

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting held 26th November 2020

A meeting of Bapchild Parish Council was held via Zoom on Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7.30 pm

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

2. **Apologies:** Cllr M Palmer

In attendance: Cllr Monique Bonney, KCllr Andrew Bowles

Public Participation: Three invitations with log-in details had been sent out prior to the meeting, but there was no public participation.

3. **Approving The Minutes** The Minutes of the previous virtual meeting held Thursday 24th September 2020 were approved unanimously by all members and will be signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters arising from previous Minutes:**

4.1 Stones Farm 18/5055151 Cllr Bush updated members on the response from Graeme Tuff (SBC Greenspaces Manager) to the enquiry raised about the Wardenship of the Countryside Gap and how the area was to be maintained. Graeme confirmed there would be some low-key signage indicating what it was and who owned the land, but in addition, we also need confirmation of how the landscaped area will be maintained by SBC once the contractor ceases to have responsibility; there are proposals for a community orchard, bat boxes, wildlife habitat. Also raised was the "SUDS drainage system" and how SBC would be maintaining that area. It was suggested a meeting with Graeme and Cllr Bonney would be useful.

Further to the development's earthworks a discussion was held around Tonge Pond/stream area - concerns had been raised about the recent flooding which occurred after the heavy rainfall. This resulted in a considerable amount of run-off causing a significant amount of silt to be discharged straight into the stream feeding Tonge Pond from Beckett's Spring. Ahead of our meeting a letter had been sent to the Environment Agency with photographs (18th November).

Cllr Bonney provided an update further to a recent meeting with Michael Payne Cabinet Minister for Highways and Transport and Simon James Snr Officer, KCC regarding the recent issues with flooding to Tonge Pond Stream. Following their visit, the Environmental Officers had reported inadequate bunding and further discussions were being held with KCC Highways as the EA queried whether the run-off was due to surface water from the A2 Fox Hill S278 works. This discussion is ongoing with various agencies involved and Cllr Bonney has raised this internally with SBC Planning Department.

4.2 Fox Hill – Completion of the cul-de-sac area, parking spaces, bus stop - The parking system has been established by Swale and the work has re-commenced on the lay-by area. It is still unclear who will be providing the new bus shelter, but Cllr Bonney confirmed KCC would be replacing the shelter. It was also confirmed that 20 parking spaces will be provided (there was an error on a recent drawing).

It was suggested we enquire from Mike Knowles (SBC) how long it will take for the residents parking scheme to be put in place (a further Traffic Order will be required).

We await a response from Chartway on a meeting with Fox Hill residents to assess the light barrier and possible issues with car headlights shining into the properties opposite the site entrance.

A discussion was held concerning the revised discharge application by the developer as the Management Company will be maintaining the entrance to the development and a query was raised over the Fox Hill border shown on the drawing as mixed planting/shrubbery (Southside of the A2).

This area is to be maintained by KCC Highways and not by the Management Company. KCCllr Bowles confirmed a Planning Application would need to be written to finally discharge that area showing both sides of the light barrier being maintained by KCC Highways. The Parish Council would like the area to be maintained uniformly. Cllr Bonney will follow this matter up with Michael Payne and Simon Jones.

4.3 **Amenity areas – update** – Further to the enquiry about the maintenance of the PROW area between Doubleday Drive and Morris Court Close, we received a response from Michael Ellis who confirmed following discussions with Gen 2 and KCC that the school is responsible for vegetation growing from their boundary into the footpath and the boundary is the edge of the tarmac path. Mr Ellis will be writing to the school. Also confirmed was the section of the path south of the amenity grass is on the KCC annual clearance contract. Photographic evidence of any issues was requested. Cllr Culver also mentioned the lighting column was obscured by tree growth (from the overgrown school trees) which needs reporting.

5. **Highway Matters**

5.1 **Swale JTB** – The next meeting will be 7th December 2020 and we have submitted information concerning our draft HIP for the Agenda, plus we await the results of a KCC traffic survey requested by Tonge Parish Council.

5.2 **Public Consultation Bapchild HIP** – Our Public Consultation ends 30th November 2020. We will be able to arrange a meeting with Sarah Ellcock (KCC Highways) early December, following collating the results of the consultation and writing up our draft HIP using the KCC Highways template format.

5.3 **Lighting Matters update** – The Clerk confirmed the Purchase Order has been submitted for a replacement lighting column outside 63 School Lane. Once we know the installation date we can write to the resident concerning this installation. We await a written report from Ken Bonner ahead of writing to the resident in Hempstead Lane concerning the lighting column which has been buried within a border/boundary wall. Once the budget has been approved, a decision to be made on approval of future replacement lanterns/columns.

5.4 **Flooding reported – bottom of Ashtead Drive** – The recent heavy rainfall caused flooding again at the bottom of Ashtead Drive. This was reported to KCC Highways who sent a lorry to pump out the water, but this is a long-standing issue, and members enquired whether further investigation by way of a camera to establish the cause of this is required. It was confirmed by KCCllr Bowles that planned maintenance of gullies has been stopped in rural areas by KCC and is on a request basis only.

6. **Planning Matters:**

6.1 19/500607/FULL and 19/500606/SUB relating to 42-44 The Street

6.2 20/504155/FULL 58 Randle Way

6.3 20/504109/FULL Bapchild Post Office 17 The Street

6.4 20/504368/FULL 9 Avent Walk (Granted/permitted 10/11/2020)

6.5 Planning Application KCC/SW/0240/2020 Bapchild School

No comments were made concerning the listed planning applications.

7. **Fernfield Homes Ltd 8 Houses Site – Enforcement issues update** – Cllr Bonney attended a recent meeting with Andrew Spiers (Planning Officer) and the developer as there were concerns raised over areas which do not meet the planning meeting requirements. Items raised were over the landscape buffer zone, low level security lighting, secure cycle storage and an alternative soft landscaping scheme to be submitted. The landscaping of the buffer zone was an integral part of the planning permission. These conditions were set by SBC Planning Department prior to occupancy of the homes.

Several of the properties have been sold and are occupied. This is ongoing and we await further information from Andrew Spiers via Cllr Bonney on these outstanding matters raised.

8. **Accounts** – prior to the meeting the Clerk had emailed out to all members the bank reconciliation reports for October and November with a balance to date. These were approved unanimously by all members and will be signed by the Chairman.

8.1	<u>Cheques/online payments already made:</u>	<u>Details</u>	Amount
8.1.1	15/10/2020	EDF 1-30 September	129.25
8.1.2	26/10/2020	Clerk Salary October	388.53
8.1.3	30/10/2020	Streetlights (Maintenance 3 of 4)	352.91
8.1.4	16/11/2020	EDF 1-31 October	111.25
8.1.5	<u>Cheques/online payments due:</u>		
8.1.6	26/11/2020	Clerk Salary November	388.53
8.1.7	November	Reimburse Clerk Zoom Subscription	143.88
8.1.8	<u>Income Due/Received:</u>		
8.1.9	25/09/2020	Precept and Lighting Grant SBC	7,329.50
8.2.0	16/11/2020	12 months VAT claimed	1,597.15

The amounts (as tabled above and emailed out to all members in advance of the meeting) were approved by all members unanimously and the reimbursement of the Clerk for the Zoom subscription and November salary.

****Important Note to all members with apologies from the Clerk. The numbering of the Minutes will follow the numbering as produced on the Agenda, but the numbering is out of sequence.***

11.0 **Adopting the Budget/Precept 2021/2022** – Prior to the meeting the Clerk emailed out to all members the Budget and Precept Report for 2021/2022 for their consideration.

Motion 1: To approve the budget for 2021/2022 as laid out in the “Budget for 2021/2022” spreadsheet.

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved to approve the budget for 2021/2022 as laid out in the “Budget for 2021/2022” spreadsheet.

Motion 2: To approve the Precept for 2021/2022 of £12,989.00

Resolved: The Parish Council resolved to approve the Precept for 2021/2022 of £12,989.00 as laid out in the Precept Report spreadsheet.

12.0 **Any Other Business**

12.1 - Refurbishment of the noticeboard/map outside the village hall. Cllr Larking confirmed this matter is in hand.

12.2 - Cllr Culver brought to the attention of members an issue with a manhole cover which has dropped on the A2 near to the new traffic lights and new entrance to Stones Farm. This will be reported using the online reporting tool but also it needs to be established who will be responsible as this area of the A2 has recently been re-worked by Chartway as part of the re-modelling and entrance leading into Stones Farm.

12.3 Cllr Larking reported the next issue of Bapchild News is due to be published in April (publication has stopped since January 2020 due to the Covid restrictions).

12.4 Cllr Larking also confirmed litter picks (group of 25 volunteers) should be commencing in January 2021 (unless further Covid restrictions are imposed).

12.5 Cllr Larking had been approached by a resident reference the PROW temporary closures on the Stones Farm site and whether they will be re-opened. Many residents have enquired about the Fox Hill to Peel Drive footpath. Cllr Bush will write to Michael Ellis for further clarification over the length of closures and KCllr. Bowles to be copied in.

12.6 Cllr Larking requested a follow up letter be sent to Blackbird Farm reference the entrance area to the field in Panteny Lane which has ongoing issues with fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.

12.7 Cllr Bush requested KCllr Bowles liaise with SBC over the Swanstree Avenue detector loops as one of the conditions of the planning permission is that none of the houses can be occupied until the traffic loops have been completed and Cllr Bonney to be copied in.

12.8 Cllr Bonney directed members to 2 grant schemes available to help businesses which have been affected by Covid-19. SBC website has the details, and the Clerk will add this information to the village website too. Cllr Bonney also directed members to the Public Health Messages on SBC website referring to Prison, Schools, Warehouse distribution in addition to Testing Stations information, Track and Trace, help for people who require assistance, emergency payments and to refer residents to the SBC website if they require assistance. Cllr Bonney notified members of a post-Brexit HGV parking ban scheme which covers Swale, amongst other areas of Kent.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was drawn to a close at 9.40 pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st January 2021 (Zoom meeting).

Signed:

Date:

Chairman