

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held 23rd November 2021

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at Bapchild Village Hall Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7.30pm

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

2. Apologies: Cllr M Palmer, KCllr Rich Lehmann

In attendance: Cllr Monique Bonney, PCSO Lorraine Holmes

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting: It was agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the last meeting held 20th September 2021 as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. PCSO Lorraine Holmes – introduction and latest report: Members welcomed Lorraine and thanked her for attending the meeting. Lorraine provided an update since her last report from September. Recently issues were reported from the church with individuals loitering late at night. Police patrols were set up and will continue. Lorraine confirmed crime prevention advice was given, and there have been no further reports for five weeks. Also, issues reported with cars gathering in the village hall car park, antisocial behaviour, and littering. These issues have stopped too since the increased patrols. Should this re-occur, Lorraine advised to report this to her. In October, some tools were stolen from the building site (Stones Farm) – again advice was given on crime prevention to the developers. On the 1st November, a stolen moped was recovered from the field behind Hempstead House and returned to the owner. The abandoned Fiesta left in the Village Hall car park will be removed as Lorraine has traced the owner.

A discussion was held around the application for the 95 homes with a proposed spine road which will run via the Fruit Stall on the A2, up behind the Church, together with the proposal to build a car park with a walk-through to the existing village hall car park, which could cause issues in the future (bearing in mind the antisocial behaviour which has occurred recently in the village hall car park).

Members were disappointed to hear all the PCSO's are being re-assigned, which means Lorraine will be relocated from this area after 4.5 years in January. PCSO Katie Jordan will be joining our area in the New Year. Members thanked Lorraine for all her help and support and wished her good luck with her new posting.

5.1 Stones Farm 18/505151 – even though the detector loops have been installed to the Swanstree Avenue junction the A2 is still congested through Bapchild at peak times. Stones Farm junction only has construction traffic exiting currently but will have cars entering and exiting from the New Year as houses become occupied which will require further monitoring.

5.1.2 Fox Hill landscaping to cul-de-sac area – update – We received an update from County Cllr Rich Lehmann who initially met KCC Officers for a site meeting but was informed no trees can be planted until the site has been handed over to KCC but it is still the responsibility of the developer. Paul Gregory hasn't signed off that planning condition yet. Cllr Bonney confirmed she had spoken to Simon Jones from KCC/Highways but KCC are saying they haven't got the budget for any planting other than grass and funding is an issue. The Section 278 Agreement did not include any landscaping funding for the Fox Hill remodelling of the lay-by and it showed a grass verge. There are no commuted sums for ongoing maintenance. KCC are not opposed to additional landscaping but need to have the funds going forward to maintain it. It is the responsibility of the developer to submit a design for soft

landscaping but this is outside the scope of the S278 – should the developer approach KCC then they can open negotiations to secure sums for ongoing maintenance with developer. Cllr Bonney will contact Paul Gregory for any further updates and copy the Clerk in.

5.2 Amenity Areas update – rear of school, Doubleday Drive, Morris Court. CC, LT and LC are meeting with Graeme Tuff at 2.00 pm tomorrow (24th November) to sort out ongoing issues.

A discussion was held around the attenuation pond at Stones Farm, and it was suggested we should write to Graeme Tuff about the attenuation pond which is due to be handed over to SBC in a years' time.

6.0 Highway Matters

6.1 KALC SAC next meeting 11th January 2022. Mary used to attend as our representative – LT asked if anyone would like to take over attending these meetings – to let the Clerk know.

Mary has now emailed her resignation as she has moved. Mary put forward the name of a resident as a possible co-opted member and MJ will approach this resident and enquire if he is interested.

6.2 **Bapchild HIP** – Our latest update from Sarah Elcock confirmed she would progress the Speed Survey funding from the next financial year budget. CCllr Rich Lehmann confirmed Sarah has moved to another area and there are two temporary officers covering until the New Year. We have progressed the new signs, but the main ongoing issue has always been one of speeding, particularly along The Street (where we have requested the Speed Survey to be carried out).

6.3 **Lighting Update.** The Clerk confirmed another replacement lantern (completion of Wihtrud Road) was installed last week. This leaves a total of 6 lanterns to convert to complete the project; 1 will be installed prior to the financial year end (31st March 2022) leaving 5 to be converted to complete the project. SBC Finance have written to inform members the possibility of the lighting grant being discontinued due to budget cuts. We have written to Swale Finance to ask if they would re-consider, and this will go to a meeting on 8th December and the Clerk will be notified of the outcome following the meeting. The Clerk will email Cllr Bonney a breakdown of our monthly costs.

6.4 **Flooding reported – bottom of Ashtead Drive** – the new drainage improvement scheme by KCC Highways was due to commence Tuesday, 23rd but it hasn't started yet. The Clerk has added the details to the village website.

In addition, ML informed members the school has commenced their extension works and the access for construction vehicles will be via Ashtead Drive which will coincide with these planned drainage improvement works.

7.0 Planning Matters

7.1 **Planning Consultant – CERDA Report – update 21/503906/EIOUT and 21/503914/EIOUT**– We have sent our response to the second Highsted Park planning application to SBC Planning Department. The Planning Consultant from CERDA has emailed his draft report on this application on behalf of the four Parishes (Bapchild, Bredgar, Milstead and Rodmersham) in preparation for the final report. Also discussed with the CERDA consultant was advice reference a possible Landscape Assessment Report and whom to contact.

7.2 **Fernfield Homes – 21/500863/REM** Application for MMA to approve planning condition 3 (to allow landscaping changes) – We have received confirmation the Planning Officer, Graham Thomas has received the further amended drawings and confirmed the applicant is now planting the hedging as originally conditioned.

7.3 21/504190/FULL Retrospective Application for installation of mobile launderette – we await the final wording of the Planning Condition around the time – when the shop closes to confirm the opening hours of the launderette from Cllr Bonney to be added to the planning portal. Cllr Bonney to confirm the exact wording.

7.4 21/501334/OUT Provectus 95 Houses Fox Hill/School Lane Planning Application – We are about to submit our response reference the extra reports added to the portal. A discussion around the timescale for this application was held with Cllr Bonney. The consultation for the public finished in June, but a lot of information has been provided by Provectus since then. We have written to the SBC Planning Officer to ask if the recent documents have addressed previous queries raised by various consultees. Cllr Bonney confirmed once the responses from consultees KCC Biodiversity and KCC Highways have been received then the Planning Officer will be in a position to either delegate or take it to the Committee.

8.0 **Response to Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation (deadline 29th November 2021).** Discussion with Cllr Bonney regarding the Regulation 18 Consultation process. Discussion around the SBC 5-year housing land supply figure. Our response will be submitted by 29th November.

9.0 Accounts

The Clerk had emailed the bank reconciliation monthly reports for Oct/November (balance to date) to members in advance of the meeting. It was **Resolved** to approve the October and November bank reconciliations to date and to approve the BACS payments due. It was **Resolved** to reimburse the Clerk for the Zoom subscription (£119.00 + VAT) which has been renewed for a further 12 months.

10. Adopting the Budget/Precept 2022/2023 – Prior to the meeting the Clerk emailed out to all members the Budget and Precept Report for 2022/2023 for their consideration. Members discussed the position if the lighting grant (£2170 annually) is discontinued, the shortfall will come from existing contingency funds for next year; in future this will need to be covered via an increase in the Precept unless other grants become available.

Also, a discussion was held around the future budget/Precept, as we do not currently know when the newly occupied Stones Farm properties (occupation due to commence January/February 2022) will be added into the Precept total housing figure, meaning the amount of Precept we have will be divided between more properties sharing the same amount. It was suggested the Clerk should write to SBC Finance to enquire when the Stones Farm properties will be included within the Precept figures.

The only other ongoing expense we can foresee is we are being encouraged to be environmentally friendly and plant more trees, but trees require ongoing maintenance which require funding. We will need to consider these ongoing costs.

Motion 1: To approve the budget for 2022/2023 as laid out in the “Budget for 2022/2023” spreadsheet.

Resolved: The Parish Council **Resolved** to approve the budget for 2022/2023 as laid out in the “Budget for 2022/2023” spreadsheet.

Motion 2: To approve the Precept for 2022/2023 of £13,378.67.

Resolved: The Parish Council **Resolved** to approve the Precept for 2022/2023 of £13,378.67. as laid out in the Precept Report spreadsheet.

11.0 Any Other Business

A general discussion was held around greenspaces, landscaping and ongoing maintenance.

12.0 Date of next meeting – Proposed date Tuesday 18th January 2022 (to be confirmed as this depends on whether the main hall is available).

DRAFT

Signed:

Chairman:

Date: