

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held 22nd March 2018

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs L Trott (Chairman) Mr R Bush (Vice Chairman), Mr M Palmer,
Mrs M Pape
Mrs E Cruise (Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs C Culver, Mr M Juliens

In attendance: Cllr Andrew Bowles, Cllr Monique Bonney,

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

3.1 Signing of Minutes:

The Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2018 were agreed by all Members as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Ongoing Matters discussed with Cllr Bowles:

(1) Progress on the traffic flow improvement at Swanstree Avenue/A2/The Street

Members enquired whether any progress had been made. Cllr Bowles confirmed there was nothing new to report to date. Members enquired whether the traffic figures could be re-looked at as they have significantly increased. Cllr Bowles agreed to re-look at the traffic figures.

(2) Bapchild Parish wishes to gain full support to ensure there is a clear Southern Countryside Gap established on the South Side of the A2 trunk road between the village and Sittingbourne.

Cllr Bush thanked Cllr Bowles on behalf of Members for his support with this matter.

(3) Repair of Footways (following recent works being undertaken by SGN to upgrade the gas main).

Cllr Bush had heard from Neil Tree to confirm Bapchild is on the list for repairs to commence, but the repairs are behind due to recent adverse weather conditions.

(4) Request to be kept updated re Stones Farm and possible use within the village of 106 contributions before it goes elsewhere.

See entry 4.2.1 below for updates on Stones Farm.

4.1 Morris Court Farm -

4.1.1 It was confirmed by Cllr Bonney that reserved matters concerning the 8 houses had been released on the Planning Portal yesterday. Members and the Clerk reported not seeing this information, but further enquiries revealed the site address had been changed to Church Street Rodmersham. Members agreed to check this further and to view the Appearance/Landscape/Layout Scale drawings for any further comments.

4.2 – Stones Farm

4.2.1 Paul Sharpe confirmed by email that Chartway Group had acquired the Stones Farm site on 16th March 2018. There was, however, no further progress, and negotiations are ongoing concerning the Lansdowne School pick up and drop off point.

5. Amenity Areas

5.1 The grass has now grown back in the areas where it was re-seeded and levelled.

5.1.1 Alan Marolia confirmed that the Churchyard would be cut before the Easter Services.

5.1.2 It was requested that Cllr Bowles convey the excellent service provided by the Cleansing Team at Swale House. Members were impressed that fly tipping and incidents were dealt with efficiently. The new sign added to the gated entrance in Panteny Lane has made a vast difference as this was previously used on several occasions for fly tipping. The Clerk was asked to forward details of this particular fly tipping spot to our PCSO for reference.

6. Overgrown Shrubbery – Alleyway between Morris Court Close and Doubleday Drive

6.1.1 It was noted that this did not seem to be such an issue currently. The ownership/responsibility is still in dispute by various departments of KCC Highways.

7. Tree stumps – Doubleday Drive, School Lane

7.1.1 Cllr Bush is still awaiting responses despite chasing this matter several times.

7.2.1 Lighting Column replacement – the two replacement columns (previously delayed due to inclement weather) have now been installed in Ashtead Drive. A new LED lantern has also been fitted in St Laurence Close.

8 School Lane Closure SGN April

8.1 As this planned closure would affect the Village Hall, The Pre-School and School, plus residents in School Lane, a meeting was held with Southern Gas Networks this morning and the planned works have been postponed until June/July. It was also confirmed at the meeting that there would still be access to the Village Hall during this planned closure. Cllr Bowles suggested this works should take place during the School Holiday in July.

9. Horse Chestnut Trees School Lane

9.1.1 The TPO has completed a report on the condition of the trees, and mention was made of the ivy which needs to be removed, and further tree husbandry required. Cllr Bush will forward the TPO report to Cllr Bonney to ask if this matter can be chased up with Paul Hegley.

10. Planning Matters – Reference Application No: 17/505851/OUT – 80 Houses School Lane – response from Bapchild PC

10.1.1 – The response to this Planning Application was approved by Cllr Carol Culver, Cllr Matthew Juliens and Cllr Mary Pape and sent to Swale BC Planning Department – Cllr Liz Trott, Cllr Richard Bush and Cllr Michael Palmer having declared an interest. This Consultation has now closed.

11. Five Parishes Feedback

11.1.1 – Cllr Bonney confirmed the leaflet drop had taken place successfully.

12. Data Protection Officer

12.1.1 Cllr Trott confirmed that a draft plan/policy was being put together ahead of the forthcoming changes from 25th May.

13 Appointing a KALC SAC Representative

13.1.1 Cllr Pape was appointed and the next meeting at SBC will be held on 11th June 2018.

14 Maintenance of Grass Cutting/Shrubs/Vegetation after 31/3/2018

14.1.1 It was confirmed that Alan Marolia's team will be cutting the small highway verges in addition to the other village grass cutting areas (at an extra cost) to provide a uniformed look. The shrub bed maintenance has been handed back to KCC Highways.

15. Accounts

15.1 The Clerk presented a monthly bank reconciliation and statement together with a current balance on the account, which was approved by Members and signed by the Chairman as a true representation.

15.2 Cheques/online payments already drawn

15.2.1 14/12/2017 S/O Clerk Salary January £308.17

15.2.2 EDF DD 15/2/2018 (1-31 January 2018) £221.39

15.2.3 08/02/2018 S/O Clerk Salary February £308.17

15.2.4 07/02/2018 Streetlights Maintenance 3 of 4 £325.50

15.3 Cheques/Payments Due

15.3.1 Clerk Salary March S/O £308.17

15.3.2 Streetlights Repairs Inv 9413 £9.60

15.3.3 Streetlights LED Lantern St Laurence Close Inv 9414 £462.00

15.3.4 EDF DD 15/3/2018 (1-28 February 2018) £218.17

16.0 Any Other Business

16.1 Cllr Trott and the Clerk attended a meeting on 14th March 2018 at Bapchild & Tonge Primary School, where Mr Kelly and representatives from the School Governors had discussed proposals to replace the existing mobiles with a more permanent structure, also planning to retain one of the existing mobiles. Mr Kelly is hoping to put in a Planning Application soon. Visual documents will be available soon. It is also hoped that a Breakfast/after school Club might be introduced in the future which will enable pupils and parents staggered drop off and pick up times.

Cllr Pape enquired about the parking situation in School Lane and whether the School could operate a "drop and go" policy. It was also suggested that the PCSO could be asked to provide assistance and advice, as other schools adopt this policy.

16.2 Five Parishes – Cllr Bonney passed details on concerning Tunstall PC had formed a working party to look at compiling a combined 5 Parishes Neighbourhood Plan by pooling resources. The Clerk will email Tunstall PC to enquire further.

16.3 The Clerk had received information concerning how to report lighting faults reference streetlighting, bollards or signs not lit – suggested adding to the next Village Newsletter in the Spring Edition.

17.0 Date of next Meeting – Annual Meeting 24th May 2018 7.30 p.m. followed by the Annual Assembly of Parishioners at 8.30 p.m.

18.0 The Meeting was drawn to a close at 9.15 p.m.