

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting 25th September 2001

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 25th September 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, Swale Borough Council Cleansing Section (Mr M Wheeler, Ms Pooja Punshi and Ms Ruth Cronk) and Kent Police (Ms Leslie Hunt and PC Lee Cumberland).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr A Smith.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2001 previously distributed with the agenda were signed as a true record. It was pointed out that the correct spelling of Panteny Lane was as spelt here.

Pooja Punshi and Mike Wheeler, Swale Borough Council - re Pilot Scheme for Kerbside Collection of Garden and Kitchen Waste. Pooja and Mike gave a presentation on how the pilot scheme had progressed and answered members questions. Over 127 tonnes of organic waste had been diverted from landfill resulting in a 45% recycling rate; the highest rate in Kent. Their team were actively looking to extend the recycling opportunities including can banks and plastics. Where a householder has difficulties with the new waste collection system, the team have met with the householder with the waste bin and have, without exception, sorted out the issues with them. The collection over bank holidays and the glass bank being at times full will be looked at and householders notified, additional collection facilities will be made available where necessary.

It is expected that the results of this pilot will be reported and consulted upon during November/December. However, the team thought that it was an outstanding success and thank Bapchild residents for their co-operation.

The Chairman thanked Pooja, Mike and Ruth for there attendance and they left the meeting.

Sittingbourne Police. Leslie introduced the new Community Police Constable Lee Cumberland who outlined his function. His area of responsibility covered Murston and Bapchild, but did not extend to Rodmersham. He was now available and he promised to look into any issues reported to him; the 'phone number is 584034. Members discussed various policing issues particularly traffic problems with car parking and vehicle speeding being a problem and members raised several examples of problem areas. Members requested a more prominent 30 m.p.h./gateway feature on the A2 west of The Street. PC Cumberland spoke with regard to mobile speed check units and this may be a possibility in Bapchild and he would look into the other traffic issues.

The Hawkeye CCTV system had received Home Office approval and the equipment including eight cameras is on order. The Parish Council confirmed their request for this surveillance.

### Matters Arising From Previous Minutes:

Footway and Highway Matters:

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

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

The Chairman reported that the traffic calming measures were now completed and that raised kerbs and new street furniture would be installed at the time of the resurfacing of The Street.

However, the Chairman raised an issue with regard to the size of the road humps; some were bigger and had the effect of reducing speed, other seems not to do so. Furthermore, the table top hump at the junction with Ashted Drive appeared not to be level and motorists were veering to the side of the least height so as not to reduce speed. It was agreed to report these matters.

It was reported that the new fencing surrounding the Panteny Lane development was inside the existing fencing and hedgerow. It was agreed that the maintenance of the land outside the new fence, although probably still in the original ownership, would be a future cause of difficulty. It was agreed to raise this issue with the Borough Council planners for clarification.

It was reported that there was a pot-hole in Panteny Lane. It was agreed to report this.

School Lane - road narrowing because of overgrowth - The Chairman stated that the overgrowth had been cut back. However, material was still left on the road and so still effectively reduced the carriageway width. It was agreed to raise this with the engineers.

Common Land Registration:

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

Neighbourhood Watch - progress:

The Chairman referred to Mr Cook's letter which advises that the Neighbourhood Watch would revive in the autumn..

Parish Web-site:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andy Hudson who outlined his thoughts on the project. Mrs J Kingsley and Mrs L Trott both explained their involvement with the project so far; the most recent being a meeting held the previous Saturday. Mrs Kingsley produced a note showing the current thoughts which was the result of the meetings. Most importantly was the recommendation that there would need to be a working group of (ideally) three to set up and maintain the Web-site and also it would need the effort and goodwill of all contributors to update the site; it being agreed that not to update would lose all credibility of the site. Mr Andy Hudson agreed that he was still available to assist in the initial set up. Cllr. Jordan advised that there were grants available for projects like these.

It was agreed that the research done so far was most useful and it was agreed that the project should move forward. It was important that the village organisations should now be brought on board particularly the village newsletter organisation; it being stated that there is no intention to reduce the importance of this publication, rather to compliment it. Mrs L Trott and Mrs Kingsley agreed to take this forward.

Rural Development Grants:

The clerk reported that the grant application submitted to the Swale Borough Council had been successful. Cllr Jordan had spoken on behalf of the scheme at the Sittingbourne Area Committee. The Clerk showed members the catalogue where he

had chosen the Notice Board. Members agreed to the chosen style and agreed that the order be placed. The lighting work to the Village Hall had also been agreed and it was agreed that the work order be placed.

#### Planning Matters:

East Hall Farm - Development Brief. The Chairman detailed the matters arising out of a joint meeting held with Tonge Parish Council with Brian Lloyd, Swale Borough council Local Planning Manager. This resulted in a letter of comment and objection being sent to Swale Borough Council in their response to their consultation exercise.

Planning proposal at Rodmersham Court Farm - Business use. The Chairman mentioned the history of this application and the parishioners objections to it. It was noted that the proposal fell outside the Bapchild area and was in Rodmersham. However, there was concern that from a traffic viewpoint Bapchild will be much effected. Mrs Trott spoke of the joint meeting held recently with Rodmersham Parish Council with Mr D Wyatt, MP. Cllr Jordan mentioned that Rodmersham had two similar applications to convert farm buildings into business use and the clerk was aware of another in Teynham. A draft response was tabled and it was agreed with the addition that the Bapchild Parish Council wish to speak at the Swale Borough Council planning meeting now to be held on 8th November 2001.

#### Planning Applications:

17 The Street - change of use from house and shop to full residential - application withdrawn.

Sittingbourne Community College - Learning Support Unit - no adverse observations.

69 The Street - single storey extension - no adverse observations.

32 Doubleday Drive - single storey extension and conservatory - no adverse observations.

Wards, Panteny Lane - variation of condition 19 to allow part of amenity space to continue as a site compound - object.

Sittingbourne Community College - new two storey classroom and laboratory block - no adverse observations.

23 The Street - rear and side extension - The Parish Council look to the Swale Borough Council regarding the technical details of this application regarding the access and planning regulations.

#### Planning Decisions:

32 Doubleday Drive - granted.

Sittingbourne Community College - granted.

#### Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No. 274, 275 & 276

Parish News - Special Edition:

Local Council Audit  
Clerks Salary

Swale Area Committee -

Agenda 3/9/2001

Minutes 4/6/2001

Kent County Council -

Consultation on Proposed Management Protocol for Unauthorised Encampment on Local Authority Land in Kent and Medway.

Kent Trails  
Bapchild Road Reconditioning details and planning  
Rural Revival  
Bapchild and Teynham Reconditioning details and planning.  
Lorry Road Map for Kent  
Temporary Road Closure, Bapchild and Teynham  
Swale Borough Council -  
Youth Forum Survey 2000/01 Report  
Funding Advice - March/April, May/June.  
Kent Design - A guide to sustainable development  
Organic News  
West Kent Mental Health Council - Annual Report  
Medway and Swale Community Health Council - Annual Report 2000/01.  
Local Council Commission for England - Final Recommendations.  
Kent Police News  
SUN timetable.  
Clerks and Councils Direct - May and July 2001.  
Local Council Review - May and July 2001.  
Environment Agency - Kent Area External Business Plan.  
West Kent Primary Care Trust for Swale.

Any Other Business:

Mr B Rogers reported that the litter bin on the East side of Bapchild on the A2 was still unsecured. He further reported that he had resigned his position as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee. It was noted therefore that a replacement was required and this issue should be placed on the next agenda

Mrs West thought that the litter bin on Fox Hill was missing. She agreed to find out.

A copy letter had been received from Mrs Carol Mantle regarding the poor condition of the junction of Hemstead Lane and the A2. Mrs Mantle asked Tonge PC whether arrangements could be made to have a flower tub located at this junction. The Clerk stated that Tonge PC were not in agreement with this suggestion but agreed to investigate planting low growing shrubs.

Mrs Culver reported that the footpath from Morris Court Close and Doubleday Drive was again suffering because of overgrowing trees from the boundary land between the footpath and the School. It was agreed to ask the footpaths officer to investigate this once again.

Mrs Culver reported that the footpath between Doubleday Drive and The Street was ponding. It was agreed to report this to the footpaths officer.

Mrs Culver stated that she reported a water leak in The Street, outside The Fox and Goose.

The Chairman noted with regret the closure of The Post Office.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 20th November 2001 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.03p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

