

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 21st January 2003

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 21st January 2003 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mr A Smith (Vice Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mrs L Trott, Mr A Hudson, Mr G Cooke, Parishioner Mr G Williams and members of the Constabulary.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Jordan.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th November 2002 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Policing matters, Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Policing, etc.: The Chairman welcomed Mrs Leslie Hunt, PC Burley and Jackie Black to the meeting. The Chairman summarised past history to date on this issue and each member of the constabulary outlined their role in local policing and suggested the way forward would be to build on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the soon to be advertised Special Constable recruitment campaign, which is recognised in Kent as being the current way forward to assist in rural policing.

Whilst recognising that Bapchild was not a hotbed of rural crime and disorder, it was agreed that there was a need to re-invigorate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and to have our own village Special Constable. In an effort to do this and to attract new parishioners into the parish matters it was agreed to arrange an evening meeting to promote these issues and at the same time launch the new Web-site which was nearing completion.

Members of the constabulary left at this time.

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 reported that the reflecta style bollards replacing those originally installed were now in place. The overhead lighting alterations was now programmed for 27/1/03.

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 and it was agreed the only way forward is for Cllr Jordan to intervene to progress matters to a conclusion.

Footpath, Morris Court Close - overgrowth. The Clerk reported that Mr Ashton, Swale Borough Council, had produced a quotation from Brophy for the work in the sum of £821.16. Members agreed to order the works to be done subject to another quote being obtained and, with agreement of Mr Ashton, select the most economic tender of the two.

Electronic Speed Warning Signs – It was agreed to write to PD Burley and ask his views on the provision of the provision of such a sign especially at the Eastern end of the parish.

Common Land Registration: The Clerk reported that Swale Borough Council's solicitor had recently attended a seminar on the topic of registration which brought

together all of the new law and regulation. This seminar was also attended by KCC staff that was dealing with Bapchild's application. Subsequently, the solicitor and the Clerk attended KCC to try to progress the application. It was clear that because of the age of the Parish Councils application, now over 4 years old, that a new application would be required. Further affidavits and statements would also be necessary. It was agreed to place an item in the parish newsletter asking for volunteers to provide these statements.

Litter – emanating from the Fruit Stall: It was agreed to write to Mr D Hill, Swale Borough Council. Asking that the litter be attended to as soon as possible.

Parish Website: Mr A Hudson reported that work on the website was nearing completion and that he had recently seen Bapchild School who were happy to be involved. This was seen to be a very satisfactory situation. It was envisaged that to officially launch the Website in Spring to coincide with the Neighbourhood Watch open evening would be no problem.

Residential Caravan, Hemstead Lane:

The clerk had responded to Swale Borough Council asking that they review their papers with regard to the agricultural use. Swale Borough Council had responded agreeing with this view and it was agreed to write to Mrs Willis with this information.

Commemoration Memorials: After discussion, it was agreed not to commemorate past Members.

Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

East Hall Farm– Advanced Earthworks (for part of NDR) and flood bund – It was agreed to comment that it was premature for Members to come to a decision before the main application had been decided by the planning authorities. It was further noted that the Babtie report was still to be published and considered by Parish Members. It was also noted that the route of the NDR was shown in some detail and it was agreed to write to the planning authority asking for clarification on this.

Other:

2 Wihtrud Road – TPO. It was requested that the clerk enquire what tree this referred to.

KCC – The Right Airports Policy - Noted

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
Parish News No 289
Kent Rural Community Council
Swale Area Committee
Swale Borough Council –
Funding Advise
Clerks and Councils Direct – Jan '03
Local council Review – Jan '03
SERPA

Any Other Business:

The Chairman read a letter from Bapchild School requesting Parish Council support in the matter concerning overflowing sewage at the school. It was agreed to support the School and send a letter to Southern Water Authority.

Mr Cooke stated that there had been no further overnight parking of heavy goods vehicles near Hemstead House Hotel

The date of the next meeting was noted as 25th March 2003 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 09.40 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.....