

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting 25th March 2003

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 25th March 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 Mrs Vincent.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 21st January 2003 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record.

Mrs Vincent: The Chairman welcomed Mrs Vincent and Members agreed to allow Mrs Vincent to address the meeting. Mrs Vincent stated that she lived in Morris Court Farm and that since last year there had been organised football coaching/matches on Sunday mornings lasting for about two hours. Although the children playing were young the grass was becoming spoilt for other users and she was concerned that permanent damage to the grass would result from this activity. Could the children use the School playing field?

Mr Cooke considered that the grass would recover and that it was unlikely that permanent damage would occur. Members agreed that no objection would be raised by the Parish Council regarding this activity.

### 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. It was considered that without regular cleaning the reflection was inadequate and that an accident would occur, especially road users travelling West from Faversham

School Lane - Traffic calming and on street parking. The Chairman stated that although he considered the road humps in School Lane were inadequate and not to specification, he reported that Swale Borough Council were not going to enforce further action to rectify the problem.

Panteny Lane – Road integrity, Car parking, Fencing and verge maintenance. It was reported that Swale Borough Council Highway Engineers had confirmed that Wards had accepted the maintenance of fence and verges along Panteny Lane. Also, they had found no problem regarding the road integrity. The Clerk reported that the Highway Engineers had indicated that rural parking issues were being addressed in a structured way starting in Faversham and that Bapchild would be considered within a year or so. Cllr Jordan was aware of this seemingly unacceptable situation.

Footpath, Morris Court Close - overgrowth. The Chairman reported that the Clerk had informed Teynham Landscaping to go ahead with the work, which firm's quote was the most economic after receiving three tenders for the work.

Electronic Speed Warning Signs – The Police had suggested that a temporary electronic speed flashing sign be used in The Street. This was agreed as a good idea.

*Common Land Registration:* The Clerk reported that so far no response had been received from the request for statements.

*Litter – emanating from the Fruit Stall:* It was noted that Swale Borough Council had arranged regular litter picks on the public areas. However, it was noted that litter

was still emanating from the fruit stall and that on privately owned areas there was still a problem. It was agreed to again contact Mr Hill, Swale Borough Council requesting his help.

*Parish Website:* Mr A Hudson reported that he was still pressing organisations to provide information. However, the Web-site was ready for launch when the newly elected Parish Council arrange the date of the open evening.

Planning Matters:

Planning Decisions:

Advanced Earthworks and Flood Bund, East Hall Farm - Agreed

Planning Applications:

9 Morris Court Close – Front, side and rear extensions. No adverse observations.

East Hall Farm– Roads. Object

Bapchild Court – Garage, garden stores and games room. Mr Smith declared his interest in this matter and did not speak or vote. No adverse observations

Other:

Tonge Conservation Area. Swale Borough Council decision to accept the new area boundaries was noted.

Accounts:

Audit of 1999-2000 Accounts – re-audit by District Audit at no cost. Noted

To draw cheques:

Swale Borough Council – Grounds Maintenance, Churchyard/Village Hall area £1368.36

D Akhurst - Clerks salary and expenses £2664.00

Teynham Contractors – Grounds Maintenance, Footpath Morris Court Close/ Doubleday Drive – it was agree to draw the cheque out of meeting when the invoice is received.

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -  
Parish News No 290  
Local Councils Update  
Swale Area Committee, Agenda 3/03/03

Swale Borough Council –  
Funding Advise  
Housing Needs Survey  
Community Support Officers  
Flooding/Drainage Problems  
Highway Budget Meeting 7/04/03

Kent County Council –  
Rural Revival Grants  
Kent Trails

Clerks and Councils Direct – March '03

Local council Review – March '03

Letters from Mr and Mrs Mantle, Mr and Mrs Taylor and Mr and Mrs Smith all of Hemstead Lane, Bapchild. It was agreed to write to the parishioners stating that Members had noted their issues and were lobbying on their behalf.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Acceptance of Scheme.

South East England Regional Assembly – from Crisis to Cutting Edge  
Standards Board for England – Councillors Behaving Badly  
Kent Calor Village of the Year  
Sittingbourne & Sheppey CAB – Request for funds  
Groundwork Medway Swale Borough Council DEFRA – Licensing Bill  
Kent Rural Community Council – Kent Village of the Year  
Bapchild & Tonge Village Hall Committee – request for salt bin – this was agreed in principal

Any Other Business:

The Chairman reported that he had received complaints concerning large groups of youngsters roaming the village. Concern was expressed that there was unsocial behaviour problems coming in to the Village and some damage to the new trees, for example, had been noted. It was agreed to ask the Police for an increased presence.

Regarding the green at Morris Court Close it was agreed to arrange for further tree and shrub planting to deter footballers and it was agreed to contact Mr Tuff in this regard.

Concern was expressed regarding the roadside maintenance of School Lane underneath the Chestnut trees.

It was noted that the Parish Clean-up was to take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2003. Mr Cooke confirmed that he was able, with his helpers, to distribute the leaflets advertising the event with the newsletter before the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Parish Council Elections: The Chairman thanked Members fro their efforts over the last four years. It was noted that the election date was 1<sup>st</sup> May 2003 and that nominations should be deposited by Noon Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003

The date of the next meeting was noted as 13<sup>th</sup> May 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.....

