

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW

### Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman)      Cllr. Rachel Gainey-Corcoran

Cllr. John Bamberg                      Cllr. Louise Symons

Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth                Cllr. Iris Midlane

Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk

Eight members of the public.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.00pm. The meeting was adjourned for **OPEN FORUM**. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

### PC/01/14 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr. John Kennedy, Cllr. Marina Grazier, Cllr. Euan Felton and County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

### PC/02/14 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

These were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

### PC/03/14 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

3.1 The Chairman noted that a report from Cllr. Felton was awaited regarding his proposed meeting with Cllr. Dhillon about capacity on the Bath Road.

3.2 The Chairman noted that a new Local Area Technician had been appointed to Taplow by TfB and he would be meeting with her and Cllr. Dhillon and the Clerk later in the week to discuss issues such as overgrown vegetation.

3.3 The issue of reducing speed limits was still being pursued.

3.4 Four locations had been agreed for the MVAS.

3.5 The Clerk had written to the SBDC tree officer about the trees chopped down at Ellibank House but had heard nothing. The Clerk was asked to ring the owner, Nigel Howard, to ask for more information.

### PC/04/14 To consider issues arising from recent tree survey

It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed to obtain conservation area consent and quotes to have the work identified in the tree survey undertaken – excluding the work on trees inside the boundary of the Old Priory Gardens. The Clerk was asked to arrange to have a sign put up at the entrance saying 'Private Land, Enter at own risk'. It was made clear that legal advice had not been obtained to this effect but the Chairman had been advised that only the adjacent footpaths need be surveyed when he met with the council's insurers.

### PC/05/14 To consider maintenance of the benches

Quotes had been received from Lushglen and iHandy but a quote was still awaited from Lillyfee Studios. It was agreed this matter would be deferred and dealt with by email by Councillors once the final quote had been received.

### PC/06/14 To agree expenditure on replacing damaged streetlamp and installing RCD

It was agreed to replace the lamppost knocked down in Station Road and install a RCD on the lamppost used to provide energy to the Christmas lights.

**PC/07/14 To agree to contract to design a parish council website**

Cllr. Bamberg recommended and it was unanimously agreed that the Council proceed to engage Chris Kelly to design a website for the Council at a cost of £800 together with an annual maintenance charge of £200 thereafter. He added that this had been budgeted for in next year's budget and that in his opinion the work done so far promised that the end product would look very smart. He congratulated Cllrs. Grazier and Gainey-Corcoran for their efforts so far. It was agreed that the Council would need to publicise the fact that it had a website and that SBDC be asked to add this information in the literature they circulated to parishes about the precepts.

**PC/08/14 To consider issues relating to WW1 centenary**

The Chairman advised that he had suggested the local British Legion branch liaise with its National Body to see whether any grants were available. Cllr. Forsyth had investigated the possibility of obtaining poppy seeds for planting locally. It was agreed to arrange for the planting of the seeds in local areas but only with care on the banks of the Village Green.

**PC/09/14 Finance**

9.1 The Clerk would be circulating the cashbook later in the week for approval of cheques which required payment.

9.2 It was agreed to defer any decision regarding obtaining a maintenance plan for the village hall until after further consideration is given to the desirability of upgrading or refitting the hall.

9.3 Cllr. Bamberg reported that our contractors had confirmed that the capital costs of changing our street lighting to Led lamps (estimated at £3,000 which had been budgeted for next year) should be recouped as a result of the anticipated substantial savings in energy consumed within two years. It was unanimously agreed to proceed to change all Parish Council owned street lighting to LED lamps as soon as possible.

9.4 Cllr. Bamberg reported that a budget had been considered by the recent Finance Committee meeting and it was agreed that the small deficit predicted should reduce the reserve rather than increase the precept. Accordingly it was recommended that the precept remained the same as last year at £20,000 which would in effect lead to a small reduction in tax paid by residents.

9.5 It was agreed that the bank mandate be changed by the addition of Cllr. Bamberg as a signatory. Mrs Corio would not be removed as a signatory at this stage.

**PC/10/14 Planning**

10.1 **It was agreed** that the Council should make no objection to the following applications:-

13/02124/COND SGT Station Road

13/02109/VC Demolished Canadian Red Cross Hospital Cliveden Road

13/02089/FUL South Lodge Berry Hill

13/01994/FUL Lydia Marsh Lane

13/01988/FUL Hales Cottage Wooburn Common Road

10.2 The following should be left to the tree officer to decide:-

13/02101/CAN 7 Cedar Chase

- 13/01980/TPO Shell UK 237 Bath Road
- 10.3 The following is a request for a certificate of lawfulness  
13/01995/CLOPED Lydia Marsh Lane
- 10.4 13/02108/FUL Marshwood Farm – A statement of objections had been prepared and circulated in advance by Cllr. Felton and it was agreed these be submitted in their entirety.
- 10.5 13/02140/FUL Pink Cottage Ellington Gardens – it was agreed that a group TPO should be put on the trees to protect the Green Belt setting and preserve the current amenity in the Conservation Area.
- 10.6 13/01585/OUT Harefield River Road had been received in the last few days requiring a response by 30<sup>th</sup> January – it was agreed to leave this to the planning officer.
- 10.7 The following decisions were noted:-
- 13/01546/FUL Hitchambury Farm – REFUSED
  - 13/01994/FUL Lydia Marsh Lane - GRANTED
  - 13/01995/CLOPED Lydia Marsh Lane - GRANTED
  - 13/01913/FUL Priors Cottage Rectory Road – GRANTED
  - 13/01901/FUL The Red Cottage Hitcham Grange – GRANTED
  - 13/01891/FUL Harefield River Road – GRANTED
  - 13/01720/TPO 1 Wellbank – REFUSED
  - 13/01781/FUL Losuces Hill Farm Road – GRANTED
  - 13/01782/LBC Losuces Hill Farm Road – GRANTED
  - 13/01385/FUL Marta Villa Ellington Road – GRANTED
  - 13/01727/FUL 4 Elm View Rectory Road – GRANTED
  - 13/01693/CAN Queen Anne House Cliveden Road – no TPO made

**PC/11/14 Enforcement report**

The Clerk was asked to chase SBDC's enforcement officer on responses requested about ongoing enforcement cases for Taplow

**PC/12/14 To receive reports from outside bodies**

12.1 Cllr. Forsyth had attended the recent SBALC meeting where concern had been expressed about the green wheelie bin charges. She would be unable to attend the next SBALC meeting

12.2 Cllr. Gainey-Corcoran had attended the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hedsor Parish.

**PC/13/14 Any other business**

The Chairman declared he had an item of any other business which he had emailed councillors about earlier and it was resolved pursuant to S.1(2) Public Bodies ( Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public on the grounds that it was considered to be prejudicial to the public interest for the public to attend by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be raised.

**PC/14/14 To consider agenda items for the next meeting**

To consider the use of the noticeboards.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

The next meeting will be on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Perkins Room Taplow Village Centre High Street Taplow.

## OPEN FORUM

Karl Lawrence confirmed that he represented the Hitcham and Taplow Society which had 250 members- a substantial number of the 691 households in the Parish. He had canvassed their opinion and sent a list of proposals regarding how the Parish Council should spend the £100,000 windfall it had recently received. He asked for assurance that any parameters fixed for spending the monies be publicised and residents consulted and asked to prioritise proposals for spending.

The Chairman advised that it was the efforts of the Parish Council which had secured this windfall and any decision about spending it rested with the Parish Council although all ideas were welcome and would be carefully considered and that it was the duty of the Parish Council to always act in the best interests of its residents. He added that the recent Finance Committee meeting had decided to produce a statement of intent as to how the money would be spent which would be a public document in due course.

Cllr. Bamberg confirmed that the policy would state that any spending would be on a legacy project/s. He added that it was not a vast amount of money and that it would be impossible to have everybody involved in the decision making process. It would be impossible to satisfy everyone but at least the proposed website when it was developed would help with communications.

Nigel Smales reminded the Council that some 60 years ago the Council had left lasting legacies to the residents by their efforts in creating the school and village green and they did so without having such a windfall. He congratulated the council in securing the monies but expressed his dismay to hear that the Council might be considering spending a considerable part of it on a design proposal for the Mill Lane site. His recommendation was that the council considered creating a Taplow Heritage Centre to exhibit and celebrate Taplow's rich history and he would be happy to volunteer his knowledge and energy towards that goal.

Paul Thorne expressed concern about the process of managing how to spend the moneys. He referred to the list of proposals already being proposed and was concerned that full cost/ benefit analyses and proper proposals should accompany each project idea along with a statement of who should pay for any overrun. His suggestion was that each project 'sponsor' should prepare a paper to support their proposal and be ready to answer questions at a public meeting. He himself would wish to sponsor a proposal about the Green and he would be willing to clarify upfront that any overrun would be at his own personal cost.

Karl Lawrence raised the issue of the planning application at Marshmead now known as Marshwood Farm. He stressed that he wanted SBDC to be clear that no application should be considered until they stopped the illegal business presently being conducted there. The Chairman clarified that the business was unlicensed rather than illegally conducted as he was aware it was meeting DEFRA health and safety standards.

However the procedure to stop the business was under way but took time.

Karl Lawrence was also concerned about the removal of trees at the Pink House site in Ellington Gardens. The Chairman confirmed he was meeting with the SBDC enforcement officer later in the week and would be pursuing the issues at Ellington Gardens, Roots and Marshwood Farm.

Joy Marshall expressed her concern about the removal of the trees at Pink House which she believed would have a detrimental effect on the environment. She said that they had also removed boundary fences but that it was clear some of the trees removed had been on the public footpath and didn't belong to the owners of Pink House.

PC Trevor Walker presented a written report on crime statistics for the last three months. He confirmed that neighbourhood teams had been clustered and were now based at the Taplow police station. He recommended the police alert initiative as a way for residents to find out about crime in their neighbourhood. The Chairman requested that the police pursue the issue of whether Roots were committing any crime with the fly posted advertisements along the A4 and PC Walker agreed to take this up with PCSO O'Connell.

*This concludes Part I of the meeting*