

# BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Zoom Meeting held 21st January 2021

A meeting of Bapchild Parish Council was held via Zoom on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

**1. Present:** Cllr Liz Trott (Chairman) Cllr Richard Bush (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Carol Culver, Cllr Matthew Juliens, Cllr Mary Pape, Cllr Michael Palmer, Cllr Mik Larking, Mrs Liz Cruise (Clerk)

**2. Apologies:** Received from KCllr Andrew Bowles

**In attendance:** Ward Cllr Monique Bonney

**Public Participation:** Three residents were welcomed to the meeting.

We also welcomed Charlotte Whitney-Brown, Conservative Party Candidate for Swale East Division on KCC.

**3. Approving The Minutes** The Minutes of the previous virtual meeting held Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were approved unanimously by all members and will be signed by the Chairman.

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

4.1 and 4.1.2 Stones Farm 18/5055151 – future maintenance and wardenship management of the Countryside Gap and Attenuation Pond issues with Tonge stream/pond area. Members raised concerns about the size of the attenuation pond and how all the landscaped area is going to be maintained as the ongoing responsibility for this area as well as the countryside park will ultimately fall to SBC. Cllr Culver and Cllr Bush attended a meeting with various agencies recently which left many environmental issues unanswered. Discussed at the meeting was the ongoing Tonge stream silt pollution, which is occurring within the stream and the pond plus the responsibility for the Sluice operation at Tonge Mill which is privately owned. A further meeting to be arranged with Lower Medway Drainage Board, KCC Lead Local Flood Authority, Environment Agency, Mill Owner, Hyde Housing, SBC, Chartway and Icosa Water.

4.1.3 Vehicle traffic impact on the A2, Bus Service/Detector Loops Swanstree/Traffic lights into Stones Farm entrance, 4.1.4 Fox Hill completion of cul-de-sac, parking spaces, bus stop-update. 4.1.5 – PROW ZR191 update re-opening (next to Fox & Goose).

As a resident of Fox Hill area was experiencing technical issues resulting in being unable to hear the meeting it was suggested this section of the meeting be recorded. Cllr Trott asked all attendees, and everyone gave their permission for recording to take place.

**\*Recording Commenced** - Cllr Bush raised the issue that Fox Hill residents had been expecting a light pollution test to be carried out in respect of the new light barrier fence being erected. The test was to see if headlights from vehicles exiting Stones Farm would shine directly into the Fox Hill houses opposite the entrance. Cllr Bonney had spoken with Jamie Hare, KCC regarding this and the light barrier test is due to be carried out next week. It was explained that the fence was also to shield vehicles leaving Stones Farm from headlights of vehicles parking within the Fox Hill parking bays opposite. Cllr Bush asked Cllr Bonney if an email could be sent to the resident when the light barrier test was to take place.

A further query had been raised about the position of one of the new streetlights within the parking bay area. Cllr Bonney confirmed that the streetlights were the remit of KCC and had to adhere to strict criteria over installation/spacing – they were on the drawing.

Also raised was when the full parking zone area would be fully operational, plus the maintenance of the landscaped areas due to be planted. Cllr Culver confirmed receipt of an email from SBC Mike Knowles stating he has applied for the Traffic Order and this will go to the JTB (Joint Transportation Board) meeting. The permits and vouchers will be put in place and residents will be written to but because of the KCC elections in May, this will be unlikely to happen before June. Cllr Culver to forward the email received to Cllr Bonney.

The earth banks opposite the site were going to be 90% maintained by the Contractor Management Company and two small areas either side of the entrance would be the responsibility of KCC Highways. Cllr Bush and members enquired whether all the landscaping both sides of the A2 could be maintained by one Authority as this would provide uniformity.

There had been an issue recently with the waste freighter gaining access to the cul-de-sac and residents were concerned they would have to walk their bins down to the bottom of the parking area. This issue has been resolved and bins will be collected as previously.

Cllr Bonney had spoken with Jamie Hare (KCC Highways) who confirmed the Contractor wanted to complete the work by the end of this week as they are looking for "Stage 3 Sign Off" (Road Safety) – there would be a 3-4 month gap before this happens to ensure everything has been completed. KCC Clerk of Works has been visiting and will continue to do so before everything is signed off.

The Bus stop/Bus shelter – no news about the bus shelter. Cllr Bonney suggested writing to KCC Jamie Hare to enquire whether the bus shelter was part of the S278 Works. Also, to enquire about the rest of the landscaping including the vegetation expected to grow up and over the fence and whether this is part of the sign off process. Cllr Bonney will check the planning for the planting approval.

PROW ZR191 is due to re-open by 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 – it has been closed for 6 months.

We will write again to Alun Millard KCC Highways in respect of the Swanstree Avenue detector loops which are to be in place prior to occupation of the first house Stones Farm development. Cllr Bush carried out a recent 3 week traffic survey and despite current reductions in traffic due to Covid-19 restrictions, and no school traffic, there are queues of traffic stretching from Panteny Lane travelling towards Sittingbourne at 8.00 am each morning.

Cllr Larking also confirmed that the 333 bus service has been suspended between Sittingbourne and Faversham (this service had been included within the Stones Farm Travel Plan Document).

**\*\*Recording stopped as this concluded these issues.**

#### **4.2 Amenity Areas update – Doubleday Drive/Morris Court/rear of Bapchild CP School**

Further to our previous emails to SBC for an update on the maintenance/upkeep of this planted area, Cllr Culver confirmed she had been in contact and Jonathan Reason and Robert Lucas were the points of contact. Bapchild School had recently cut back some of the overgrown trees from boundary which had grown over and were blocking the lantern on the lighting column. The shrubs were due to be pruned by Blenwood.

#### **5.0 Highways Matters**

5.1 – Swale JTB - the next meeting has been set for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 5.30 pm. We await the results of the Tonge traffic survey. The Clerk to contact the Clerk of Tonge PC to see whether this has been carried out.

5.2 – Bapchild HIP update – prior to the meeting, the Clerk had emailed out to all members the Action Plan, with the updates to the draft HIP. Cllr Trott, Cllr Bush and the Clerk had attended a Zoom meeting on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with Sarah Ellcock, KCC Highways. The following points were discussed:

- (a) KEEP CLEAR road markings to be added to the end of School Lane junction with the A2.
- (b) Signage to be added to Panteny Lane – “Unsuitable for HGV’s”
- (c) Staggered junction warning signs to be added ahead of Hempstead Lane and Panteny Lane junctions.

The signage will be funded by KCC and is scheduled for completion by the end of March.

When we asked Sarah about the installation of extra Zig Zag lines outside the school (so they would be both sides of School Lane) she said this wasn’t normally considered but mentioned the possibility of a single yellow line. To be followed up as part of our HIP.

Additional items e.g. “gateway style” entrance to the village would need to be funded by the Parish – this was one suggestion to try to slow traffic down when approaching the village from Teynham or when leaving Bapchild and entering the 60mph zone through to Teynham.

Also discussed were the following:

- (1) Alternative measures to address the issue of speeding vehicles through the village – enquire about possible speed cameras/possible speed watch scheme.
- (2) A continental system whereby the traffic lights change to red to slow traffic down.

These other suggestions to be followed up and forwarded to Sarah for her further advice.

### 5.3 **Lighting Matters update:**

The Clerk confirmed the replacement lighting column had been installed earlier today outside no 63 School Lane. Eighteenth columns have been converted to LED. All obsolete Mercury lanterns have been replaced. According to the Service Report the next column scheduled for replacement is the one outside no 57 School Lane (on the amenity grass). The Clerk to request a quotation from KCC for this column approved by members unanimously. The Clerk awaits a response to our letter to a resident in Hempstead Lane where we need to convert the lantern to LED but the door to the column has been buried within a garden border (boundary of the property).

### 5.4 **Flooding reported bottom Ashtead Drive**

This ongoing issue has been reported to KCC Highways several times and a tanker had to pump out the water at the bottom of Ashtead Drive. KCC Highways Drainage Team are designing a new scheme for the area, but we have been informed this will take time to implement and is unlikely to happen before March 2021. A discussion took place with Cllr Bonney concerning the excess water which is flowing down from the field next to Ashgore’s House, Church Street, Rodmersham which continues up to four days after any rainfall, running down School Lane, pooling significantly near the speed cushion, and flowing into Ashtead Drive. The gullies are constantly blocked as they cannot contain the high volume of water. It was suggested we write to the Chief Executive of Blackbird Farming, Tim Malpas, to see whether any environmental changes could have taken place which are contributing to the excess water flow from Rodmersham area.

## **6.0 Planning Matters**

No new planning applications to comment on.

### **7.0 Fernfield Homes Ltd 8 Houses School Lane Site**

Enforcement issues update – cycle storage/lighting/soft landscaping. To date 5 out of the 8 properties have been sold but we still have outstanding issues which were raised last Summer. Andrew Spiers (Planning Officer SBC) awaits the revised landscaping plans. We will have the chance to comment once a revised application has been submitted. There is question about the legal status of the landscaped gap between Morris Court Farm and the development (the ten-metre buffer zone). This is not the landscaping scheme which was approved when the planning was granted. The cycle storage requirements have not been confirmed as correct. The lighting has not been installed to date. Cllr Bonney to enquire for a further update on matters outstanding.

### **8.0 Appin/Provectus leaflet drop re proposed 95 houses development School Lane.**

We do not have any news/updates concerning this proposal to date and no planning application has been submitted. Cllr Bonney confirmed there had been a Local Plan Panel Meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January concerning the draft Local Plan Review (Regulation 19) to be put forward for approval at Full Council in February.

### **9.0 Litter/Fly Tipping/lorry parking Panteny Lane, entrance field – update.**

The Clerk confirmed Tim Malpas, CEO Blackbird Farming had arranged for a barrier of IBC's to be installed at the entrance to the field area further to our previously reporting overnight lorry parking plus previously reported fly tipping issues/littering, and anti-social behaviour.

### **10.0 KCC – Consultation re a trial in Kent to increase lorry weight limits from 44 to 48 tons.**

We hope the additional signage – part of our HIP – reference “unsuitable for HGV’s” - Panteny Lane will in future prevent lorries using Panteny Lane and Church Street as a short cut to avoid using the A2.

## **11.0 Accounts**

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had emailed out the bank reconciliation reports for December and January (balance to date). These were approved unanimously by all members together with the Clerk Salary due 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

<b><u>11.1</u></b>	<b><u>Cheques/online payments already made:</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
11.1.1	16/11/2020	EDF 1-31 October	111.25
11.1.2	02/12/2020	Streetlights (new LED Lantern)	390.00
11.1.3	02/12/2020	Reimburse Clerk Zoom subscription	143.88
11.1.4	15/12/2020	EDF 1-30 November	110.44
11.1.5	29/12/2020	Clerk Salary December	388.53
11.1.6	18/01/2021	EDF 1-31 December	115.21
	<b><u>Cheques/online payments due:</u></b>		
11.1.7	26/01/2021	Clerk Salary January	388.53
11.1.8	<b><u>Income Due/Received:</u></b>		

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**12.0 Any Other Business**

12.1 Litter Pick - Cllr Larking confirmed the date for the next community litter pick will be 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

12.2 Newsletter – Cllr Larking confirmed April as the date for the next newsletter (pending Covid-19 restrictions).

12.3 Members enquired about the Vaccination site and whether Age UK would be the only site for Sittingbourne Residents. Cllr Bonney confirmed that the vaccinations came under the responsibility of the CCG's and Age UK was considered to be the most central site for Sittingbourne GPs, staffing had to be considered, and that was why the GPs had grouped together to provide the service. It would be subject to vaccine delivery too.

**12.4 Other Items for consideration/investigation/Agenda next Meeting**

Cllr Palmer suggested trees could be planted along the grassed verge area opposite the field in School Lane.

Further to a recent email from SBC about grants for Electric Charging points, Cllr Palmer also enquired about whether one could be installed in the village.

Cllr Pape enquired about the possibility of looking into purchasing a defibrillator.

Cllr Bonney has a small amount of funding left in her Local Members Grant which can be applied for (by the end of March? date to be confirmed).

Cllr Floyd enquired about speeding issues on the A2 and whether Kent and Medway Camera Partnership could advise, possibly the addition of a speed camera. This has been linked into our draft HIP as ongoing speeding issues were discussed earlier under Point 5.2.

There being no further items, the meeting was drawn to a close at 21:49 hrs.

**Next Meeting Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Signed:**

**Chairman**

**Date:**