

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

### **Present**

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman)	Cllr. Euan Felton
Cllr. Rachel Gainey-Corcoran	Cllr. Louise Symons
Cllr. John Bamberg	Cllr. John Kennedy
Cllr. Roger Worthington	Cllr. Toby Greeves
Mrs. K H Holder - clerk	

Eight members of the public including County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.05pm.

In open forum, Mr. Karl Lawrence said he was representing Mr. Barrie Peroni who was unable to attend but whose idea it had been to take steps to protect the Reading Room Mural which was a priceless record of the year 1992. Mr. Peroni's recommendation was that a permanent record of the highest quality be made of the Mural using the right experts to capture the best digital images. His recommendation was that the Parish Council take up the quote from Strobix which had been submitted to the Council.

Mrs. Jean Williams of Ellington Road complained about the state of the roads and gutters in her area and circulated photographs she had taken. County Cllr. Dhillon agreed to investigate and address these issues.

### **PC/01/15 Apologies for absence**

Apologies from Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth.

### **PC/02/15 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

These were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman.

### **PC/03/15 Matters Arising**

3.1 The Chairman asked County Cllr. Dhillon to comment on progress in relation to traffic issues around the new Tesco store. County Cllr. Dhillon said that traffic assessments were ongoing between Lent Rise and Huntercombe Lane and would be completed by the summer. Initial feedback from Transport for Bucks (TfB) was that there were no major problems - traffic was moving but with some issues at peak times. Cllr. Felton commented that traffic was affected along the whole flow from Maidenhead Bridge and TfB should be assessing the traffic impact from the Bridge.

3.2 The Chairman enquired about Institute Road in the light of the Council's desire to see a one way system rather than double yellow lines to avoid parking issues simply moving elsewhere in the parish. County Cllr. Dhillon said he had received favourable feedback from Burnham residents but the Clerk was asked to write in the strongest terms to TfB to voice the Council's concerns.

3.3 The Chairman asked the Clerk what progress had been made in asking Cliveden Hotel to remove signs on Taplow Common land. The Clerk explained that Cliveden had responded that they owned this piece of land and had refused to take the signs down. The Clerk was asked to approach BCC and SBDC legal departments for advice on this issue and in particular on what rights the parish council had in relation to common land and whether such rights were

extinguished by Cliveden registering ownership of the land. Retired Cllr. Joy Marshall said that she had papers in her possession proving that the land in question was Common Land and offered to provide these to the Council.

3.4 County Cllr. Dhillon referred to the issue raised by the chairman of the residents association at Cliveden Gages who had asked for a streetlight to be installed at the entrance to Cliveden Gages. He added that BCC would not agree to install a streetlight at this point and the National Trust had not agreed either. The Chairman stated that he did not believe this was an issue for the parish council. He added that it should be a responsibility of The National Trust to provide such lighting as it was they who had decided to develop the area.

3.5 The Chairman advised that Taplow was now part of a new Electoral Ward named 'Burnham Lent Rise and Taplow'.

#### **PC/04/15 To consider the co-option of Jamie Barnard and Janette Mackay**

The Chairman advised that both Mr. Barnard and Mrs. Mackay had applied to be co-opted onto the Council. Both had submitted 'CVs'. The co-option of both Mr. Barnard and Mrs. Mackay was unanimously approved and they joined the Council for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **PC/05/15 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon**

5.1 County Cllr. Dhillon reported that BCC were struggling with next year's budget and were facing a £200million hole to plug. This was due particularly to the rise in demand for children's services and the County had seen its reserves halved this year to £15million.

5.2 He was hoping to get works on Lent Rise, Berry Hill and Station Road ( but not pavements which came out of a different budget) undertaken in May. Hitcham Road and Marsh Lane were scheduled for next year.

5.3 He had £500 in his community budget available for any suitable local project.

5.4 Cllr. Kennedy advised that the paintwork had been eroded from the road at the junction of River Road and Ellington Road making it dangerous and County Cllr. Dhillon said he would investigate.

5.5 Cllr. Mackay was concerned about the Rectory Road pothole. The Chairman advised that it had often been temporarily patched but the problems arose from the natural Spring. More substantial repairs were due to be carried out in the next couple of weeks.

#### **PC/06/15 To agree expenditure relating to the implementation of the 20mph zones**

The Chairman reported that a breakdown of costs had now been received from TfB and that if the Council agreed to pay 50% of costs it could be exposed to a liability of up to £6,000. Cllr. Bamberg expressed his disgust that such a large proportion of this was wasted on bureaucracy. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approve funding up to £6,000 from the Legacy Fund provided that the LAF met 50% of the costs involved. The Clerk was asked to apply for funding from the LAF on that basis.

#### **PC/07/15 To consider the request from the cricket club for funding for a boules court**

The Chairman read out the letter from the Cricket Club asking for Legacy funding to install a boules court. He also read out the policy statement relating to the Legacy fund. Mr. Gerry Mills from the club explained that a quote had been received from M F Clarke for approximately £6,000 to install the court and any social member of the club would be able to use it - social membership cost £15pa per adult and was open to all Parishioners of Taplow to apply. Maintenance costs were hoped to be met from membership fees provided there was sufficient take up. It was agreed to approve the plan in principle but Cllr. Bamberg said detailed proposals and costings would be required in due course and he recommended that some consultation or

survey be undertaken to assess support for the court. Cllr. Greeves expressed concern about access by foot to the cricket club and the Chairman suggested that the club should try and re-open the path by Queen Anne House.

**PC/08/15 To agree actions necessary for the protection of the Reading Room Mural**

The Chairman reported that at the last meeting it had been agreed to take steps to protect (and have a record for posterity of) the Reading Room Mural with the possibility of reinstating it in some way in the future should it be damaged or destroyed. Several issues had been thrown up for example as to copyright and he suggested that a working group be set up. This was agreed and Cllrs. Barnard and Gainey-Corcoran would take steps to form a working group to include Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Peroni.

**PC/09/15 To consider streetlighting in Station Road, Approach Road and Boundary Road**

9.1 The Chairman advised that Julie Press had asked for improvements to the streetlighting and pavement along Station Road. The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with the Council's regular contractors who believed that Station Road had adequate lighting (with 11 lights – although one had been out for a while as it had been inaccessible because of parked cars. They would try again on a Sunday). They had recommended that a redundant concrete post be removed for £75 and that the vegetation could be cut back near the lamps for £250. They recommended two extra streetlights should be installed in Approach Road where there were none and it was very dark. They also recommended more lights on Boundary Road.

9.2 Cllr. Felton reminded the Council that its policy had always been that streetlights should be kept to a minimum in keeping with the rural nature of the village.

9.3 Cllr. Barnard said he regularly walked down Station Road and the pavement was dangerous and the lighting poor. He said if the lights on the opposite side to the pavement were discounted along with the one which was actually more in Hillmead Court then there were only seven applicable lights which were too high and too ineffective. He did not wish to 'urbanise' the area but a better solution needed to be found, such as lower level lights or perhaps linking more lights on a wire string between streetlights. The Clerk was asked to investigate what might be possible on Station Road with the contractors. It was agreed to install two new lights in locations to be advised by the contractors in Approach Road and that councillors be authorized to approve works to Station Road street lighting by a majority decision taken via email in due course.

**PC/10/15 To discuss forming a working group to consider the necessary elements to be included as a basis for the creation of a Taplow Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman suggested 16<sup>th</sup> February as a date for a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan working group (venue tba). Martin Maund was free to attend on that date and the Clerk was asked to invite Mary Trevallion, Martin Knight, Cllrs. Worthington and Gainey-Corcoran, Josie Corio and Julie Press to attend along with the representative of SBDC.

**PC/11/15 To consider the transfer of the Old Priory Gardens lease to THRGA**

It was agreed in principle to assign the lease to THRGA as soon as possible. The Clerk pointed out that SBDC didn't have to agree to this until after November 2015 but that she had made enquiries and would pursue.

**PC/12/15 Finance**

12.1 Expenditure shown in the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting was approved for

payment including payments to the planning consultants on the Mill Lane application which should be allocated from the Legacy funds.

12.2 It was agreed in accordance with the Parish Council's constitutional requirements that Mr. Euan Felton and Mrs. Josie Corio be removed as signatories on the Parish Council's accounts held with Lloyds Bank PLC being Account Numbers 01763281 and 07718083 and that Mr. Roger Worthington, Mr. John Bamberg and Mrs. Rachel Gainey –Corcoran who had all agreed so to act be appointed as new parties to the accounts and as signatories in their place. Further in respect of the Close Brothers account 100563 Mr. Felton be replaced as a signatory by Mr. Bamberg.

12.3 Cllr. Bamberg referred to the minutes of the last finance committee meeting which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting together with the draft forecast for next year. Income had been greater than expected from the hall in the year to date and expenditure less than forecast. In addition reserves were higher than advised by our auditors and the Legacy fund was largely intact. Accordingly the finance committee had recommended a 10% reduction in the precept from £20,000 to £18,000. This was unanimously agreed.

### **PC/13/15 Planning**

13.1 The following responses were agreed (following debate) to pending applications:-

14/02451/FUL Amerden Priory – replacement detached outbuilding – no comment

15/00091/CAN Copper Beech Ellington Road – cherry x2 – fell - leave to tree officer

15/00049/FUL SGT, redevelopment to provide 18 flats - No objection provided it is clear that all conditions apply not just to the area covered by the variation applied for but apply to the whole site as a single unit.

13.2 Cllr. Felton referred to an email received from Martin Maund concerning the Thames Path. It was agreed that this was a Maidenhead issue and the Council would not make any further comment.

### **PC/14/15 To receive reports from outside bodies**

There were none.

### **PC/15/15 Any other business**

The Chairman referred to the resignations of Cllrs. Felton and Forsyth which were effective from the conclusion of the meeting. He thanked them both for their efforts over the years. He particularly thanked Cllr. Felton for being a stalwart of the planning issues in Taplow and expressed his admiration for the way in which Cllr. Felton had delved into the issues and explained them to the Council. He finished by saying how conscientiously Cllr. Liz Forsyth had managed her role as our Enforcement Member and that her diligent attention to breaches had been most valuable and much appreciated.

### **PC/16/15 To consider agenda items for the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.