

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held 20th September 2021

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at Bapchild Village Hall Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.30pm

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

2. **Apologies:** Cllr M Juliens

In attendance: Cllr Monique Bonney, KCllr Rich Lehmann

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

3. **Minutes of Annual Meeting held virtually 5th May 2021** – it was agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the annual meeting held via Zoom, 5th May 2021 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

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

*As Cllr Bonney would be arriving from another meeting, members commenced with point 4.2.

4.2 Amenity Areas –shrub bed Doubleday/Morris Court Close update: The shrub beds have been cut back hard but some shrubs may have to be replaced. Despite being reported (with photographs) Blenwood still haven't cut back the verge outside the school perimeter fence and haven't pruned back the trees which overhang the footway near to Morris Court Close and are below head height.

We need to report two trees planted on the amenity area in School Lane have died and request replacements.

There is still the issue with the tree inside the school boundary which is growing around the lighting column obscuring the lantern. A copy of the previous report (with photograph) to be emailed to Rev Simon Young (School Governor) for assistance with this issue.

Discussion held around asking SBC (Jonathan Reason) to arrange a visit to see the size of some of the trees, plus add a request for sympathetic pruning.

5. **Highway Matters**

5.1 KALC SAC next meeting 28th September 2021 – 7.30 pm – Cllr Pape is moving imminently and therefore cannot attend this meeting. Members thanked Mary for her attendance and input. Cllr Pape found the KALC SAC meetings very useful. Clerk to email apologies to Nicola Butlin (KALC SAC).

5.2 Bapchild Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) update. Cllr Bush, attended a virtual meeting on 16th September with CCllr Rich Lehmann, Sarah Ellcock KCC and the Clerk. The Clerk emailed meeting notes to members in advance of this meeting. Sarah has agreed to improve the signage by adding repeater signs to try and stop HGV's using Panteny Lane (these signs are advisory only), also to reinstate the sign in School Lane, to encourage HGV drivers not to use it. Also looking into ways of improving the parking within School Lane and possibly working with the school to reduce the number of car movements to the school. Also, discussed whether KCC could work with the farms and businesses to try and reduce size of vehicles being used on the rural lanes.

Cllr Bonney joined the meeting at this point for further discussion on the HIP. Discussion with Cllr Bonney concerns about the large number and frequency of lorries moving waste material daily via Lenham to the Golf Range at Tonge. Cllr Bonney will look into this.

It was confirmed we will update our HIP with Sarah to confirm first stage has been completed and will move to the next stage. We still have an issue with speeding through The Street, Bapchild. Discussion about speed cameras, but we have been informed we don't meet the criteria for one (Kent and Medway Speed Camera Partnership). Suggestion made whether either KCC/Swale or the Parish Council could write to a local haulage company with a request they politely remind their HGV drivers about the speed limit and courtesy to neighbours. We are looking into the possibility of setting up a Speedwatch Scheme, but await further information on whether this would be allowed on the A2. Lorraine Holmes (PCSO) to advise further on this in liaison with Cllr Lehmann.

6.6 21/503906/EIOUT and 21/503914/EIOUT Highsted Park Planning Application – Discussion held around our response to both applications. We have been granted an extension until 31st October to respond. Discussion around the response to the West Teynham application and the SNRR countryside park implications. These applications are not within the SBC Local Plan. Discussed the review of the Local Plan and the Local Plan process – we await further details to be supplied by SBC in October.

Returned to point 4.1 on the Agenda.

4.1 Stones Farm – Vehicle Traffic Impact on A2. A fault to the Traffic lights at Stones Farm junction has been reported (KCC are looking into this issue). Discussion around the fluidity which the Swanstree Avenue traffic detector loops are supposed to give to the A2 which isn't happening.

4.1.2 Fox Hill Parking Permits - this scheme is working now. We have received confirmation the Light barrier test is not going to happen. Discussion with Cllr Bonney and Cllr Lehmann around the soft landscaping to the cul-de-sac area and the possibility of planting a row of trees along the barrier fence as a screen. Cllr Lehmann was asked if this was something he could progress with KCC.

Cllr Monique Bonney had concluded her business and left the meeting at this point.

4.2 (as discussed at the commencement of the meeting).

5.3 Lighting matters update – A further replacement column has been installed top end of Wihred Road. Seven lantern replacements remain on steel columns to complete the project. The Clerk will be updating the inventory and applying for the annual Unmetered Supply Certificate (issue date 1st October 2021). UKPN will email new certificate and copy to EDF.

5.4 Flooding previously reported – bottom of Ashtead Drive - KCC Alex Brauningger had reported an issue being raised with some old street lighting cables which had caused a delay – Cllr Bush will email to chase up progress with this scheme.

KCllr Rich Lehmann had concluded his business and left the meeting at this point.

6. Planning Matters:

6.1 Landscape Character Assessment update – this is not now being carried out by Wyvern Heritage. SBC have appointed a new consultant to carry out the Conservation Area Review for Rodmersham and Tunstall in place of Emma Rouse.

6.2 Fernfield Homes Ltd - 8 houses School Lane site – Confirmation received from Graham Thomas, SBC Planning Officer the developer will provide the agreed hedge planting to the buffer zone.

6.3 21/504190/FULL Retrospective Application for installation of mobile Launderette – no decision on this application yet.

6.4 21/504753/FULL 29 Randle Way ME9 9PW Erection of two storey extension (comments due date 27th September 2021) – members had no comments on this application.

6.5 21/501334/OUT Provectus 95 Houses Fox Hill/School Lane Planning Application. Provectus have been asked to provide further information by KCC Highways in respect of a traffic survey (letter from KCC Highways deposited on Planning Portal 13th July 2021).

6.6 21/503906/EIOUT and 21/503914/EIOUT Highsted Park Planning Application – Cllr Palmer fed back information from the multi-parish meeting on 1st September. In advance of this meeting notes had also been emailed to all members.

7. Clerk Annual Salary Review – NALC Pay Scales 2020-2021 – already emailed to all members prior to tonight's meeting. This increase of £8.67 per month will be backdated to 1st June 2021. Approved unanimously.

8 - 8.3.2 Bank reconciliation – The Clerk presented monthly reports for June, July, August, balance to date – which had been emailed to all members in advance of the meeting. Accounts approved unanimously.

8.0 Electric Vehicle Charging update – Bapchild Village Hall Committee feed-back by Alan Ball who has completed the application forms and awaits a decision later in the year. If approved, it will be in the hands of the KCC Surveyor to confirm the place of the charging points and the electricity supply route. Application supported by members unanimously.

9.0 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – No response received from anyone in the village to take this scheme forward.

10.0 Any Other Business

n.b. this is for information only, no decisions can be made on matters raised.

10.1 Public Transport Issues Swale (Bus Service) – update from Cllr Larking – there are two new hybrid buses X3 and X4 running from Maidstone in one direction to Canterbury in the other, every half hour. This service doesn't run on a Sunday.

10.2 Bapchild News – Cllr Larking confirmed this has ceased to exist with immediate effect.

10.3 Issues with Anti-social behaviour – discussion held about recent vehicle fire in Doubleday Drive, also a garage was broken into, a property with rear access to the garage from Doubleday Drive. Cllr Pape reported speaking to the Church Warden in respect of issues with anti-social behaviour in the Churchyard – The Church Warden will report this to Lorraine Holmes, PCSO.

10.4 Discussion about whether anything will take place to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration – possibly an event at the Village Hall. Cllr Larking will enquire via Alan Ball.

11.0 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 23rd November 2021.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: