

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 24th September 2024

A Meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held in the main hall, Bapchild & Tonge Village Hall, on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

1.0 Present: Cllr Liz Trott (Chairman), Cllr Richard Bush (Vice Chairman), Cllr Carol Culver, Cllr Matthew Julians, Cllr Mik Larking, Cllr Chris Clifton, Cllr Katie Pidduck
Mrs Liz Cruise (Clerk)

2.0 Apologies

Received from SBC Cllr Monique Bonney.

3.0 Minutes from Annual Meeting held 14th May 2024 were approved by all unanimously.

4.0 Matters arising from previous Minutes

4.1 Handover/security/Stones Farm Countryside Park – We received an update from Martyn Cassell, SBC the handover is still in progress and is with the Legal Team. We await a response from Graeme Tuff in respect of questions raised about the quality of the landscaping, particularly the banked area in front of the Spring Acres sign facing the A2. This was originally planted in a wild meadow style of planting but is now overgrown and looks full of weeds. A discussion was held around the bound gravel paths which have been laid as there are weeds growing over and through the paths in parts.

Action: RB will follow up this issue with Graeme.

In respect of Stones Farm PROW ZR205, a question was raised about whether the temporary closure could be lifted now the houses to one side of the footway are occupied. This is the footway which leads out to Peel Drive. The Clerk will check, but recalled the original closure had been extended to August 2025.

Action: Clerk to check the temporary closure Notice to confirm date for re-opening.

4.2 Fox Hill landscaping/maintenance cul-de-sac area update. We await a response from Graeme Tuff, but it does appear this area is being cut in line with our annual maintenance contract for other parts of the village.

4.3 Amenity areas – overgrown trees/hedge Doubleday Drive/Morris Court/PROW rear of school – earlier in the year we added the extension arm to the lighting column which has made the footpath area brighter. Dennis Fogel, PROW Officer visited and cut back some of the ivy which was growing out over the footpath area. It was confirmed the new Caretaker has now started at the school.

5. Highway Matters

5.1 Bapchild HIP update – The new school warning triangular signs have been installed and the SLOW road marking completed. There is nothing else outstanding on the HIP currently.

The village sign has been replaced on the A2.

There is annual road traffic monitoring taking place in School Lane currently.

6. Planning Matters

6.1 24/503147/FULL Siting of Portable Unit for smart repairs, Retrospective Application – Initially our questions raised had been covered within the Environmental Officer’s comments, but since there have been further comments and concerns by neighbours, the Environmental Health Officer has requested a Noise Impact Assessment to be carried out.

6.2 24/503158/ADV Advertisement Consent – Illuminated Totem Sign, Co-op – we have submitted our comments.

6.3 24/502828/FULL Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Plant Co-op – **has been approved.**

6.4 24/500125/FULL Pitstock Solar Farm – Cerda report has been updated – nothing else to add at this point.

6.5 21/503906/EIOUT and 21/503914/EIOUT Highsted Park, Cerda report has been updated – nothing else to add at this point.

7. Local Plan Review – update – Members discussed arranging an informal meeting with Cllr Bonney for an update on a list of items to include Local Plan housing numbers, implications of new regulations from the new Labour Government, GP health provision following the Bell Road proposed GP Surgery cancellation, and plans, Pitstock Solar Farm update, Highsted Park update.

Action: Clerk to email Cllr Bonney to arrange

8. Replacement noticeboard – update – Further to various options being emailed out for consideration prior to the meeting, the new noticeboard to be ordered and arrangements to be made for installation.

Action: Clerk to contact Greenbarnes to order and arrange delivery

9. Response to KCC Transport Questionnaire – Our response to concentrate on Swale area. Cllr Trott and the Clerk will complete. A discussion was held around the reduction in the local bus service leaving the village with one bus per hour. The village bus stop timetables are out of date (recently reported) and one bus stop has trees from a garden growing over the top of it. This has been cut back by the resident recently, but it needs further action.

Action: Cllr Trott and the Clerk to complete the online Questionnaire and Cllr Larkin will take photographs of the bus stops. The Clerk to chase up KCC for a response and contact Bus Companies.

10. Bank reconciliation – monthly reports for June, July, August and September balance to date and payments due were **approved by all unanimously and were signed by the Chairman.**

<u>10.1</u>	<u>Cheques/online payments already made:</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount (Gross)</u>
10.1.1	17/06/2024	EDF 1-31 May 2024	72.14
10.1.2	25/06/2024	Clerk Salary June	448.88
10.1.3	04/07/2024	Red Kite Pitstock Solar Farm Report	600.00
10.1.4	15/07/2024	EDF 1-30 June 2024	71.46
10.1.5	17/07/2024	Streetlights Invoices 14631 and 14615	682.55
10.1.6	25/07/2024	Clerk Salary July	448.88
10.1.7	26/07/2024	Shared Cost Pitstock CERDA Report	285.00
10.1.8	05/08/2024	Hudson Berkley Reinhardt Clerk Email	23.33
10.1.9	15/08/2024	EDF 1-31 July 2024	72.14

10.1.10	21/08/2024	CPRE Annual Subscription	36.00
10.1.11	27/08/2024	Clerk Salary August	448.88
10.1.12	16/09/2024	EDF 1-31 August 2024	72.14
10.2	Cheques/online Payments due:		
10.2.1	25/09/2024	Clerk Salary September	448.88
10.3	Income/Received Due:-		
10.3.1	End of September	Second Part Precept and Lighting Grant	7432.50

11. Any Other Business

This is for information only; no decisions can be made on matters raised.

11.1 It was noted a couple of cars are regularly parking in the entrance area to the Countryside Park. There had been some fly tipped cardboard next to the Fox & Goose near the pumping station area and this has already been reported to SBC by Cllr Culver.

11.2 A discussion was held about the purchase of a public access defibrillator. The nearest defibrillator is located at Hempstead House. It was agreed initial enquiries to be carried out on suitable location, (possibly the village hall as it is centrally placed in the village) and enquiring about the possibility of developer donation and other funding sources as a project for next year.

Action: Clerk to research further and report back.

11.3 Two individuals recently reported being seen inside the garden of a property in School Lane; also reports of some individuals seen hanging about in the vicinity of St Laurence Church and in Panteny Lane, where there had recently been a couple of accidents (speeding cars). Two individuals had also been seen within a commercial premises in Tonge which the Police are aware of and have been sent photographs. The Clerk reported prior to the meeting she had requested an update and the latest West Downs newsletter from our PC but was awaiting a response.

Action: Clerk to chase up newsletter.

12. **Date of next meeting** – 12/11/2024 **provisional**, to be confirmed - *see below.

***28/09/2024 IMPORTANT UPDATE – CONFIRMED - NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 7.30PM**

There being no further business, Cllr Trott thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Chair:

Date: