

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting 28th May 2002

The Annual General Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th May 2002 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Mr R Bush (Chairman), Mrs C Culver, Mr B Rogers, Mrs L Trott, Mrs J Kingsley, Parishioner Mrs V Smith and Cllr D Jordan.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr A Smith (vice Chairman) and Mrs G West.

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

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

It was agreed to record member's compliments regarding the work achieved during the last year by the Chairman and Clerk.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th March 2002 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 further progress to report.

Lighting central reservations and on street parking, The Street: (See also Annual Assembly). The Chairman reported that letters of complaint from Mrs Holton and Mrs Crispin had been received regarding the on street parking at or close to Bapchild Motoring World. Several traffic calming central reservations continued to be unlit and after discussing this issue with Peter Fairweather, KCC, it was admitted that there were inherent faults with this manufacture of lights throughout Kent. These issues should have been resolved three years ago (next October). The Clerk and Cllr Jordan reported on recent discussions with the traffic engineers, which revealed that the new maintenance contractors have stated that there was insufficient room for operatives to manoeuvre to maintain the traffic islands. Promises of swift action to repair the street lights was noted.

Vehicle Parking in The Street: - A letter had been received from Swale Traffic engineers dated 15th May 2002 regarding the meeting with Bapchild Motoring World representatives and was read to the meeting. It was noted that the Bapchild Motoring World did not wish that the Parish Council have the minutes of the meeting. The Engineer, Mr Mark Johnson, wrote that he considered the situation much improved. Members noted that there was no customer parking at all on the site and this exacerbated the situation. It was agreed that the commercial parking in The Street continued to be a major hazard.

Mr Rogers stated that the lack of repeater speed limit furniture still allowed motorists to use the footway and it was agreed to add this to the correspondence with the Traffic Engineers.. It was agreed to write to Mrs Holton and Mrs Crispin outlining the Parish Councils position.

School Lane - Traffic calming. The Chairman reported on his correspondence with the highway engineers with regard to the efficiency of the road humps. It had been acknowledged that the humps were not to acceptable specification.

Panteny Lane - fencing and hedgerow maintenance. – See Annual Assembly
Footpath - overgrowth and ponding. Mrs Culver met with a representative of KCC on site regarding the Morris Court Close footpath. Regarding the ponding, he stated that this was not his responsibility but he would forward the problem to SBC highways and ask regarding a stop cycling sign. He agreed to discover whose legal responsibility the footpath edges were; he agreed to arrange a general tidy and trim but was not prepared to clear natural foliage. It was agreed that the Parish Council obtain a quote for clearing this area.

Mr Rogers reported that the Hemstead Lane junction with the A2 and outside Pretoria Cottages (91-93 The Street) was still flooding. It was agreed to report these issues.

Common Land Registration: The Clerk reported that there was no further progress to report on this matter.

Kent Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: It was agreed to invite Geoff Cook and Geoff Williams to the next meeting.

Parish Website: It was reported that work was continuing and that a link in with the new Village Hall website would be arranged.

Residential Caravan, Hemstead Lane: The response from the planning department of Swale Borough Council was read to the meeting which explained that the site was allowed for non-permanent occupation. Members also noted that residents at this site had entries in the telephone book and the election register. It was agreed to advise Swale Borough Council regarding this.

Accounts:

It was proposed by Mr Rogers and seconded by Mrs J Kingsley and agreed to draw the following cheques:

Cornhill Insurance – Annual Premium - £267.67
KAPC – Annual Membership – £233.12
SLCC Publications – Book - £9.95
SEEB – repairs o/s 57 School Lane - £36.98

Audit Commission – External Audit arrangements from April 2002 – Noted

Audit of Accounts – matters raised:

National Savings Bank Investment A/c – update book to current – action to update book agreed.

Retrospective approval required regarding paid account for grounds maintenance for Bapchild churchyard £1311.37 drawn 31/3/01, not previously minuted – it was agreed to minute the approval of expenditure and the issue of the cheque.

Obtain audit certificate from PWC – agree to request and write to PWC.

Internal Audit arrangement for audit of 2001/2002 a/c's – it was agreed to write to KAPC requesting joint arrangements be explored.

Planning Matters:

Planning Applications:

Landsdown Primary School – new staff room – No adverse observations.
23 The Street – extend drop kerb – object re concern as to width of the drop across the entire frontage.

Planning Decisions:
8 Morris Court Close – granted.
Sittingbourne Community College - granted

Other:
Planning Appeal – The Apple Barn
Officers’ letter re planning approval – Erection of 15mtr monopole, Hemstead

Road

Kent and Medway Structure Plan – March 2002

Kent Partnership – Vision for Kent

Swale Local Plan Review – Panel meeting 25/3/02. Mr Rogers reported that the meeting was very informative and well worth attending. It was obvious that the impact of the route of the NDR on Bapchild would be extreme. Cllr Jordan stated that the NDR decision is now a priority for Swale Borough Council and that there may be public money available for roads as the area is within the Thames Gateway area. It was agreed to have a joint meeting with Tonge PC to discuss this matter.

Correspondence: It was agreed to note the following correspondence -

Kent Assn. Of Parish Councils -

Parish News No's 282 and 283.

Swale Area Committee:

Minutes 4/03/2002

Agenda 10/6/2002

Swale Borough Council –

Swale Local Community Projects

Funding Advise

Kent County Council -

Kent Trails.

Swale Footpath Group

Upchurch Parish Council – Village Appraisal

Kent Police – Feb 2002.

Kent Fire Brigade – March 2002

Clerks and Councils Direct – Yearbook 2002

Clerks and Councils Direct – March '02 and May '02

Local council Review – March '02 and May '02

DEFRA

Kent County Constabulary – Swale Police/Parish Council meeting 5/6/02 – Mrs Culver agreed to attend.

West Kent Healthy Homes

Standards Board for England – “How do I register interests”.

Bapchild Village Hall – now on the web

Any Other Business:

Mrs Culver considered that an article should be published in the village newsletter regarding the criminal damage being suffered by parishioners particularly as a result of the new access to the Panteny Lane estate from Wihtred Road. This issue could also be raised at the Police Liaison meeting. This was agreed and Mr Rogers was to raise with Wards at a site meeting the fact that a double buggy cannot use this access because of the bollard positions.

Mr Rogers stated that the overgrowth at the junction of School Lane was still causing a problem for pedestrians. It was agreed to write to the traffic engineers again regarding this.

The date of the next meeting was noted as 24th September 2002 at 7.30p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

The Annual Assembly of Parishioners of the Parish of Bapchild was held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th 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.....

