

## BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held in The Antony Room, Bapchild Village Hall, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm.

**1. Present:** Cllr L Trott (Chairman), Cllr C Culver, Cllr M Larking, Cllr C Clifton, Cllr K Pidduck, Mrs E Cruise (Clerk)

In Attendance: PC Kirsten Jones

**2. Apologies:** Cllr R Bush (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M Julians  
KCllr Rich Lehmann, SBC Cllr Monique Bonney

**Public Participation:**

There were no public attendees.

At the beginning of the evening, PC Kirsten Jones attended to give an update on any local incidents. Cllr Trott welcomed Kirsten. Kirsten confirmed there wasn't a lot to report, although a number of local villages (including Bapchild) had reported nuisance off-road motorbikes and quad bikes mainly occurring at weekends. The bikes didn't have number plates on them. On 17<sup>th</sup> February there had been a "Day of Action" with the Rural Liaison Team, but unfortunately there were no sightings of off-road bikes that day. Kirsten confirmed the Police will continue to monitor the situation going forward and if anyone sees the bikes to continue report them.

Members asked about an incident involving armed response, which had been reported in the local newspaper on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Kirsten could not discuss this live case, but confirmed this was an isolated incident and the Police had spoken to some residents at Spring Acres who were concerned.

With no other incidents to report, Kirsten left the meeting to continue with her duties and everyone thanked her for attending.

**3. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting:** It was agreed **unanimously** to accept the minutes of the last meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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**

SBC Martyn Cassell confirmed he is liaising with the developer over the pond handover and the Legal Teams are currently debating an issue with the line of the access road/path in one area beside the Fox and Goose. We also raised a query with the gradient of the first path running parallel to the A2 where it exits near Spring Acres. Kris the Warden has been undertaking regular site visits and the attenuation pond is working as intended with no current issues.

We also raised a query with the Greenspaces Team following the revised plans of the Highsted Park applications which shows a major highway route and to achieve this, the new Countryside Park would be divided in half. We have been informed by Graeme Tuff, Greenspaces Team and Cllr Bonney no views or comments on the applications have been concluded yet.

Cllr Culver observed the Heras fencing being taken down ready for the handover and there had been some other activity but there are still some metal spikes and concrete by the Northern bank. The plastic reptile fencing was still there. The ditch still hasn't been cleared nor the gully.

#### **4.2 Fox Hill landscaping/maintenance to cul-de-sac area update.**

We received an update from Cllr Lehmann to confirm re-turfing will take place during April when the weather is more suitable. There is likely to be a gap of between 4-8 weeks for the weeds to die off. Cllr Lehmann will chase up if this work doesn't happen during April.

#### **4.3 Amenity areas – overgrown trees/hedge Doubleday/Morris Court/PROW rear of school**

Further to our email to Denis Fogel, PROW Officer, we received an update to say he will write formally to the school asking them to clear the vegetation. It also appears from the footpath map/drawing supplied by Denis the PROW starts at Wiltred Road, then is interrupted where the tarmac path begins (rear of the school) and continues again on the opposite side of Doubleday Drive, following the alley down to the A2. According to Denis the tarmac area is "unconfirmed Highways Boundary." We queried this with KCC Highways who confirmed the tarmac path or hard surface is an annual inspection route and KCC would only maintain the hard surface.

**Action: Wait to see if the school respond to Denis and follow up with him and approach KCC Highways Engineer over contact details should we need vegetation cleared from the tarmac area.**

### **5. Highway Matters**

#### **5.1 Bapchild HIP update – School signs School Lane and painting speed humps.**

We received a mixed response to the informal consultation about the suggestion of a single yellow line opposite the school, mainly concerning how it would be enforced. We took additional advice from KCC and due to the difficulty with enforcement and after further consultation with the school we decided not to proceed. We wrote to the school suggesting the traffic situation would be monitored, KCC will be repainting the speed humps in School Lane and will be replacing the triangular warning school sign on the East side of School Lane and move the one outside St Laurence Church to a more suitable location. This will be carried out in the new financial year (April 2024).

It has been observed the after-school clubs have improved some of the parking issues due to the staggered pick-up times.

**Action: Clerk to Contact KCC during April for a timeline over moving the sign/painting speedhumps. HIP to be updated and added to the website.**

### **6. Planning Matters**

6.1 21/501334/OUT Provectus 95 Houses Fox Hill/School Lane Planning Application – We have no updates to report on this application.

6.2 24/500125/FULL- Pitstock Solar Farm – Members **approved unanimously** to share the cost of printing the plans and for the combined Parishes report to be provided by the Planning Consultant from Cerda.

21/503914/EIOUT and 21/503906/EIOUT Highsted Park amended applications update – shared costs, copy plans/comments/Cerda - Members **approved unanimously** to share the costs of printing the plans and the combined Parishes report by Cerda with Rodmersham, Bredgar and Milstead Parishes.

Cllr Larking enquired whether Teynham Parish Council would be holding an open day for anyone to view the plans who had been unable to attend the Rodmersham one. The Clerk has not received any information to date.

### **7. Local Plan Review** – updates – nothing to report since our last meeting.

At the Local Council's Liaison Forum January meeting which Cllr Trott and the Clerk attended, there was a Waste Management update confirming under the new contract commencing end of March 2024 SBC will be using their own vehicles. It was also mentioned not to use the site 'Fix My Street' to report problems as it doesn't link well with SBC's systems but for residents to use SBC's own

online forms.

**8. Fruit Stall update and PROW finger posts/access to and from School Lane/A2.**

The land owner confirmed Perry's have taken over the Tenancy for the fruit stall area to use it as parking. We have been in contact with the PROW Officer Denis Fogel to establish the clear route of the PROW which runs from School Lane through the Fruit Stall area to the A2 as there aren't any finger posts.

CLlr Bush has been in contact with Perrys so they are now aware of the PROW, but the correct route needs to be established and the finger posts installed. We are uncertain who would be responsible for the installation of replacement finger posts or whether it falls to the landowner.

**Action: Clerk to follow up with Denis Fogel over the replacement finger posts.**

**9. Village Hall – consider request for contribution towards fence panel and replacement posts.**

The fence near the noticeboard requires repairing, plus a couple of new posts (near to The Ridings). The Village Hall Committee have received a quotation for this work and asked for a possible contribution of £100 towards the repairs. Members **approved unanimously**.

**Action: Clerk to email Alan Ball to let him know.**

**10. Replacement noticeboard update (this item links in with item 9) – We will be able to progress this item once the works to the village hall fence are completed.**

**11. Street lighting – update and confirmation of EDF contract renewal.** The Clerk confirmed the emergency repair had been carried out on the lighting column struck by a vehicle in Hempstead Lane. Fortunately, our lighting contractor was able to carry out an emergency visit, reinstalled, tested and completed the work the same day. The Clerk reported back to KCC and SBC who had contacted the Clerk concerning this item.

Members **approved unanimously** the new two-year fixed contract with EDF which the Clerk confirmed commences 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

**12. Bank reconciliation – monthly reports for, February, March Balance to date (Clerk to report)**

The monthly Finance reports and bank statements to show the balance on the account had been emailed to Members in advance of the meeting and were **approved unanimously** by Members.

12.1	<u>Cheques/online payments already made:</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12.1.1	25/1/2024	Clerk Salary January 2024	448.88
12.1.2	01/02/2024	Streetlights urgent repair to column	210.00
12.1.3	15/2/2024	EDF 1-31 January 2024	85.67
12.1.4	26/02/2024	Clerk Salary February	448.88
12.1.5	07/03/2024	SBC Grass cutting annual invoice	3324.60
12.1.6	15/03/2024	EDF 1-29 February 2024	84.73
	<u>Cheques/online payments due:</u>		
12.2.1	25/03/2024	Clerk Salary March 2024	448.88
12.3	<b>Income/Received Due:-</b>		

**13.0 Any Other Business**

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

**13.1 Potholes - School Lane (near junction with St Laurence Close) update.**

KCC had confirmed although currently emergency repairs are being carried out, this area will have a proper repair once the new KCC budget commences.

### **13.2 Litter pick – new date to be arranged.**

Cllr Larking confirmed a new date will be arranged once the weather settles. Currently we are very fortunate and grateful to have a young resident who is taking her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and as part of the award she has been litter picking various parts of the village and will continue to do so over the next few weeks. Cllr Larking reported we have a new officer to contact re arranging litter pick equipment/bags etc called Sherrie Brown.

13.3 During the recent open day at Rodmersham, where the plans of Highsted Park were displayed, Liz Trott and the Clerk met a resident from Rodmersham who asked if there were TPO's on the 5 Copper Beech trees which mark the boundary of Bapchild when entering the village from Church Street. We will be following this up to find out if they have TPO's on them by contacting Mid Kent Planning or Paul Hegley, SBC.

**Action: Clerk to make enquiry.**

13.4 Cllr Pidduck had received a comment about overflowing rubbish bins in Randle Way and the dog waste bin which had been removed from Randle Way but not replaced. It was observed unfortunately, someone had been putting dog waste into the bin inside the playground area due to the dual bins being so full.

**Action: Clerk to report this to SBC and to request more frequent emptying of the bins in Panteny Lane green area.**

### **14.0 Notification of Meetings –**

KALC SAC next meeting date 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – apologies already sent.

### **15.0 Date of Next Meeting: - Annual Meeting and Annual Assembly of Parishioners **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024****

There being no further business, Cllr Trott declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.