

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 19th November 2002

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th November 2002 at 7.30p.m.

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

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Jordan.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th September 2002 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Membership of the Parish Council: The Chairman reported that the necessary advertising of the vacancy of Parish Councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs G West had resulted in Mr A Hudson expressing an interest. It was proposed by Mr G Cooke and seconded by Mr Smith that Mr Hudson be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. Mr Hudson signed the acceptance papers.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Footway and Highway Matters:

Footpath Closure, Panteny Lane.

Members noted that this matter was now being considered by KCC PROW office and that adjudication was still to be made by them.

Lighting central reservations and on street parking, The Street.

The Chairman reviewed the history of the central reservations and reported that most illuminated lamps were not working. Recent correspondence with the traffic engineers revealed that the road is too narrow at this point to properly maintain the lights and that chevron reflective signs will replace the lights early in the new year. It was noted that Swale Borough Council had yet to discuss the various traffic improvements suggested by the Parish Council. However, Mr G Cooke reported that on a number of occasions large lorries were parked close to the Panteny Lane junction the lorry driver possibly staying at Hemstead House Hotel overnight. It was agreed to monitor this situation.

School Lane - Traffic calming and Panteny Lane - fencing and hedgerow maintenance and parking. The Chairman reviewed the history regarding these issues and members noted his correspondence with Cllr Jordan regarding progressing matters

Footpath, Morris Court Close - overgrowth. The Clerk reported that Mr Ashton, Swale Borough Council, had requested a quotation from Brophy for the work.

Common Land Registration: The Clerk reported that there was no further progress to report on this matter.

Kent Police, problems re open spaces and unsocial behaviour: Mrs C Culver and the Clerk reported on a meeting they had attended at Sittingbourne Police Station with PC Jeffries and Mrs Leslie Hunt where policing issues were discussed in full. OC Jeffries would follow up a number of issues and promised to report back. Mrs Hunt asked that perhaps the Parish Council could arrange an open evening, perhaps as a pre Christmas event, promoting policing issues and reinvigoration the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It was agreed to invite the Rural Police Force representative, Leslie Hunt, Neighbourhood Watch representatives, Mr Goeff

Williams and Clive Holroyd to the next meeting of the Parish Council where these issues could be fully debated.

Parish Website: Mr A Hudson reported that work on the website was continuing and that the domain name had been secured and was www.Bapchild.info. This domain was hosted by a professional at no cost to the Parish Council; however there could be no guarantee of free costs in the future (normal costs would be in the region of £200/£300). Items should still be processed through Mrs Kingsley. The Beavers/Scouts are in an advanced stage. It was agreed to publish the possibilities of the web-site in the parish magazine.

Residential Caravan, Hemstead Lane:

The response from the planning department of Swale Borough Council was that the site was allowed for non-permanent occupation. Members agreed that the permission should be one of seasonal occupation not for full residential.

Accounts:

It was proposed by Mr Cooke and seconded by Mrs Culver and agreed to draw the following cheque:

District Audit – Audit fee - £285.53

Parish Precept 2003/04 – The Clerk presented the precept paper attached to the agenda and gave explanations where necessary. It was agreed to precept on the Swale Borough Council the sum of £5530 for parish expenses and £1200 for parish lighting.

Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

10 Hemstead Lane – roof space conversion – no adverse observations.

194 Canterbury Road – remove plum trees – no adverse observations.

East Hall Farm – commercial and residential development –

Planning Decisions:

194 Canterbury Road – granted

29 Randle Way – change garage into sitting room and conservatory addition – granted

Hemstead Farm – telecommunications mast – prior approval not required

Other:

Morris Court Farm, School Lane – appeal decision re 1 Apple Barn, Morris Court Farm – Appeal Dismissed.

South East England Regional Assembly – Strategic Planning for Tourism – Energy Efficiency

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No's 286A, 287 and 288.

KAPC – Annual Report

NALC – Annual Report

Swale Area Committee:

Minutes 02/09/2002

Agenda 02/12/2002

Swale Borough Council –

Area Weight Restriction – Members were in favour of this initiative and were keen to support it. However, concern was expressed concerning the policing and enforcement of the restrictions.

Re Panteny Lane play area

Swale Local Plan - Newsletter
Criminal Damage – A communal Problem
Funding Advise
Kent County Council -
Grounds Maintenance
PROW – New address
The Countryside Agency, Spring 2002 – Vital Villages
NALC – Development Strategy 2002
Commission for Racial Equality – The Countryside Rights of Way Act – provisional map.
Clerks and Councils Direct – Sept '02 and Nov '02
Local council Review – Sept '02 and Nov '02
Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Publication of Scheme. It was agreed to adopt this act; the
Parish Council adopting the minimum suggested scheme.
DEFRA – Rural Services Standards 2002, Rural Services Standards first progress report.
The Countryside Agency – Get Your Community Moving
Groundwork Medway Swale – Autumn 2002
Letter from, anonymous resident – this was ignored as the complaint was anonymous and
unsigned.
Letter from Mr Steadman – re planning conditions. It was agreed to write to Mr Steadman.

Any Other Business:

It was noted that the play area on the Panteny Lane estate had been taken over by Swale Borough Council. However, the grassed area still had some work to complete it and was therefore not yet taken over by Swale Borough Council

Mrs Culver raised concerns from residents regarding litter emanating from around the Fruit Stall area. It was agreed to contact the Swale Borough Council cleansing department regarding this.

Regarding the issue of commemoration of Mr Rogers discussed at the last meeting, it was agreed to place this item on the next agenda.

It was noted that the grassed area between Panteny Lane and The Street was still being used as a short cut. Members noted that the replanting of shrubs had little effect and that Wards were to erect a half panel fence to deter walkers. It was agreed to chase this provision.

Members considered the route of the Northern Distributor Road. Although the planning application was not in the Bapchild area the route would impinge greatly upon Bapchild residents. It was evident that the resultant traffic from the 550 houses on the proposed estate would initially discharge into Castle Road until the NDR was built. With both the Eastern and Western link of the NDR not and perhaps unlikely to be agreed it as considered premature to agreed to any significant proposal for this site. It was therefore agreed to object to the proposal.

Members considered the increased speed of the traffic flow through Bapchild and wondered whether electronic speed warning signs would benefit. It was agreed to consider this on the next agenda.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 21st January 2003 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 p.m.

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

The Annual Assembly of Parishioners of the Parish of Bapchild was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th May 2002 at 8.30pm.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mr B Rogers, Mrs L Trott, Mrs J Kingsley and Parishioner Mrs V Smith and Cllr D Jordan.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr A Smith (vice Chairman) and Mrs G West.

Minutes of the last Annual Assembly were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Brought before the Meeting:

Speed humps School Lane. It was agreed that the majority of them were not to specification at did not reduce the speed of traffic sufficiently. It was agreed to press the Swale Borough Council traffic engineers to resolve this issue.

Footpath, Morris Court Close. It was agreed that the Parish Council arrange to clean up this footpath.

Panteny Lane Estate – boundary with Panteny Lane. The Chairman had spoken to Wards directors and the Clerk had asked Swale Borough Council traffic engineers regarding the maintenance responsibilities and nobody could clarify this. It was agreed that this matter should be clarified as in future there would be issues and problems if this was allowed to lapse. It was agreed the follow this up to resolution. Cllr Jordan stated that he had seen the engineers and that matters were in hand discussing these issues and the road integrity with Wards.

Bapchild Motoring World – Parking. It was agreed that there was still a problem particularly with mothers and pushchairs (as there was no drop kerb at this point) and that the Swale Borough Council traffic engineers should be pressed for a resolution.

Panteny Lane Estate – Landscaping and open space fronting A2. It was noted that a shortcut was being used across this area with the boundary shrubbery being damaged. It was agreed that a fence panel be requested to stop this happening and to raise this with Wards at the site meeting. Regarding landscaping the Chairman had spoken to the Chairman of Wards who, after investigation, has admitted that the situation was unsatisfactory and has discharged the landscaper and appointed another. Swale Borough Council would probably not accept the open spaces for at least another year. It was noted that all of these issues would be raised at the site meeting with Wards.

Panteny Lane Estate – junction with A2, parking. It was noted that a whole line of cars are regularly parked here. Cllr Jordan stated that there would be no new double yellow lines until a full borough wide review had taken place but recommended that the Sittingbourne area committee be approached to get around the moratorium. The request needed to be specific in its content. It was agreed to write to Swale Borough Council Sittingbourne Area Committee in this regard.

Traffic Islands – A2. It was noted that Baptie was responsible for the maintenance of these islands and that the road width was insufficient for operatives to work safely. SEEB are to be on site by the end of week to repair the faulty mains supply. Regarding the island furthest east, new reflective bollards will be provided shortly.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN.....
DATE.....

