

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 20th November 2001

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th November 2001 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mr A Smith, Mrs J Kingsley, Mrs L Trott, Mrs G West

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr B Rogers and Cllr D Jordan.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th September 2001 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record with the addition of Mrs G West being listed as present.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Footway and Highway Matters:

Footpath Closure, Panteny Lane. A further six statements had been received. Notification that the KCC timetable for looking at this application indicates a start not earlier than two years hence.

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

The Chairman reported that work was continuing without many traffic delays but that the traffic islands still were not illuminated properly even after numerous correspondence. It was understood that the electric cables were installed too shallow. The promised street furniture would be installed after the resurfacing. Members agreed that speeding was still an issue. The Police had agreed to a blitz however this had not yet occurred and it was agreed to follow this up. Mrs West suggested that the 30 m.p.h. signage is still not prominent enough and it was agreed that a gateway feature with prominent signage was required. It was agreed to raise this request with the traffic engineers.

School Lane - Traffic calming. The Chairman reported on his correspondence with the highway engineers with regard to the efficiency of the road humps and they had responded that remedial works were to take place. The table top hump at the junction with Ashted Drive had been reported also but no mention of this was made. Mrs Culver also reported that the illumination of the warning signs regarding the humps were not working. It was agreed to enquire of these matters.

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". The old Chestnut fencing was to be taken down. The traffic engineers had indicated that they would advise the Parish Council in a few days, also indicating their view on the integrity of Panteny Lane particularly regarding the large drop close to the new estate.

Footpath - overgrowth and ponding. The clerk stated that he had written to KCC and was awaiting their response.

Common Land Registration:

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

Parish Web-site:

Mrs L Trott and Mrs Kingsley were delegated and they agreed to take this forward to a first draft. Village organisations had expressed interest in this venture.

Hawkeye Camera placement:

No further details had been received from the Police. It was agreed to follow up this issue.

Village Hall representative:

It was agreed to appoint Mr A Smith as this Councils representative.

Recycling Scheme - update:

A recently published newspaper article caused members to query the Borough Councils ongoing support for this initiative. The clerk reported that he had spoken to officers and they had provided a copy of a press release. This reported that extra funds were being allocated to the scheme and that further expansion was proposed.

Rural Development Grants:

The clerk reported that the works order had been placed.

Accounts:

Budget 2002/2003. The Chairman explained the statement prepared by the clerk and questions were answered it. It was agreed to precept on the Swale Borough Council the sum of £3,931 for parish expenses and £1,100 for street lighting.

Planning Matters:

Swale Local Plan - first revision. Members noted this publication. It was noted that the Stones Farm high court challenge to the published Local Plan would be adjudged shortly and this would greatly effect planning matters in the Bapchild area. Comments were requested by the Borough Council and it was agreed to write to Swale Borough Council stating that the infrastructure should be in place, particularly adequate roads, before any development was allowable.

Planning proposal at Rodmersham Court Farm - Business use. The Chairman gave his report on his attendance at Swale Development Committee. The Parish Council had written its objections and this was included in the officers report which had recommended refusal. This committee decided to have a site meeting on Monday 26/11/01.

22 mtr. Monopole Mast, Hemstead Lane. This application, although in Tonge, effected a number of Bapchild residents. It was reported that a balloon was raised for a weekend to show the height of the proposed mast. The clerk reported that he had spoken to the planner concerned with this application and the application was to be delayed for further review, possibly looking elsewhere for the proposal. It was agreed to send an objection letter on the current proposal.

Planning Applications:

1 Apple Barn, Morris Court Farm - garage - agreed with recommendation regarding that the use of the garage should be stipulated as for normal garage use.

Sittingbourne Community College - Rebuild admin and performing arts block - no adverse observations.

Wards, Panteny Lane - allow part of proposed amenity space for a site compound- object.

Sittingbourne Community College - install 3 volumetric units re temporary teaching and office block - no adverse observations.

Sittingbourne Community College - 2 storey extension - no adverse observations. The Chairman declared his interest in this item and did not speak or vote thereon.

Planning Decisions:

Sittingbourne Community College - install 3 volumetric units re temporary teaching and office block - granted.

Sittingbourne Community College - new 2 storey classroom and lab block - refused.

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No. 277.

54th AGM and Annual report 00/01.

Swale Area Committee -

Minutes 3/9/2001

KRCC Membership and Annual Report 00/01.

Kent County Council -

KCC Act 2001 - Occasional Sales

Swale Borough Council -

Invitation to Rural Seminar 28/11/01

Funding Advice

A vision for cultural activity in Swale

Community Scrutiny Panel - Education issues

DTLR - Quality Parish and Town Councils.

Rodmersham Parish Council - Invitation to meetings. It was agreed to write to Rodmersham stating that Bapchild would be happy to attend meetings upon receipt of knowledge that a mutual interest item was to be discussed.

Clerks and Councils Direct - Sept and Nov 2001.

Local Council Review - Sept and Nov 2001.

Environment Agency - Kent Area External Annual Review 00/01.

KPA - News Oct '01.

Any Other Business:

Mrs Trott asked that should a new road be named consideration should be given to naming the road "Rowena".

Mrs Culver asked whether anything could be done to involve and encourage the new residents of the new estate. It was agreed to mention this in the newsletter. Mrs West asked with regard to the number of Councillors on the Parish Council stating that the increase in the number of parishioners could trigger an increase in the number of members. The Clerk answered by stating that the Boundary Commission regulated the number of Councillors but that when a future review is done then this might trigger an increase, although it was recognised that Parish Council membership would always be an odd number thus necessitating an increase of two.

Mr Smith reported on the unacceptable parking in Panteny Lane. This had been mentioned to the police at the last meeting. It was agreed to follow up this enquiry.

The chairman reported on a street light out in Wihtrred Road. It was agreed to report this.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 22nd January 2002 at 7.30p.m.

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

Chairman.....

Date.....

