

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW

### Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman)    Cllr. Josie Corio  
Cllr. John Kennedy                    Cllr. Louise Symons  
Cllr. John Bamberg                  Cllr. Iris Midlane  
Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth              Cllr. Joy Marshall  
Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk  
Two members of the public including County Cllr. Dev Dhillon.

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

### PC/51/13 Report from the police

No members of the police were in attendance and no report had been received. The Clerk was asked to ensure the police know of the next meeting and to ask for a report.

### PC/52/13 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon

52.1 Cllr. Dhillon reported that he was still receiving complaints about the gas works on the A4. The County officer was monitoring the situation and it was hoped the works would be completed ahead of schedule in March. Cllr. Bamberg advised that because of the works, Mill Lane had become exceedingly dangerous for cars and people especially during the rush hour and that signs were being ignored. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed that the signs did not have the force of law and little else could be done.

52.2 Regarding the MVAS, Taplow would be getting its own MVAS with one free ground-screw. Four sites had been identified and an additional three ground-screws were £258.64 each. The Parish Council would need to find somewhere to store it and volunteers to install it.

52.3 Cllr. Dhillon had given the traffic survey results to the LAF and BCC. The LAF had identified its four priorities which included transportation schemes and he was waiting to see if monies could be made available for the new 20mph limits.

52.4 Cllr. Dhillon reported that BCC had issued advance notice of a consultation it would be undertaking into introducing a pay and display scheme for roads in the railway area. The Chairman said that in the past it has been agreed with BCC that more yellow lines were needed to encourage people to use the station car park. He added that it was completely alien to a rural area to have a pay and display scheme and the Parish Council did not want such a scheme implemented. The Clerk was asked to write to Steve Kenton, Si Khan and Emma Hildreth expressing these views. Cllr. Dhillon said he had access to £6,000 of LAF funds to install yellow lines in Institute Road and he would take steps to implement this.

52.5 Cllr. Dhillon encouraged those present to take part in BCC's consultation on its draft budget available to view on its website. He added that he had access to certain funds which he could allocate to a project in the Taplow area. He had been considering the Station Road footpath but Cllr. Corio advised that it might be better used towards a serious problem that was coming to light concerning shared sewers under the Village Green. Cllr. Midlane was concerned about potholes along village pavements which

were dangerous. Cllr. Dhillon said this was a matter he could take to the LAF as it wouldn't be covered by the monies he had referred to. Cllr. Forsyth expressed concern over the springs which flowed across Rectory Road which may have caused the pub car park to collapse and suggested a culvert along the side of the road might help.

52.6 Cllr. Kennedy asked Cllr. Dhillon whether he could look into the situation regarding footpaths which the Rights of Way Department would not agree to reimburse the Parish Council to maintain properly. He complained in particular about Ms Waldron who regularly did not respond to emails. Cllr. Dhillon responded that ROW were obliged to ensure the footpaths were not dangerous and that shortage of funding was an issue. The Clerk was asked to complain to Shaun Rooney and copy Cllr. Dhillon about the way in which matters have been handled.

52.7 Cllr. Dhillon asked for a receipt for the £800 he had forwarded from BCC funds to the Parish Council in November 2012. The Clerk was asked to provide such a receipt.

### **PC/53/13 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Cllr. Euan Felton.

### **PC/54/13 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012**

These were approved and the Chairman signed a copy of them.

### **PC/55/13 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

55.1 Cllr. Forsyth said she would shortly pursue the issue raised at PC/44.8/12.

55.2 It was noted that the introduction of electronic planning had been put back to be introduced from April 2013.

55.3 The issue of agreeing a car park sign raised at PC/49.2/12 needed to be put on a future General Purposes committee agenda.

55.4 The Chairman reported that the OPG Lease had been completed and registered at the Land Registry. A tree planting ceremony had since taken place as well as some clearance work and new bird boxes had been put up.

### **PC/56/13 To consider dissolving the Finance Committee and replacing with a finance working panel**

The Clerk advised that this matter had been put on the agenda at a time when it was believed that meetings could not be held in private houses. She had since put this query to the leading adviser for the SLCC who had replied that meetings could be held in private houses. In the light of this it was agreed that Finance Committee meetings should continue to be run in the way they had previously been run.

### **PC/57/13 To consider appointing a representative to attend SBALC meetings**

The Clerk explained that this issue had been put on the agenda as the Chairman had been considering withdrawing from SBALC. It was agreed that continued membership was desirable and Cllr. Gainey agreed to replace Cllr. Kennedy and join Cllr. Forsyth and Cllr. Symons as the Parish Council's representatives on SBALC. Cllr. Forsyth would co-ordinate future attendance.

### **PC/58/13 To consider traffic issues in Taplow including the deployment of the MVAS**

This had now been dealt with at point PC/52.2/13 above.

### **PC/59/13 To approve the terms of a new contract with the lighting contractors**

The Clerk reported that the current contract for the 73 lampposts owned by the Parish Council expired in March 2013. We had previously been paying £27.50 per lamppost for

a contract that was basically one for them to react to complaints. They would agree to renew the contract for 3 years for £28.50 per lamppost or for £30 per lamppost they would offer to scout fortnightly during the winter months to try to pre-empt complaints. It was agreed to accept the offer of a new contract on the new scouting terms at £30 per lamppost.

**PC/60/13 To consider issues regarding pruning the Mulberry tree**

The Chairman advised that SBDC's tree officer had been asked to look at the tree which was the subject of a TPO - and had agreed that he could see no harm in removing the lower branches. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the tree officer to agree the extent of any proposed cut back and to take the steps necessary to apply to amend the TPO.

**PC/61/13 To consider Carols on the Green 2013**

Disappointment was expressed about the way things had gone this year and the Chairman advised he had written to the School and the Church accordingly. He suggested the Hitcham and Taplow Society might be asked to run the event next time but it was not clear whether they would agree to do so. Cllr. Corio said she would be happy to run the event if it only involved the tree, lights, a choir, a band, mulled wine and mince pies. Cllr. Kennedy moved that the matter should be dealt with by the General Purposes committee and this was agreed.

**PC/62/13 To agree, under s33 Localism Act 2011, to grant dispensations to councillors in respect of living in the parish**

All Parish Councillors save for Cllr. Felton, having applied to the Parish Council Clerk for a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, were granted such dispensation in order to be able to make decisions relating to the precept and general finances of the parish council. The Clerk confirmed Cllr. Felton did not need to apply as he lived outside the parish.

**PC/63/13 Finance**

63.1 The Clerk's recommendations in her report relating to increases to hall hire charges circulated prior to the meeting were accepted save as to the charges to be applied to the Playgroup. This was agreed at £9.50 per hour effective upon completion of the new contract with an annual increase of 2.5%. The Clerk was asked to proceed to completion on the basis of the draft circulated prior to the meeting with amendments to the insurance clause in line with what was reasonable and provided it was clear the playgroup were responsible for maintaining the two sheds.

63.2 Following discussion it was agreed that the Precept for 2013/14 would be £20,000 - effectively the same as last year in terms of charge per household.

**PC/64/13 Planning**

64.1 To consider recent planning applications:-

12/01907/FUL SGT Old Station Yard (south of the railway). Cllr. Felton had commented that he could not see any objections to this as it is a re-submission to address reasons for refusal of the previous application which were that there was insufficient turning space for a car transporter on site and insufficient off-road parking space for employees. Both these matters had, in his opinion, been overcome by the current submission. It was agreed to raise no objections.

12/01913/CAN West Bapsey tree application. ). Cllr. Felton had commented that he could not see any reason not to refer to the tree officer as we usually do. This was agreed.

12/01951/FUL Old Stocks Ellington Road. This was an application for single and 2 storey extensions. Cllr. Marshall had inspected and spoken to neighbours who have no issues Provided the extensions are no more than 50% of the original it was agreed to raise no objections.

12/01975/LBC and 12/01967/FUL Theatre Barn Wooburn Common Road. Extension seems relatively modest. It was agreed to leave to the Conservation Officer and the planners.

12/02049/FUL Foxwell, Berry Hill. It was agreed to submit the response that this is a substantial extension and needs careful consideration. Applicant claims it is within the 50% increase allowance, though takes it to its maximum.

12/02022/COND The Bishop Centre. There are no documents for this as it is an application for approval of various details reserved by conditions of the permitted Application. It was agreed not to comment.

12/01982/VC The Bishop Centre. Increase of A3 use restaurants. Cllr. Felton had commented that this application follows the refusal by the District Council of the same application last autumn to carry out this change as a Non Material Amendment. The issues are very much the same and he had circulated a suggested response objecting to it along the same lines as we previously objected. Cllr Felton had spoken to the South Bucks Officer about the application because there was a document missing from the website and this has now been corrected, however in the course of conversation the Officer told him that the Applicant had been asked to submit further documents relating to the increase in traffic, but in the meantime he recommended the council should object to the Application as it stands now because no account has been taken of traffic and parking increases. This was agreed

64.2 To note recent planning decisions:-

The following had all been granted

12/01742/TEMP retention of containers at car boot site

12/01682/CLOPED 2 Amerden Lakes

12/01683/CLOPED 5 Amerden Lakes

12/01782/FUL Pine Lodge River Road

12/01835/XFUL Former BG Depot Site Mill Lane

12/01771/FUL Priory Cottage (pitched roof) had been refused

### **PC/65/13 Enforcement report**

Cllr. Corio had become aware that a lorry bringing eggs from Poland had recently made a delivery at Marshmead farm and was concerned about trading standards issues as well as damage to the verge. The Chairman said he would take this matter up with SBDC directly.

**PC/66/13 To receive reports from outside bodies**

There were none.

**PC/67/13 Any other business**

67.1 Cllr. Corio had received a complaint about fly tipping on Mill Lane. It was believed this was by the entrance to the Jubilee River path opposite the old entrance to Taplow Court. The Clerk was asked to contact SBDC to remove.

67.2 Cllr. Marshall was concerned that the Rights of Way sign needs replacing at Footpath 24 at the entrance to the Maidenhead Rowing Club car park

**PC/68/13 To consider agenda items for the next meeting**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

The next meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Perkins Room  
Taplow Village Centre High Street Taplow

**Notes from Public Forum**

Catherine Oliver said she was a school governor and her role was to encourage a sustainable travel plan. Many efforts were underway to encourage parents not to drive to the school but she had two issues in particular to bring to the Parish Council. Some parents wished to walk to the school along the footpath from Boundary Road but encountered two kissing gates which could not be negotiated with pushchairs. Mrs Oliver enquired whether more useable gates could be installed. The Chairman advised that the gates were the responsibility of the landowner who was Summerleaze Limited. He added that if they agreed to changing the gates consideration would need to be given to ensuring that motorbikes and travellers could not access the field. The Clerk was asked to approach both BCC rights of way department and the field's owners to investigate whether a satisfactory solution could be found. The second issue concerned trying to find ways of reducing congestion and Mrs Oliver asked whether the Parish Council had any ideas. Following discussion the only idea suggested was whether a school bus could be arranged, funded by the parents.

*This concludes the Minutes*