

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th January 2006 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies were received from Mr R Bush.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th November 2005 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

### Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

#### *Footway and Highway Matters:*

*Morris Court Footpath:* The Clerk reported that he had received two quotations from Alan Morolio, Swale Borough Council, for works to bring the area up to adoptable standard after which Swale Borough Council would add the area to its regular maintenance schedules. The quotations were for £2,475 and £800. Members were incredulous as to the variation in the price, however the works stated in the lowest quotation appeared to be all that was required.

It was agreed to accept the lowest quote but to confirm in writing to Mr Morolio that the works would bring this area up to Swale Borough Council maintainable standard.

*Repairs to footpath, Wihtrud Road:* The Clerk reported that the Kent County Council Linesman Scheme was having teething problems. The Clerk had attended a seminar in December with all other lengthsman and all had difficulties with the system.

It was agreed that the Clerk follow up this and other outstanding issues as best he can.

*Footpath Doubleday Drive/Morris Court - railings.* Mrs Culver reported that she had met Mr Peskett, KCC, on site and he had agreed to provide an additional bollard. He also looked at the railings opposite this location and confirmed that they were not up to current standard for motorised buggy access and these would be altered.

*Common Land Registration:* The Clerk reported no further progress.

### Planning Matters:

#### Other:

Kent and Medway Structure Plan – Consultation on further modifications. The Chairman outlined the content and context of this consultation. He said there was little new in it but the increase in the housing numbers from 800 increased to 1600. This increase would have a knock on effect on the local plan and other strategies. Swale Borough Council officers had informed him that 800 houses could be catered for within current plans without new sites being available ( by increasing housing density) however the additional 800 would need new sites and the Chairman stated this was a worrying and objectionable matter as the new sites could well be in our neighbourhood.

#### Swale Borough Council, Local Plan -

The Chairman gave a resume of the current position. The Local Plan Pre Enquiry meeting has been set for 14/12/2005 and he had attended this. The enquiry starts at the beginning of March and it was noted that the Science Park and housing issue has been set for one hour. It was unlikely that the enquiry would publish any findings this year.

The Chairman raised the other consultations going on contemporaneously with the local plan, specifically The Transport and Economic Development Strategies. It appeared that with regard to the Economic Development Strategy the consultation had not reached the Parish Council and the deadline had lapsed. The Chairman was concerned that Swale Borough Council were including the Science Park and road connections in these consultations and that the wordings regarding this issue were different to that included in the Local Plan and appeared to be Council policy.

**Applications:**

- 2 Wihtrred Road– two storey side extension - No adverse observations
- 63 The Street – Side and rear extensions - No adverse observations

**Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:**

Caravan, Hempstead Lane – Lawfull Development Certificate Application - Granted

22 Doubleday Drive – Conservatory - Granted

**Accounts:**

Parish Council Grants Scheme. The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Val Smith, Chairman of the Bapchild and Tonge Village Hall Committee, requesting funding for various projects. These were the provision of a disabled access ramp £800, floodlights illuminating the car park £1,000 and a hearing loop yet to be priced.

Mr Cooke outlined the Village Hall Committees views on these matters and gave a summary as to the current situation regards outstanding repairs and renewals, hall usage, etc.

It was agreed to advise the Village Hall Committee to contact Mr Jim Hattersley , Swale Borough Council, regarding Disability Act responsibilities. It was further agreed that the Chairman write to Mrs Smith stating that the Parish Council were in agreement to fund the disabled access ramp (subject to Mr Hattersley's comments) and broadly in agreement with the floodlighting provision subject to further details being provided. Members were currently not in favour of supporting the hearing loop.

Insurance – The Clerk confirmed that the Computer was now insured.

Purchase of Tree – The Chairman reminded Members that as part of the prize the Parish Council were awarded, Members had agreed, and the School had given permission, for the prize tree to be erected on School Land. However, the Chairman asked that Members consider supplementing the free tree allocation with £50.00 so that a more suitable tree could be provided. Members agreed to this as the Parish Council had also received a cash prize in the sum of £250.

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

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
  - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 313
  - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee – Agenda and Minutes 05/12/05
  - 1.1.3. Notice of AGM and Annual Report
- 1.2. Kent County Council -
  - 1.2.1. Modification of Definitive Maps
- 1.3. Kent Police -
  - 1.3.1. Council Tax & Policing Consultation for Financial Year 2006/07
  - 1.3.2. Swale Matters
- 1.4. Local Council Review – Jan '06
- 1.5. Clerks & Councils Direct – Jan '06
- 1.6. ODPM Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future
- 1.7. Kent Infrastructure Development Plan – Draft Dec '05

- 1.8. The Standards Board for England
- 1.9. The Playing Field
- 1.10. Kent Village of the Year
- 1.11. Kent Fire & Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2006/07

Any Other Business:

The Clerk stated that the Bus Shelter was damaged and that repairs would need to be commissioned.

Mrs Culver reported on the condition of the bank on the north side of Fox Hill. There had been some erosion mainly caused by rabbits and the stability of the bank was questioned. It was agreed to report this as a matter of urgency.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 7.30p.m.

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

Chairman.....

Date.....

