

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday 24th January 2023

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at Bapchild Village Hall Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Cllr Monique Bonney

2. Apologies: Cllr M Palmer, Cllr M Juliens, KCllr Rich Lehmann.

Public Participation: We welcomed a resident from The Street, Bapchild

3. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting: It was agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the last meeting held 22nd November 2022 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from previous Minutes:

4.1 Stones Farm: Attenuation pond update. Cllr Bonney expected a Site meeting would be going ahead within the next couple of weeks between herself, the Developer, Hydrologist, and SBC.

4.2 Fox Hill landscaping/maintenance – tree planting update. Cllr Lehmann had emailed to confirm the Planting Plan had been submitted but a query had been raised over one of the tree species. It was agreed to email Cllr Lehmann back to confirm the tree planting would take place before the season finishes.

Action: Clerk to email Cllr Lehmann for further update

4.3 Amenity areas – update shrub bed/trees Doubleday/Morris Court/PROW rear of school. The Clerk had heard from the Chair of Governors, Susannah Butcher, that the light was now clear of branches, and this would be monitored for future growth. Another issue was raised concerning a large ivy-covered tree stump within the school boundary which is leaning towards the PROW and has become loosened during the recent windy weather. It was agreed to thank Susannah for her update and enquire when the other clearing of overgrowth and precarious tree stump would be carried out.

Action: Clerk to email Chair of Governors for an update.

5. Highway Matters

5.1 Bapchild HIP – HGV weight restrictions Panteny Lane, Church Street, Rodmersham. It was agreed to add the weight restrictions to Panteny Lane, Church Street and beyond to our HIP.

Cllr Culver reported the pothole outside no 55 The Street for repair to KCC. Aprille Hall from KCC confirmed a patch repair would be carried out once the temporary traffic lights had been removed.

5.2 Announcement TRO commences 13/1/2023 reduction in speed limit Teynham, Tonge, Bapchild. Cllr Lehmann had emailed to say KCC's consultation on the speed limit reduction along the A2 between Bapchild and Teynham and through Tonge opens 13th January and runs until midday Monday 6th February. If no objections received the speed limit reduction should be in place by the Spring. Any objections would mean this will go to the next Swale JTB board meeting to be voted on. The Clerk has added the KCC Notice to the noticeboard and updated the website to inform residents should anyone wish to support this.

Action: Cllr Trott and Clerk to complete KCC questionnaire in support of this speed limit reduction

5.3 – **Water leak Church Street/School Lane, update** – This leak has been reported again by Cllr Bush. KCC Aprille Hall is also aware of this issue. This has been difficult to report since there isn't a system in place for reporting a water leak if you do not have a Customer Number or a property address.

5.4 **Ashtead Drive – drainage/flooding update.** Cllr Bush will update Cllr Rich Lehmann since we have had a recent issue with flooding being reported at the bottom of Ashtead Drive. Since the new drainage system has been installed it has flooded approximately 3 times. It has improved, but there is still an issue possibly due to field run off. Cllr Bonney suggested copy of the email be sent to the SBC Seafront & Engineering Manager, Mike Knowles.

6. **Planning Matters**

6.1.22/503724/REM Stones Farm Phase 2 – Queries have been raised By Simon Algar, Conservation and Design Manager, Conservation & Design Team, Planning Services Swale Borough Council. Comments were made in relation to the matters of townscape and setting.

6.2 21/501334/OUT Provectus – Fox Hill/School Lane Planning application – Nothing heard regarding this application.

6.3 22/502834/EIOUT Trenport Outline Application 380 houses – An extraordinary Planning Committee Meeting for this application (one of 3 in Tonge area) set for Wednesday 26th January 2023. We were only given 1.5 days' notice of this meeting – Clerk to email to Cllr Bonney copy of notice of meeting letter.

6.4 21/503906/EIOUT and 21/EIOUT – Highsted Park revised plans. We have been given until the end of January to comment. Cllr Bonney also confirmed CERDA Planning Consultants are looking at the amended plans.

The resident attending raised a question about the revised plans and the route of the proposed SNRR. Cllr Bonney explained this is a re-submitted revised application to be re-consulted on. The application is also dependant on the new motorway junction which would require a separate application and public consultation.

7. **Horse Chestnut trees – update.** Cllr Bonney confirmed further to her meeting with Paul Hegley further work was identified to be done to the tree opposite no 35 School Lane which has a fungus growing from it and she would get a further update from Paul on possible timeframe for the works to be carried out.

8. **Enforcement - Toll House new perimeter fence.** The Clerk was updated by Enforcement Team that Simon Algar the Conservation Officer is involved reference the timescale of the application due to the property being Grade II Listed. Cllr Bonney also updated Members that there is a new Development Control Officer, Ceri Williams, in place co-ordinating Enforcement.

A resident reported on the building/site office inside the perimeter of Thornhill Gardens which was still in place. Cllr Bush will email details to Cllr Bonney for the appropriate action to be taken since the area should be landscaped once the site hut has been removed.

9. **Local Plan Review update** – Cllr Bonney confirmed the Local Plan is still valid and National Policies apply. SBC still awaiting the Government Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill guidance being published.

10. **Bank reconciliation:** monthly reports for December, January balance to date – the Clerk had emailed the monthly reports to Members prior to the meeting.

<u>10.1</u>	<u>Cheques/online payments already made:</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10.1.1	15/12/2022	EDF 2 nd -30 th November 2022	79.56
10.1.2	28/12/2022	Clerk Salary December	417.88
10.1.3	17/01/2023	EDF 1 st – 31 st December 2022	83.74
10.2	<u>Cheques/online payments due:</u>		
10.2.1	28/01/2023	Clerk Salary January 2023	417.88

Finance reports for December and January balance to date, including the Clerk salary due January 2023 were **approved unanimously** by Members.

11.0 **Addendum to Budget Report** to reflect reduction in SBC Lighting Grant 2023 – 2024 – The Clerk had received a letter from SBC reference a reduction in the amount of Lighting Grant. This is out for Consultation currently, but the proposal is for half the lighting grant to be awarded 2023-2024 and half the following year and then ceasing completely. The Clerk will need to add an addendum to the Budget Report (approved at the November 2022 meeting) to reflect the reduction proposed (amount due £1085). This was **approved unanimously** by Members.

11.1 **Increase in Lighting Maintenance Annual Contract.** The Clerk had received a notification from the Lighting Contractor Ken Bonner of a 5% increase in the Annual Maintenance Contract, the first increase since before or during the Covid pandemic. This would add £58.81 to our existing costs. This increase was **approved unanimously**.

12.0 **Coronation King Charles** – Members to consider a contribution towards the Village Hall Committee event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles Village Hall - £250 **approved unanimously**.

Action: Clerk to email Alan Ball confirmation of contribution.

13.0 **Any Other Business**

(a) General discussion around the Parish Council Local Elections – date set 4th May 2023.

(ii) Cllr Culver had met with some Members of Tonge Parish Council who were discussing the PROW ZR192 near Tonge Pond area. It is understood the landowners wish for the existing route to be re-routed to along the road rather than on the private land. A discussion was held regarding the established route walked by many local residents over a number of years.

(iii) With regard to King Charles’ Coronation it was suggested we hold our next Litter Pick on the Bank Holiday Monday (Volunteer Day) – 8th May 2023.

13.1 Next Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting to be held Monday 27th February 2023 5.30 pm remotely and the KALC SAC meeting will be 14th March to be held Council Chambers, Swale House.

14. **Date of next meeting** – March meeting date to be confirmed together with venue. Currently the Antony Room is being refurbished due to flooding and the Main Hall is booked during March.

There being no further business, Cllr Trott declared the meeting closed at 9.41 pm.