom with paving to existing pathway - granted

Applications:

Bapchild & Tonge C of E Primary School – Mobile classroom with paving to existing pathway.

Site Meeting:

It was noted that the Parish Council had been invited to a site meeting to consider the Sittingbourne Community College planning application.

*Accounts:*

Subsidiarity Projects. The Clerk explained that this scheme was in its first year and Swale Borough Council and parishes were still learning how best to administer this new scheme. It was apparent that although a carry forward is allowed, a scheme must have been identified. The Clerk stated that in his opinion it was necessary to identify a scheme now, thus progressing matters in the first year and protecting future years funding. This years allocation was £2,720.

After discussion, it was propose by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Trott to put forward a scheme to provide a new footpath to cut across the open space on the corner of Panteny Lane. This was agreed.

It was further agreed that Members consider other schemes for future years applications.

2005/2006 Budget – Members considered the Clerks working paper. After discussion, it was propose by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Culver to precept on Swale Borough Council the sum of £5,675. This was agreed.

It was agreed that the following cheques should be drawn:

Rodmersham Parish Council – Contribution to fighting fund £500.00

Audit Commission – External audit fees £141.00

*Correspondence:* It was agreed to note the following correspondence –

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No's 303, 304

Swale Area Committee –minutes 6/9/04

Notice of AGM and Annual Report

Swale Borough Council –  
Funding Advice  
Street Nameplates  
Kent County Council -  
Improving Service Delivery – Winter Salting Routes  
Improving your local path network  
Kent Highway Partnership  
Kent Highways – News Releases  
Kent Highways – Asset Maintenance Plan  
Kent Police -  
Anti Social Behavior  
Swale Matters  
Swale Minorities Policing Panel  
XS Energy Thumbs-up  
Local Council Review – Sept '04  
Clerks and Councils Direct – Nov '04 and Sept '04  
The John Aspinall Foundation  
ODPM – New Ethical Framework Regs  
ODPM – A Model Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees  
A guide to becoming a Quality Council  
Standards Board for England – Code of Conduct, Registering of Interests and  
Freemasonry  
DEFRA – Clean Neighbourhoods  
Kent BTCV – The Kent Pond & Tree Warden Schemes  
The playing Field  
Lord Lieutenancy of Kent

Any Other Business:

Mrs Trott asked that an information note be sent to Parishioners regarding the work of the Parish Council. This was agreed and Mr Cooke agreed that it could be included in the Newsletter but not the one just to be published as time was too short.

Mrs Culver reported that the condition of the footpaths in Wihtrred Road and St Lawrence Close were now in a really bad condition. Members noted that complaints had been made before. It was agreed to write to the Highway Authority in strong terms regarding this

The date of the next meeting was noted as 18th January 2005 at 7.30p.m.

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