

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held 16th January 2024

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held in The Antony Room, Bapchild Village Hall, Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

1. Present: Cllr L Trott (Chairman) Cllr R Bush (Vice-Chairman), Cllr C Culver, Cllr M Julians, Cllr C Clifton, Mrs E Cruise (Clerk)

In Attendance: KCC Cllr Rich Lehmann

2. Apologies: Cllr M Larking, SBC Cllr Monique Bonney

Public Participation:

Prior to the meeting, a potential new member, Katie Pidduck was invited to attend. Cllr Trott welcomed Katie and introduced her to everyone.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting: It was agreed **unanimously** to accept the minutes of the last meeting held 28th November 2023 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by Cllr Trott.

4. Matters Arising from previous Minutes:

4.1 Stones Farm, Attenuation pond/handover/security/future management of Countryside Park – to be handed over to SBC once the 200th house occupied (as per the Section 106 Agreement). Chartway/Hyde are not quite at the trigger point. Prior to this happening, there are still issues to be dealt with including clearing the ditch, and removal of some concrete and metal debris. Chartway are still responsible for clearing the litter from the park area. SBC Greenspaces Team are also looking into how to effectively close off the entrance which runs beside the Fox & Goose to make it safe and accessible entry for all users and to maintain the access for maintenance vehicles and the Southern Water pumping station.

Action: *Cllr Bush to follow up the issues with clearing of debris/concrete etc.*

Spring Acres Further Items

- (1) Travel Plan – Since our last Parish Council meeting, we have not received any further updates from Tim Harris, Hyde Housing who is reviewing the travel plan.
- (2) Vacant Shop Units – Further to our letter dated 30/11/2023 to the NHS ICB enquiring whether there are any plans being made for improved GP services and for a Sittingbourne GP-led urgent treatment centre (similar to the ones at Faversham and Sheppey) we will ask for an update on their response which stated a revised Primary Care Strategy will be published in January 2024.

Action: *Clerk to email ICB for an update*

4.2 Fox Hill Landscaping – Further to our query over the poor quality of the grass and the type of grass mix used (the specification is on the drawing) Cllr Lehmann confirmed he still awaits a response to his previous emails and telephone calls chasing up the issue but will email an update upon receipt.

4.3 Amenity Areas – overgrown trees/hedge Doubleday/Morris Court Close/PROW rear of school. There has been no further activity since the growth was last cleared around the lighting column. It was agreed to email Denis Fogel the new PROW Officer for further guidance.

Action: *Clerk to email Denis Fogel*

5. Highway Matters

5.1 As part of the process of the possibility of introducing a single yellow line (SYL) to parts of School Lane, we carried out an informal consultation with those residents most affected, also the Village Hall Committee and Bapchild & Tonge CE Primary School. The next step in the process is to forward a summary of the results to KCC Officers and ask for their guidance on whether there are other alternatives to a SYL. A discussion was held around the issue of whether parking on a SYL is enforceable and how this would work in practice without regular Parking Enforcement Officers being present. The parking issues have improved with the after-school clubs resulting in staggered pick-up times, and some children use scooters, or walk to school, and use the Ashtead Drive gated entrance. The mornings are a busier time with the drop-offs.

Action: Clerk to forward results to KCC Officer.

6. Planning Matters

6.2 21/501334/OUT Provectus 95 Houses Fox Hill/School Lane Planning Application. There are no updates.

KCC/SW/0204/2023 Section 73 to vary conditions and extend brickearth extraction until 31/10/2026 Panteny Lane – decision imminent.

7. Pitstock Solar Farm

Further to the pre-application consultation events It was agreed to email Cllr Bonney to enquire whether there has been a further update on this item and members considered and **approved unanimously** to make a contribution towards the CERDA response if and when an application is lodged.

Action: Clerk to email Cllr Bonney

8. **Local Plan Review – update.** It was agreed to email Cllr Bonney for any updates including the 5-year land supply figure.

Action: Clerk to email Cllr Bonney

9. **Project – consider replacing the noticeboard** – A discussion was held around the noticeboard outside Bapchild & Tonge Village Hall which was installed around the time the village hall opened in 1988. Unfortunately, it is now beyond economic repair. Members discussed various options including replacing it with timber (oak), man-made timber, or aluminium and to enquire whether Hyde Homes intend for one to be installed near the retail area, Stones Farm. Members **approved unanimously** to replace the current noticeboard once a suitable replacement is sourced.

Action: Clerk to email various examples to members in advance of the March meeting and to email an enquiry to Hyde/Chartway.

10. **Bank reconciliation – monthly reports for December, January balance to date** – Members approved the finance reports unanimously, together with the payments due.

10.1	<u>Cheques/online payments already made:</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10.1.1	27/11/2023	Clerk Salary November	417.88
10.1.2	15/12/2023	EDF 1-30 November 2023	85.20

10.1.3	27/12/2023	Clerk Salary December (includes backdated increase)	634.88
	<u>Cheques/online payments due:</u>		
10.2.1	16/01/2024	EDF 1-31 December 2023	85.67
10.2.3	28/01/2024	Clerk Salary January 2024	448.88
10.3	Income/Received Due:-		

11.0 Any Other Business

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

11.1 Bapchild Fruit Stall

Bapchild Fruit & Vegetable Stall closed at Christmas and didn't re-open after the New Year. We have not received confirmation this will be a permanent arrangement.

11.2 Update on empty property St Laurence Close – Further to the query raised at our last meeting, we have received confirmation from Southern Housing they are aware the property is empty, but their Tenant is currently away, and a Housing Officer will be visiting to check the overgrown garden.

Action: Clerk to check again with Southern Housing reference the overgrown garden.

11.3 New member – Clerk to provide Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Registerable Interests forms to Katie for completion and return together with Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

Action: Clerk to issue forms

11.4 Potholes - School Lane (near junction with St Laurence Close) and top of Doubleday Drive. These were reported using the KCC online reporting tool and have been repaired.

12.0 Notification of Meetings –

Update from KALC SAC 12th December meeting - Cllr Clifton attended this meeting and reported one item from the agenda in relation to speed watch confirmed unless an officer is present the letters sent out by PCSO's to speeding vehicles aren't enforceable. With an officer present they can give out speeding tickets which will make a difference in future.

13.0 Date of Next Meeting: - 26th March 2024

There being no other business Cllr Trott, declared the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.