

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 22nd January 2002

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd January 2002 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mr A Smith, Mrs J Kingsley and Mr B Rogers

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mrs L Trott, Mrs G West and Cllr D Jordan.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd November 2001 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Footway and Highway Matters:

Footpath Closure, Panteny Lane. No progress to report. It was noted that there was a new footpaths officer appointed by KCC.

Traffic calming/30 m.p.h. and other measures, The Street:

The Chairman reported that the remaining outstanding works issue was several unlit traffic calming central reservations. Members noted that this has been an unresolved problem for over a year and that correspondence had not been successful in getting a satisfactory completion of the works. The Chairman believed he had exhausted all of the options open to him other than the use the ombudsman service which might prompt action from Kent and Swale Councils but would involve significant administration and take many months.

It was further noted that traffic was still speeding through The Street and the clerk was requested to contact the Police to ask for speed cameras to operate to deter drivers from speeding, as has happened elsewhere in other parishes.

It was noted that Mr Meadows had written to advise that he had fallen badly whilst walking on a footway in The Street. It was agreed to support Mr Meadows by writing to Swale Borough Council to advise of the poor condition of the footpaths in this area.

School Lane - Traffic calming. The Chairman reported on his correspondence with the highway engineers with regard to the efficiency of the road humps as previously reported and it was noted that the works are still awaited.

Panteny Lane - fencing and hedgerow maintenance. The Chairman reported that Wards had responded to his correspondence stating that they had met with SBC engineers and had come to an agreement that "the verges and hedges will continue to be maintained". It was still not known from Swale Borough Council how this arrangement would work and it was agreed to make enquiries as to this arrangement. The clerk reported that kerbing work in Panteny Lane is to commence this week.

Footpath - overgrowth and ponding. The clerk stated that he had written to KCC and was waiting their response. Mrs Culver stated that the footpath was still unkempt and that she was prepared to meet representatives on site. It was agreed to copy previous correspondence so that the new footpaths officer can take up this issue.

Common Land Registration:

The Clerk reported that there was no further progress to report on this matter.

Parish Web-site:

Mr Andy Hudson was in attendance for this item. Mr Hudson explained the progress made so far and the direction taken based on a community web site theme. He tabled a sample home page layout which offers a five section further information option. It was recommended that overall control of published matter within the web page should rest with the Parish Council and it was presently proposed that Mrs Kingsley would authorise additions. Contributors would use an administration area within the web page to enter their contribution but it would only become "live" when authorised. Members agreed that the direction taken so far and thanked Mr Hudson for his efforts in this matter. Members were enthusiastic with the progress made to date and congratulated everyone concerned.

Recycling Scheme - update:

The clerk explained that Ms Pooja Punshi, Swale Borough Council was ill and could not attend. However she had spoken to the clerk and had stated that the scheme would be extended to include clear plastic sacks that would be used to recycle plastics, cans and paper. Further details would become available shortly.

Rural Development Grants:

The clerk reported that the additional lighting works outside the Village Hall had been completed and the invoice received. Also the notice board has now been delivered. Mr Smith agreed to arrange erection of the board.

Accounts:

It was agreed to draw the following cheques:

Greenbarnes Ltd – Supply Notice Board - £1226.18

Seeboard – Repair pl.o/s 24 Wihtrud Road - £82.94

AMP Electrical – Village Hall lighting - £346.63

Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

12m Telecom mast and equipment (replacing application for 22.5m mast) - object

Planning Decisions:

Sittingbourne Community College – Rebuild and extend admin. and performing arts block previously fire damaged – granted.

Rodmersham Court Farm – Refused.

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No's 278, 279, 280.

Kent Rural Community Council –

Rural News.

Government Consultation Quality Councils.

Swale Area Committee:

Agenda and Minutes 3/12/2001.

Kent County Council -

A2 Bapchild and Teynham Reconditioning Works.

Kent Highway Partnership – invitation to meeting 18/02/2002.

Public Rights of Way – New Officer.

Around Kent.

Swale Borough Council -
Golden Jubilee Celebrations.
Funding Advice.
Swale in Bloom.
Community Scrutiny Panel - Educational issues
DTLR -
Local Government White Paper Parish Proposals.
Local Election (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) Order 2001.
Model Code of Conduct.

Mrs B S Cooke re street lighting and road signs – copy of letter sent to Swale Borough Council. It was agreed to contact Swale BC and enquire as to why the street furniture was moved.
Sittingbourne CAB – Donation request.
Clerks and Councils Direct - Jan 2002.
Local Council Review - Jan 2002.
Tricia Carr – Ridham Enquiry.
Kent Village of the Year Competition.
NALC – A National Training Strategy for Parish and Town Councils.
District Audit – Notice of Audit March/April 2002.

Any Other Business:

Mr Smith tabled a press item regarding Members interests and receipt of gifts. The Clerk was asked to research this item

Mrs Culver asked that the death of Mr Gooch should be recorded. It was agreed to minute Member's deep regret at the sudden death of Mr Gooch and to record it's thanks for the work done by him for the village, particularly in his capacity of Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

Mr Rogers supported the previously minuted issue of the unacceptable parking in Panteney Lane. It was agreed that the Police should be contacted about this issue as well as other traffic problems.

Mr Rogers reported that the overgrowing hedge at the Toll Gate Bungalow was interfering with pedestrian site visibility and he had witnessed a near accident. It was agreed to report this to the traffic engineers.

Mr Rogers reported that a white car was parked seemingly abandoned in School Lane. It was agreed to find out whether the car was taxed and to report it to the authorities should it be untaxed.

Mr Rogers tabled a letter he had received from a parishioner who lives in Hemstead Lane. The letter stated that traffic was speeding in Hemstead Lane and Lower Road especially as the roads are used as a rat run. It was agreed to raise this issue with the Police. The letter also raised the matter of a residential caravan parked on land off of Hemstead Lane. This had been previously raised at the Parish Council and it was then reported that the caravan had agriculture planning status. It was agreed to raise this issue again with the planning authorities.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 12th March 2002 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50p.m.

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

