

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting 18th November 2003

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th November 2003 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies were received from Mr R Bush (Chairman)

Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd September 2003 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

### Mr Lawrence Young, Swale Borough Council, - Subsidiarity:

Mr Young was in attendance for this item only. He outlined current thinking of Swale Borough Council regarding this issue which policy was still under consideration by them and would evolve. The impetus for this change was the Rural White paper regarding rural accountability whereby people who it would affect would make decisions locally. Swale Borough Council would not require that the Parish Council achieve Quality status for this to apply. Swale Borough Council councillors would decide a total pot of money which would be allocated to each Parish Council by way of a mathematical formula and it would be for Parish Council members to decide on what this money would be spent on. The Borough Council would still do the implementation of such decisions. Currently, Swale Borough Council have decided that two pots of money would be effected by this new procedure – Highways (not KCC or SBC maintenance) and Community Grants and would be effective w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004. Joint Parish Councils schemes would be allowed and a roll-over of unspent sums would also be allowed.

Mr Young said he would need to contact the Parish Council closer to implementation date with final information.

Mr Young was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

Members agreed with the principle currently advised but expressed caution should this scheme expand particularly in an operational manner.

### Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

#### *Footway and Highway Matters:*

Footpath Closure, Panteny Lane. The Clerk reported that Tonge Parish Council had received notice that the Order for the Public Right of Way had been made and that a period of notice was running.

Panteny Lane – Cllr Jordan was pursuing this issue.

Fox Hill – 30 mph extension re speeding traffic. Cllr Jordan's letter to Brian Planner, Engineering Service Unit Manager, Swale Borough Council was read to the meeting. Members noted that Cllr Jordan had made a strong case for a re-think to implement a 30 mph speed limit from Sittingbourne through to the east of Bapchild. It was agreed to wait for the response from Swale Borough Council.

*Common Land Registration:* No progress to report. The Chair and Clerk suggested that a targeted sheet be prepared for distribution, which could be hard hitting and explaining the issue in clear and plain terms. This was agreed and Mr Cooke would do his best to distribute this with the Parish Magazine.

*Morris Court Close, open space - landscaping:* Mrs Culver reported that the works had been completed. The Clerk reported that he has been informed of some damage to the shrubs and asked that everyone keep an eye out for this problem. Swale Borough

Council contractors had asked whether the Parish Council could arrange for access to the open space in Morris Court Close to be improved. The problem was the overgrown shrubs. It was agreed to write to the occupiers regarding this issue.

*Unsocial Behaviour in the Village:* Members noted the success of the open evening. However, there were few people attending and little interest shown regarding the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and no complaints regarding unsocial behaviour. It was agreed to wait for further approaches regarding this issue.

*Parish Website:* Members noted the success of Mr Hudson's presentation at the open evening and it was reported that there had been increased use of the website.

#### Planning Matters:

##### Decisions:

- o 9 Hemstead Lane – Roof Space Conversion – Granted
- o 5 Morris Court Close – Porch Extension - Granted

##### Other

- o East Hall Farm – planning application and route of the NDR – progress. The Clerk advised that the developer had not yet made the planning application. It was understood that discussions were taking place regarding the feasibility of a new M2 connection with the A2 possibly linking up with the new NDR .
- o Swale Borough Council – re Caravan at Hemstead Lane, Bapchild. The Clerk had written to Mrs Willis to ask for assistance with this matter.

#### Accounts:

External Audit of 2002-2003 Accounts. Members noted the completion of the audit and the auditors report.

2004-05 Budget – The Clerk had circulated a paper, which gave details on current budget and expenditure and a proposal for next year. It was proposed by Mr A Smith and seconded by Mr G Cooke and agreed to precept on Swale Borough Council the sum of £5,450 for parish expenses and £1,100 for parish lighting.

It was agreed that the following cheque should be drawn:

Audit Commission – External Audit Fee	£141.00
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#### Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

- 1.1. Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
  - 1.1.1. Parish News No's 295
  - 1.1.2. Swale Area Committee minutes 1/9/03
  - 1.1.3. Annual Report 2002/03 and Notice of Agenda
- 1.2. Swale Borough Council –
  - 1.2.1. Funding Advice No's 22
  - 1.2.2. Provision of CCTV.
  - 1.2.3. Launch of new Website
- 1.3. Kent County Council -
  - 1.3.1. Strategic Planning Directorate – Improving the way we work
  - 1.3.2. Around Kent
  - 1.3.3. Mapping out the future
- 1.4. Local Council Review – November '03
- 1.5. Clerks and Councils Direct – Sept and Nov '03
- 1.6. Mid Kent Water – Bridging the Gap
- 1.7. BTCV Conservation Training in Kent
- 1.8. Groundwork Medway/Swale - Update
- 1.9. S'bourne & Sheppey - Info. Guide

- 1.10. Kent Police re Community Support Officers. Members agreed not to support this initiative and Mrs Culver would attend the next Police Liaison meeting and raise this issue.
- 1.11. South East Regional Assembly – Regional Minerals Strategy
- 1.12. Letter from Mrs Vincent, 2 The Stables
- 1.13. Training highway. Members agreed to support this initiative.

Any Other Business:

Mrs Culver wished that the Mr Hudson be thanked for his efforts in getting the website up and running and the presentation at the open evening. It was agreed by Members that Mr Hudson's effort is most impressive.

Members expressed their disappointment at the apathy of parishioners as expressed by the lack of attendance at the open evening

The date of the next meeting was noted as 2nd March 2004 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 09.08 p.m.

Chairman.....  
Date.....

