

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 2nd APRIL 2013 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW

### Present

Cllr. Euan Felton (In the Chair)      Cllr. John Kennedy  
Cllr. John Bamberg                      Cllr. Iris Midlane  
Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth                Cllr. Joy Marshall  
Cllr. Rachel Gainey                    Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk  
Three members of the public including County Cllr. Dev Dhillon.

Cllr. Felton declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. The meeting was adjourned for **OPEN FORUM** recorded at the end of these minutes. The meeting was reconvened.

### PC/68/13 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon

68.1 Cllr. Dhillon reported that the LAF had now allocated sums of money to three different areas; for example there was £20,000 available for road safety projects and he would be happy to make any bid on behalf of Taplow PC.

68.2 He advised that National Grid were about to finish the work on the Bath Road and then work would start to resurface the Bath Road. He would also be going around with the Local Area Technician to try and identify the five worst roads in the parish to improve.

68.3 Cllr. Bamberg was concerned about damage to a fence where the Jubilee river meets Mill Lane. It was not clear who owned it. It could be the former mill owners - now in administration - or the Environment Agency. Cllr. Dhillon said he would be looking at all roads and pavements in the next few weeks.

### PC/69/13 Apologies for absence

Cllr. George Sandy and Cllr. Josie Corio.

### PC/70/13 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2013

These were **approved** subject to an amendment to record that Cllr. Gainey had been in attendance but had not been included in the minutes and Cllr. Felton signed a copy of them.

### PC/71/13 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

71.1 Cllr. Kennedy was concerned that his replacement by Cllr. Gainey on SBALC did not seem to have been recorded. Cllr. Forsyth said she had asked for this to be recorded but it appeared to have been overlooked. The Clerk was asked to clarify the situation with SBALC.

71.2 The Clerk reported she had had no reply to the letter she had sent to Summerleaze on the walk to school issue. The Clerk was advised that Mr Terry Stevens was believed to be the land owner rather than Summerleaze and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Stevens advising him of the letter sent to Summerleaze.

71.3 The Clerk was asked to write to BCC to complain about footpath 9 from Rectory Road to the corner with Priory Cottage as the width is not being properly maintained. The Clerk was asked to also obtain plans of all our footpaths showing their respective widths.

71.4 The contract for the grass cutting of the village green had been signed by Clarkes Gardening Services. Cllr. Felton was authorised to sign the same on behalf of the Council and the Clerk authorised to proceed to completion as soon as possible.

71.5 The contract for the lamppost maintenance had been signed by both parties and the Clerk was authorised to proceed to complete it as soon as possible.

**PC/72/13 To consider issues arising in connection with the Playgroup Contract**

Cllr. Felton summarised an email sent by the Clerk following a meeting she and Cllr. Sandy had had with the playgroup committee. The playgroup had said they could not afford to increase the hall hire charges to £9.50 per hour (ph) from £7.84ph. They couldn't even afford to offer £9ph. They were willing to offer a one off lump sum of £709 and agree an increase to £8.44ph increasing to £8.65ph in September. They also refused to accept responsibility for maintenance of the sheds. Following discussion **it was agreed** that further negotiations would need to be conducted, in which Cllr. Bamberg should be involved, after Cllr. Sandy returned from holiday on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**PC/73/13 To consider staffing issues**

**It was agreed**, for reason of sensitivity to financial information relating to employees, to deal with this in a Part 2 meeting.

**PC/74/13 To approve the cost of groundscrews required to deploy the MVAS**

The Clerk had received a response from BCC indicating there was a problem with a number of the sites identified for the MVAS. **It was agreed** that the matter should be referred back to Cllr. Sandy to progress with BCC.

**PC/75/13 To approve the contractor to remove lower branches of mulberry tree**

**It was agreed** to engage Clarkes Gardening Services to undertake the necessary work in the Autumn once permission had been received. The Clerk confirmed an application had been submitted and Cllr. Forsyth declared an interest as she was being consulted as a neighbour.

**PC/76/13 To consider the response to the affordable housing consultation**

Cllr. Felton encouraged everyone to read the documents and advise him of any comments they might have by the 19<sup>th</sup> April as the consultation closes at 5pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**PC/77/13 To agree the installation of a piano**

**It was agreed** to proceed to install a second hand donated upright piano into the village hall and remove the old one. Moving fees of £175 would be incurred. This was scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

**PC/78/13 Finance**

78.1 Cheques issued since the last meeting were **ratified**.

78.2 **It was agreed**, following discussion, to discontinue membership of BALC.

**PC/79/13 Planning**

79.1 The following comments were agreed in respect of current planning applications:-  
13/00369/CAN White Place River Road Taplow – no paperwork had been received so no comment could be made  
13/00416/FUL Marshwood Farm Marsh Lane Taplow-the owners were proposing two massive chicken sheds on fields between the Bishops Centre and

Marshwood Farm to allow 38,000 birds in an 'enriched cage system'. They were already in breach of planning regulations and the implication was that future expansion was envisaged. **It was agreed** to vigorously object to this application as it would be a blight on the Green Belt and local households; industrialise a rural area and create a huge increase in extra traffic in the area. Cllr. Felton was asked to prepare and arrange to submit objections on these lines.

13/00426/FUL Poynings Ellington Road Taplow- the owners were proposing a reasonably large side extension. The maps provided online were too incomplete to comment on properly. Cllr. Felton was asked to investigate further and submit appropriate comments.

13/00395/FUL Marta Villa, Ellington Road, Taplow –Concern was noted about the implications on the neighbours as this appeared to over-dominate and overlook the neighbours and would lead to a loss of their light.

13/00423/TPO Amerden Priory – leave to tree officer.

13/00262/FUL West Bapsey}

13/00279/CON West Bapsey}- The proposal was to extend the kitchen but this would not affect the street scene. Cllr. Forsyth noted that the neighbours were concerned about the height of the decking. **It was agreed** that the Council would not comment on this application.

13/00229/VC Cliveden Gages – The proposal was to replace a dozen or so smaller houses with larger houses and remove the internal courtyard. **It was agreed** to make no objections.

13/00218/TPO tree application SGI Taplow Court – comments had already been circulated and submitted.

13/00332/CAN The Manor House Rectory Road- Cllr. Forsyth declared her interest. Comments had already been circulated and submitted.

13/00268/LIC Bishop Centre, Frankie and Bennys- comments had already been circulated and submitted and permission granted.

79.2 Cllr. Felton advised that he was having difficulties with the new electronic planning system as it had taken him an hour to try and print out some plans recently. **It was agreed** that, for the cost of £141pa, SBDC were to be asked to continue with providing hard copies as well as the electronic notification.

79.3 Cllr. Felton noted that, with regards to planning decisions, almost everything had been permitted. He felt the Council had achieved as much as it could regarding the Bishops Centre – there was to be no A5 operations and the traffic figures had been corrected. The Mill Lane application had taken a step back as the Sustainability Appraisal had been found to be not fit for purpose and needed redrafting and further consultations.

### **PC/80/13 Enforcement report**

80.1 Cllr. Kenndy asked if anything could be done about the Old Court Hotel site which was an eyesore. Cllr. Forsyth would investigate further.

80.2 Marshwood Farm – This is due to be referred to the Planning Committee within the next month or two for instigation of formal enforcement action. SBDC state that there may be a need to offer the operator the chance to make an application for a change of use and/or be issued with a final warning.

80.3 Cllr. Forsyth added she would take a look at whether there were any enforcement issues surrounding the damaged fence at Mill Lane.

### **PC/81/13 To receive reports from outside bodies**

Cllr. Forsyth had attended the last SBALC meeting. It was clear that this was the only forum left in which councillors in South Bucks could meet and talk. It was generally felt that BCC were doing and spending less and questions would be raised about this. They had discussed the legality of having a 'matters arising' item in agendas but the Chairman had advised they were legal. Many Councils were investing in projectors for the electronic consultations. Lack of police presence at meetings was noted as was problems with enforcement generally.

### **PC/82/13 Any other business**

82.1 Cllr. Felton raised the issue of Roots Nursery instituting a car wash which was in breach of their planning permission. Cllr. Forsyth would pursue this as an enforcement issue.

82.2 It was noted that signs were proliferating along the A4 particularly near Approach Road. Cllr. Forsyth agreed to pursue this.

82.3 Cllr. Forsyth had understood this was supposed to be an AGM meeting. It was agreed that the AGM should be held at 7pm before the APM on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

82.4 Cllr. Midlane thought the Clerk had been asked to place 'registering the village green' on the agenda. The Clerk confirmed she had had some paperwork on this from Cllr. Sandy but it had not been clear she should put it on the agenda. She would pursue this with Cllr. Sandy.

### **PC/83/13 To consider agenda items for the next meeting**

Cllr. Kennedy announced that Mrs Marina Grazier of 5 Orkney Court intended to put herself up for co-option for the last vacancy on the Council at the AGM. **It was agreed** to accept this as an agenda item for the AGM.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm

The next meeting will be the AGM on 24th May 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Reading Room Taplow Village Centre High Street Taplow followed by the APM at 8.00pm

### **Notes from Public Forum**

Shaun Pope of TfB outlined the issues he had observed regarding parking around Taplow station. He said there were approximately 30 cars regularly parked in Institute Road and 50 in Station Road with few gaps to get past. Approximately 15 cars parked along Approach Road including some parked on the footway.

Mr. Pope outlined 3 options. The first was to do nothing but this did not seem acceptable given the problems faced by the Women's Institute hall users and local residents. The second option was to introduce more extensive double yellow lining to ease the parking and access problems in Institute Road. This would require TROs and consultations. The third option was to actively manage the situation to encourage greater use of the 51-space station car park which was not used much. This would involve a pay and display scheme with parking spaces along Station Road, Approach Road and Institute Road and allowing passing spaces. He said pay and display on the roads would also encourage people to use the station car park whereas double yellow lines would displace a number of cars to move the problem elsewhere.

In response to the request by the Parish Council that BCC introduce parking restrictions along the entire length of Institute Road, Mr. Pope responded that this was likely to lead to the migration of vehicles to other roads close by the station.

Cllr. Kennedy made it clear that the Council did not like the third option. The aim was to prevent parking along these roads not encourage it, as the main problem was getting stuck by the parked cars and the situation would become much worse after SGT build the 66 flats for which they have obtained planning permission. He said the desired solution was to have double yellow lines the length of Institute Road to allow a two way flow of traffic. Station Road could have marked bays to allow parking spaces with intermittent passing spaces.

Cllr. Bamberg expressed support for Cllr. Kennedy's views. He was concerned the pay and display scheme would institutionalise parking and the Council did not want any steps taken to encourage parking - especially along Institute Road.

Cllr. Felton summed up the views of the Council by saying the Council were agreed that it wanted no parking along Institute Road at all. This required double yellow lines to be placed each side along the length of the road. He added that parking here had only started happening in the last 5 years. The Council had no problem with free parking near the station on Approach Road but parking on the footway further up was an issue and the Council would suggest double yellow lines be placed from a point at the entrance to the existing parking spaces. The Council objected to pay and display schemes which were not in keeping with the rural area and penalised people going to work in order, it seemed, to raise revenue as a tax on the 'strivers'. He said there was no highway justification for a pay or display scheme and any displaced vehicles would find another way somehow – it was his view that many of the vehicles were related to the adjoining garage business. All members present concurred with Cllr. Felton's summary.

Mr. Pope added that Hillmead Court residents had painted 12 marked bays on the road surface and put up a sign saying 'private road residents parking only'. However this was a public road and no Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) had been made for Hillmead Court

Cllr. Felton said that he couldn't understand why the Hillmead Court residents had felt they needed to take such action as he was never aware of station traffic being backed up that far.

Cllr. Dhillon explained that the residents of Hillmead Court had taken the above action 18 months ago. SBDC had written to them explaining it was an illegal act but no steps would be taken to remove the paint as this would damage the road surface. He said three years ago he had spent two days (along with TfB) undertaking consultations about the problems around the station and had counted 65 vehicles parking along the roads in the area. Since then BCC had agreed a sum of £6,000 to introduce double yellow lines

along Institute Road.

*This concludes the Minutes*