

BAPCHILD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting 21st September 2017

A meeting of the Bapchild Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 21st September 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs L Trott (Chairman), Mr R Bush (Vice Chairman), Mrs C. Culver, Mr M. Palmer, Mrs E Cruise (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Andrew Bowles

Apologies: Mr. M Juliens, Mrs M Pape, Mr S Taylor

Public Participation: There was no public participation.

3.1 Signing of Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18th May 2017 were agreed by all members as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.1 PKF Littlejohn External Audit 2016 – 2017: The Clerk presented the External Audit Certificate (as signed off by PKF Littlejohn) for 2016-2017 (Section 3 of the Annual Return) for consideration of the report by Members. The Clerk advised that there were no issues identified by the external auditors and all aspects were found to be in order.

5.1 Matters arising from Previous Meeting:

5.1.2 Morris Court Farm – We are currently awaiting a response to our boundary enquiry raised with Alun Millard (KCC) in August 2017 and request for a site meeting to discuss access onto School Lane from the development for 8 dwellings. Also discussed with Cllr Bowles was the consultation proposal from APM Ltd for 80 new houses accessing onto School Lane with new revised access onto the A2 – Cllr Bowles advised Members should a formal application be submitted by APM Ltd to make contact with parishioners who had already sent in complaints/comments and ask them to write again.

We are also awaiting a TPO report from Paul Hegley the Tree Officer concerning this site as the Architect on behalf of the developer has made an application for an amendment to one of the planning conditions set.

5.1.3 Stones Farm – Members discussed with Cllr Bowles concerns over preserving the Southern Countryside Gap to maintain the gap between Bapchild and Sittingbourne. On the Northern side of the A2 adjacent to Stones Farm there will be a planned open space and Members were assured that Swale Borough Council are committed to maintaining the Southern gap.

Members also enquired with Cllr Bowles about the Swanstree Avenue traffic lights and whether the computerised system could be switched on now to ease traffic congestion along the A2 rather than when it is linked into the Stones Farm development.

5.1.4 Street Lights – The Clerk confirmed the replacement lighting column with new LED lantern had been installed outside number 49/51 School Lane.

6.1 A2 speeding vehicles approaching the village from Teynham – Members discussed this issue with Cllr Bowles and asked him if he could provide guidance concerning measures to address this issue e.g. Speed Check/Speed Watch.

7.1 Overgrown shrubbery (area between Morris Court Close and Doubleday Drive.) Our Vice-Chairman and Clerk had attended a meeting at Bapchild School with the newly appointed Head

Teacher (Mr Christian Kelly) prior to the Summer Holidays. Mr Kelly was keen to work with the local community and suggested forming a working party of parents to help tidy up this area, which in the main part affects the boundary of the school fence and where it aligns the foot path. He was also meeting with KCC Estates to try and resolve this issue (which occurred when the new school boundary fence was erected several years ago.)

Action: The Vice-Chairman will follow up. The Clerk to invite Mr Kelly to our next meeting.

7.1.2 It was also reported that the shrubbery around the bus stop on the A2 had re-grown partially blocking the bus stop signage. The shrubbery is growing from a private garden and although it has been previously cut back, it has re-grown.

Action: The Vice-Chairman will report this matter.

8.1 **Highway Matters** -

We await the removal of the middle tree in front of the bungalows in Wihred Road. It was proposed that a further site meeting be arranged with Alan Marolia to discuss this matter further, together with clarification over some of the shrub bed maintenance in the Panteny Lane area, (where residents have complained about certain areas which have become overgrown and require heavy pruning.) Cllr Bowles asked to be notified so that he could be present at this meeting.

Action: Vice-Chairman to contact Alan Marolia to arrange meeting, Clerk to invite Cllr Bowles.

8.2 **Lighting Column replacement** - The Clerk reported that the column outside no 2 Ashted Drive requires replacing as a matter of priority. We own 29 columns and Daniel Pritchett from KCC had previously confirmed that KCC would take over the existing ones adopting one complete road at a time (we would need to bring them up to KCC standards prior to them being adopted.) Our Chairman has been in contact with Matt Evans at KCC and is awaiting guidance from him as to the current policy. Cllr Bowles was asked if it would be possible for a Parish Council to commission KCC directly to undertake the replacement of the lighting columns.

9.1 Planning Matters – The Clerk confirmed there were no applications currently.

10.1 The Clerk presented monthly bank reconciliations covering the months of May, June, July and August and these were circulated to all Members who agreed they were a true representation and they were all signed by the Chairman.

10.2 **Cheques/online payments already drawn – approved by Members at this meeting.**

10.2.1 EDF D/D June £217.94

10.2.2 EDF D/D July £219.54

10.2.3 EDF D/D August £219.54

10.2.4 Streetlights Invoice 8922 Maintenance Contract Payment 1 £325.50 (online)

10.2.5 Streetlights Invoices 8943 and 8910 Repairs/Replacement £1483.50 (online)

10.2.6 Clerk's salary for June £308.17 paid via S/O 29/6/2017

10.2.7 Clerk's salary for July £308.17 paid via S/O 27/7/2017

10.2.8 Clerk's salary for August £308.17 paid via S/O 24/08/2017

10.2.9 PKF Littlejohn Invoice for Annual Return Cert. £120.00 (online)

10.3 Cheques/Payments Due: Approved by Members at this meeting.

10.3.1 Online payment due to be paid: Clerk Salary September £308.17

10.3.2 CPRE Annual Membership due £36.00

10.4 Income received:

10.4.1 8/8/2017 KCC Grass Shrub/Hedge Maintenance 2017/2018 £399.01

11.1 Any other Business - Our Vice-Chairman noted the damage which had occurred to the footpaths as a result of the on-going works to the gas main renewals in the older part of the village by Southern Gas Networks. It was proposed that this would be observed to ensure the paths are properly repaired and any necessary remedial action to be reported to KCC.

11.2 Members enquired if EDF offered any green deals (in view of the plan to replace the street lights owned by the Parish with LED ones,) or whether the Parish should try switching to an alternative supplier to reduce the monthly costs.

Action: Clerk to follow this up with EDF/alternative suppliers/Ken Bonner.

11.3 It was agreed the Clerk would email Cllr Bowles a list of KCC relevant items to be discussed as a "target group" and added either at the beginning or end of our future Agendas.

Action: Clerk to email list to Cllr Bowles, and to email future Agendas and Minutes.

12.1 **Date of next Meeting:** Provisional date of next meeting set for Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Action: Clerk to email all Members not present this evening to confirm above date is convenient.

13.0 **Meeting Closed:** the meeting was drawn to a close at 9.45 p.m.

Addendum: From Clerk:

All Members, please see list of items below emailed to Cllr Bowles in advance of our next meeting on 23rd November 2017.

(1)Progress on the traffic flow improvement at Swanstree Avenue.

(2)Bapchild Parish wishes to gain your full support to ensure there is a clear countryside buffer established between the village and Sittingbourne on the south side of the A2 trunk road.

(3)A2 trunk road travelling from Teynham speeding vehicles, any speed checks/monitoring available

(4) Attend Site meeting with Alan Marolia to further discuss maintenance programme (Members please note this meeting took place on 3rd October 2017.)

(5)Confirm the cost of a lighting column with breakdown of column and UKPN charge and whether a Parish Council can commission KCC directly to replace lighting columns.

(6)Repair of footways (following the recent works being undertaken by SGN to upgrade the gas main)

(7)Request to be kept updated re Stones Farm and possible use within the village of 106 contributions before it goes elsewhere.