

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 22nd May 2001

The Annual General Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd May 2001 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mr B Rogers, Mrs J Kingsley, Mrs L Trott, Cllr. D Jordan and Parishioners Mrs Middleton and Mr Burke.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr A Smith and Mrs G West.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th March 2001 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

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

Election of Vice Chairman: It was proposed by Mr Bush and seconded by Mr Rogers that Mr Smith be elected vice Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed.

Pooja Punshi and Peter Chegwiddden, Swale Borough Council - re Pilot Scheme for Kerbside Collection of Garden and Kitchen Waste. Pooja and Peter gave a presentation on this pilot scheme and answered questions during and at the end of the presentation. In essence, the scheme is a trial for Swale Borough Council. Information has been gathered and researched from many other Councils as to how Councils have progressed similar schemes; the aim is to meet stringent Government targets on reducing waste disposal. Leaflet information will be issued to parishioners, roadshows arranged and publicised and a helpdesk available for any query. Upon questions, the situation regarding conifer disposal would be clarified and the situation regarding bank holidays would also be looked at. An additional bin coloured brown will be delivered to every household which will be for the kitchen and garden waste only. This bin and the original bin will be collected alternatively each fortnight. The Chairman thanked Pooja and Peter for there attendance and they left the meeting.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Footway and Highway Matters:

Footpath Closure, Panteney Lane. No further progress to report.

Traffic calming/30 m.p.h. and other measures, The Street and School Lane: The Chairman reported on the various correspondence (previously copied and distributed to Members) regarding the progress being made on these issues.

Wards are currently working on The Street island refuges.

The 30 m.p.h. limit was discussed and it was reported that the limit did not, as first envisaged, extend from Sittingbourne to and through Bapchild uninterrupted, therefore a 40 m.p.h. limit will still extend from Fox Hill to Snipes Hill; the police considered the 30 m.p.h. limit unenforceable.

The Chairman reported that raised kerbs and new street furniture would be installed at the time of the promised resurfacing of The Street.

Cllr Jordan reported that he had raised the issue of Traffic calming measures in School Lane with Mr Haratbar. Delays had been caused by the fact that the contractor used for this work had been extremely busy with the other road repairs.

Cllr Jordan agreed to press Swale BC to progress the yellow lining as it was agreed

this would considerably help with the dangerous traffic movements at the junction of School Lane, then the other work could reasonably wait until the contractor becomes available.

School Lane - road narrowing because of overgrowth - The Chairman stated that the relevant notices had been served on the owners of the land. Should the work remain outstanding Mr Edwards, Swale Highways, has stated that the Borough Council will do the work and recharge the owner.

Car Parking in the Village/Hawkeye Camera. The continuing problems regarding this issue were noted with regret. Despite promises from the police to find a solution and the Parish Council requesting specific Hawkeye placement to help in this matter, no progress had been made. Mrs Culver was requested, at her meeting with the Police body, to press them on this issue, as members find the current situation intolerable. It was reported that the police had been recently called to problems on this issue.

Common Land Registration:

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

Neighbourhood Watch - progress:

The Chairman was to see Mr Cook regarding this.

Parish Web-site:

Mrs Trott reported on her meeting with Mr Andy Hudson and members received her written report on this matter. It was noted and agreed that the continuing update of the web-site was paramount. It was agreed that this venture should be supported by the Parish Council in principle and it was agreed to publish in the parish magazine the progress made so far and ask for a volunteer to regularly update the site.

Rural Development Grants:

Members considered the following suggestions for the 2001-2 grant application and it was agreed to apply for grant for the following schemes:

- Renew Notice Board - estimate costs £1,000.
- Lighting outside Village Hall - to be advised from the Village Hall Committee.

Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

1 Morris Court Close - rear and side extension (note: the Chairman declared his interest in this matter)

Planning Decisions:

24 School Lane - extension to garage and new studio - granted.

47 Doubleday Drive - conservatory - granted.

11 Hemstead Lane - Two Storey extension - granted.

12 mtr. Telecommunication mast - refused.

1 Morris Court Close - refused.

Accounts:

It was agreed that that the following cheques be drawn:

SEEB Contracting Services - repair PL 2 St Laurence Cl.	£70.95
Cornhill Insurance - Annual Premium	£226.35
KAPC - Membership	£215.66

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31/3/2001.

The Clerk produced the accounts and gave explanations and answered questions raised on them. It was Proposed by Mr Rogers and seconded by Mrs Culver that he accounts be accepted. This was agreed.

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -
Parish News No. 272 & 273
Swale Area Committee -
Agenda 4/6/2001
Minutes 5/3/2001
Local Needs Housing

Kent County Council -
Public Rights of Way Service
Swale Unified Network
Modern Local Government
Foot & Mouth
Rural Revival
Best Value Performance Plan
Flooding in your Area
Emergency Road Repairs

Swale Borough Council -
Closure of Footpaths - Foot and Mouth
Public Entertainment Licence, Village Hall
Future Council Meetings

Kent Rural Community Council - Leader + Funding Opportunities
Kent Police Authority - 2001/02 Budget
The Countryside Agency - New Rights and Responsibilities
Coolchain - message to drivers
DTI - Foot and Mouth - Impact on Small Businesses
Clerks and Councils Direct - March 2001
Local Council Review - March 2001

Any Other Business:

Mrs Culver asked whether there were any issues anyone wished her to raise at the Community Police meeting.

Mr Rogers asked if the waste bin situated on the footway, ease of Bapchild could be re-fixed properly to the lamppost.

The Clerk reported that he had had a telephone call from the landlord of the Fox and Goose with regard to the new traffic signs erected on the footway adjacent to the pub. It was agreed that the Parish Council had requested directional signage but had not any input as to the siting, etc.

Mrs Trott raised the issue concerning the road narrowing in School Lane. Mr A Smith had trimmed his area but it was noted that the Trust had not dealt with their responsibility yet.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 25th September 2001 at 7.30p.m.

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

Chairman.....

Date.....

The Annual Assembly of Parishioners of the Parish of Bapchild was held at the Village Hall, Bapchild on Tuesday 22nd May 2001 at 8.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mr B Rogers. Mrs LTrott and Mrs V Kingsley. Parishioners Mrs Middleton and Mr J Burke and Cllr D Jordan were also in attendance.

Apologies: There were no apologies.

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

Mr J Burke made reference to the dangerous situations caused mainly by parked cars at junctions with the A2 at School Lane and Panteney Lane. Appreciating the Parish Council has are trying to address this issue Mr Burke understood that the legal orders has not yet been issued for the traffic calming scheme, he urged the Parish Council to pressure Swale Borough Council to take urgent action, perhaps by introducing the yellow line no parking zone before implementing the full scheme. This was agreed and Cllr Jordan said he would take this up with the Highway Engineers.

Mr Burke continued by stating that Bapchild Motoring World parked their cars in the road and on the pavement. It was understood that the Police were reluctant to stop the road car parking except when this caused danger but Mr Burke stated that the parking of cars on the pavement "for sale" was actionable. Furthermore, the Borough Council's enforcement officer should help when considering the Kent Standards for allowance of staff and customer car parking on site.

Mrs Middleton stated that the yellow lines at the junction of School Lane were urgently required but stated that the speed humps were of secondary importance to the yellow lines.

Mr Burke stated that the footpath between Morris Court Close and Doubleday Drive requires attention because of the overgrown tree causing problems for pedestrians.

Mr Burke raised the issue regarding the Post Office and Stores and the current planning application being considered by the Borough Council this Thursday. Acting as agent for the applicants he considered he had addressed all of the issues raised by the Borough and Parish Councils and therefore requested that the Parish Council urgently request a site meeting in order that the planning committee be appraised of these matters; currently the Swale Borough Council officers are recommending refusal of the application. Mr Burke stated that the Post Office was under a three month closure notice and that the shop was likely to close should this application be turned down. Mr Burke stated that although there were possible deficiencies in the application the Borough Council officers were unable to properly address his points to aid his desire to satisfy historic building and planning matters raised by them. Parish Council members noted the letter of support dated 23 February sent to the Borough Council by the Parish Council when the Parish Council considered this application. The issues raised by the Parish Council in the letter as matters of clarification which required further information, resulted in the Parish Council reserving its decision at that time until the matters were resolved. No further correspondence had been received.

After much discussion, it was agreed that in view of the urgency of the situation a letter be sent by the Parish Council to Swale Borough Council asking that a decision on the planning application be deferred to allow a site meeting, thus allowing time to discuss these issues. Cllr. D Jordan agreed to raise this issue with the planners and

suggested that the Planning Committee might agree to the principle of the scheme and allow further discussion on the detail.

There being no other matters of parish interest the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27p.m.