

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 18th May 2004

The Annual General Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th May 2004 at 7.30p.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 and Mr Palmer.

Apologies were received from. Mr A Smith

Election of Chairman: It was proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mr Hudson that Mr Bush be re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed.

Election of Vice-Chairman: It was proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mr Bush that Mrs Trott be re-elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd March 2004 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record. Mrs Culver stated that the Police meeting for Parish Councils agenda was not sent through to her and therefore she was not able to attend.

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.

Footpath, Panteny Lane to Dully Road. The Clerk reported that he had contacted KCC PROW office to enquire with regard to the delay in re-opening this right of way. The owner of the land, had objected to the footpath opening order. This will entail a review by the ODPM.

Common Land Registration: Mr Palmer agreed to add his name to the list of parishioners prepared to witness use of this land.

Unsocial Behaviour in the Village:

Village Hall, CCTV provision. Mr Cooke was to enquire of the Village Hall Committee as to the latest situation.

Trellis fencing re open space/ Lords Close garages. It was noted that the repairs to this trellis had been actioned. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the supply of hawthorn bushes, which would act as a deterrent to youths who wish to climb the trellis.

Footpath, rear of Doubleday Drive. Members noted the request by a number of residents to stop up this footpath. The Chairman gave a history of when the Doubleday Drive estate was built and at that time the Parish Council wished to close this right of way. However, some Ashted Drive residents, who would use this right of way as rear access, objected to this proposal. Should objections to a closure be forthcoming, KCC have advised that the closure would not take place. The closure process would cost the proposer of the closure a minimum of £2,000.

Mrs Culver had asked Michael Ellis, PROW and the Police with regard to the possible closure and of a scheme where a locked gate would control access. Mrs Culver was advised that there would need to be a high incident of crime before such a scheme would be allowed. It was agreed to write to the residents who had proposed footpath closure with this information advising that should there be any criminal behaviour then the police must be advised.

Parish Website: Members once again thanked Mr Hudson for his continued support of the Web site. Many complimentary reports had been received. Mr Hudson stated that he had entered the Web site in the Calor-Gas competition and another competition application was soon to be made. Mr Hudson asked again for any old photographs.

Recycling Scheme: The Swale Borough Council response to the Parish Council's letter, which requested future proposals for the scheme, was read to the meeting. It was evident that improvements to the scheme were imminent. The scheme would be expanded to other areas in the Borough and would include all kitchen waste including cooked waste. It was agreed to review this situation at the next meeting.

Planning Matters:

Other:

- Swale Local Plan, First Review. The Chairman outlined the position to the present time. Bapchild Parish Council had entered into a partnership with five other Parishes to work together and seek professional advise from Mrs Wendy Le Las, who has worked for Bapchild in the past and was the Kent Association of Parish Council planning expert. Mr Hudson reported that the next meeting of the group was on 24 May at which time the Kent Science Park (KSP) proposals might be available and also that Mrs Le Las had requested a position on the Kent & Medway Structure Plan body. Members agreed that what was needed was an understanding of what Swale Borough Council members wanted with regarding to the KSP site and the road infrastructure. Members noted that in excess of 400 objections had been sent in regarding the Local Plan consultation and the KSP.
- Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Transport Strategy, March 2004. Noted
- GOSE Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East, Ashford Growth Area. Noted
- GOSE Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East, Regional mineral Strategy March 2004. Noted
- GOSE Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East, Regional Waste Management Strategy March 2004. Noted.

Planning Decisions by Planning Authority:

- 8 Morris Court Close – Conversion of Garage into office. Refused.
- 206 Canterbury Road – Room n roof void. Granted
- Notice of Appeal - 8 Morris Court Close – Conversion of Garage into office. This would be determined by the Planning Inspector by written correspondence.

Applications:

- Church House, 22 School Lane, detached double garage – Object as to the size of the garage.
- Brickearth Extraction – details of landscaping maintenance and seeding. Object as to the site entrance. Note: the KCC has dismissed the Parish Councils views as the access decision had been already determined.

Accounts:

2003/2004 Accounts. The Clerk tabled the annual accounts and the 2003/4 external Audit returns and asked that members agree them. After discussion and explanations, it was agreed proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Culver that the Parish Council accept the accounts and audit returns and the Chairman and Clerk signed them.

Statement of Internal Control. The clerk advised that he had been advise by the Parish Council's Internal Auditor that this statement was now a requirement. The statement, as tabled, was reviewed and it was agreed proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Culver that the Parish Council accept the Statement of Internal Control and the Chairman and Clerk sign it.

It was agreed that the following cheques should be drawn:

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils – Annual Membership	£276.69
Allianz Cornhill – Annual Premium	£362.25
D Akhurst – Parish clean-up expenses	£125.00
Seaboard Energy – Street light energy charges	£435.50*

*Note: the energy charges should have been paid by DD. Because of an administration problem by Seaboard, these payments were not actioned. A cheque is necessary to catch up the payments owing. It was agreed to sign a direct debit mandate for future energy charges.

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence –

- Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
 - Parish News No's 299, 300
 - Swale Area Committee minutes 1/3/04
- Strategic Rail Authority Consultation Document
- Swale Borough Council –
 - Funding Advice
 - Code of Conduct – Applying for a review of a referral decision
 - Borough Housing Design Seminar
 - Advice in relation to “dual hated” member
- Kent County Council -
 - Kent Highways – Annual Bidding for funding for 2005-2006
 - Kent Trails
 - Baptie Route Management Strategy

Rural Revival
The Kent Highway Asset Maintenance Plan & Kent Highway
Budget

- o Local Council Review – March '04, May '04
- o Clerks and Councils Direct – March '04
- o DEFRA – Rural Broadband
- o ODPM – Local Investigation & Determination of Misconduct Allegations

Any Other Business:

Mr Cooke requested an update as to the provision of electronic speed signs. It was agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting.

Mrs Culver stated that overgrowth from an Elderberry Tree overhanging the footpath between Doubleday Drive and Morris Court Close was a nuisance. Mrs Culver had occasion to contact a tree surgeon and he has stated that the tree is diseased and should be cut down. Mrs Culver has asked KCC, Mr Michael Ellis, to arrange this but asked if the Parish Council would deal with this matter if needs be. The cost would be approximately £80. This was agreed.

Mrs Kingsley asked with regard to the caravan at Hemstead Lane, Bapchild. Members noted that Swale Borough Council had received notification some time ago from Mr Burke, acting as agent for the caravan occupier, who states that an application for planning consent would be presented shortly. Mention was made of the recent fire and Mr Cooke was able to describe what had happened. It was agreed to contact Swale Borough Council to find out the latest situation in an effort to speed up consideration of this issue and to provide a note for Cllr Jordan..

The date of the next meeting was noted as 14th September 2004 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 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.....