

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2015 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE READING ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. George Sandy

Cllr. Louise Symons

Cllr. John Kennedy

Cllr. Roger Worthington

Cllr. Toby Greeves

Cllr. Janette Mackay

Mrs. K H Holder - clerk

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 6.35pm.

In open forum Mia, Ametz and Molly, aged 11, from St Nicolas' school gave a presentation on a litter picking project they had undertaken in collaboration with the police and Tesco's to highlight issues they had observed along the Jubilee River footpath on their walk to school. They had organised a litter pick which had collected 27 bags of rubbish. They now wished to fund raise to obtain a novelty 'frog' bin and had made a sign. The frog bin would cost £240 plus £12 fittings and VAT. In response to questions they explained that the bin would be securely bolted to the ground near to the footbridge and volunteers had offered to empty the bin each day and place the litter in the car park bins in Mill Lane which were emptied by SBDC. Volunteers would be found by working with the police and other youth groups. Ideally another bin near the A4 would be useful.

Mr. Barrie Peroni said he had originated the idea of protecting the Sheila Horton Mural which had been the most popular of the publicly expressed preferences on how to spend the Land Securities monies. He said it was important that the Mural be recorded with the best possible equipment available. He was concerned that the working party had only met once and calls by him for a second meeting were dismissed. He was also concerned that the other photographers who had quoted did not seem to be using the tilt and shift and Canon 3 lens equipment which his preferred contractor Strobix were specially trained to use. Strobix were hiring the equipment as it cost in excess of £10,000 and was commonly hired for such projects rather than held in stock. He emphasised that Strobix had visited the site and spent some time considering the best equipment to use and speaking with the artist. He noted the concerns of one of the photographers who had declined to quote but recommended the same equipment at the same estimated price. He noted that the best quality light required the work to be undertaken at night and would take 3 nights.

Mrs. Williams of Ellington Gardens noted that since she asked for support at the January meeting about the state of the gutters she now knew it was a matter for Bucks County Council who were looking into it.

County Councillor Dhillon noted that he was seeking emergency funding for the pavement in Station Road from the LAF on 24th June. He was applying his personal allowance towards the resurfacing of Berry Hill.

PC/17/15 To elect a Chairman

Cllr. Kennedy proposed Cllr. Sandy as Chairman. Seconded by Cllr. Worthington. This was **agreed** - all in favour. Cllr. Sandy signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

PC/18/15 To co-opt candidates

Cllr. Sandy proposed that Mr. Bamberg, Mr. Barnard and Ms. Hatch be co-opted as Councillors to fill three of the five vacancies on the Council following the recent uncontested elections. The co-option of Mr. Bamberg, Mr. Barnard and Ms. Hatch was unanimously **approved** and they joined the Council for the remainder of the meeting.

PC/19/15 To elect a Vice Chairman

Cllr. Sandy nominated Cllr. Barnard as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Cllr. Bamberg. This was **agreed** - all in favour.

PC/20/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr. Jamie Barnard.

PC/21/15 To elect members to committees

It was **agreed** that all of the councillors were eligible to attend the Finance Committee and Planning Committee meetings. The General Purposes Committee was formally disbanded.

PC/22/15 To elect members to outside bodies

SBALC – Cllr. Worthington and Cllr. Hatch were **appointed** as the Council's representatives.

PC/23/15 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of 20th January 2015

These were **approved** without amendment and signed by the Chairman.

PC/24/15 Matters Arising

24.1 The Chairman noted that no progress had been made to date on securing funding from the LAF for the new speeding zones. This was due to be considered at the LAF meeting on 24th June.

24.2 The Chairman noted that the assignment of the lease to THRGA was in hand and would hopefully take place once three years had elapsed from the date of the lease which would happen soon.

PC/25/15 To assess the lighting trial in the station area

The Chairman explained that two new lampposts had been erected in Approach Road but the contractors said they had been obliged by law to place them quite close together and accordingly to obtain full coverage they advised that another 3 lampposts would be advisable. Cllr. Hatch offered to liaise with the contractors to obtain a quote as to how many more lampposts would be needed and identify locations and costs. **It was agreed** to defer consideration about the effectiveness of the new lamp head trial on Station Road until the next meeting. It was noted that the overgrown tree vegetation made the situation worse.

PC/26/15 To consider the request for funding for a boules court

The Chairman noted that no further feedback had been received from the Cricket Club and Cllr. MacKay agreed to raise the issue with the club.

PC/27/15 To appoint a photographer for the Horton Mural

Cllr. Bamberg said that he had not understood all of Mr. Peroni's statement in Open Forum as it had been very technical. He noted that the Council had received advice from a professional photographer, Mr Blythe, who had years of experience and who had explicitly recommended two other photographers rather than Strobix as being able to provide the best result and value. Further these quotes had placed no demands regarding copyright issues. As a result he was unable to agree to a decision in favour of Strobix but suggested that the decision could be deferred until another meeting to allow time for further investigation.

It was **agreed** that the matter be deferred to the next meeting and that the Clerk be asked to clarify whether Todd White and Steve Russell were proposing to use the tilt and shift lens which Strobix were advising whether they and Mr. Blythe agreed that they are necessary to produce the quality of product we require. If not, why not, and what are the arguments supporting their view as opposed to that of Mr. Peroni/Strobix. Mr. Blythe should be asked to speak to Mr.Peroni once this information was known.

PC/28/15 To discuss issues arising from the Neighbourhood Plan working party

Cllr. Worthington reported that the working group had met with SBDC and were aware that a new Local Plan was in the process of being created. It had been decided it was better to work towards ensuring that the new Local Plan covered all the issues of concern at a local level. Accordingly the Neighbourhood Plan concept was on hold.

PC/29/15 To consider acquiring more litter bins for the Jubilee River footpath

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would be willing to support the school's initiative outlined in Open Forum in principle to install two bins along the Jubilee river footpath. However the Council would need assurances from the school that they would be taking all the steps necessary to organize the volunteers who would be emptying the bins and make sure the volunteers were properly briefed and equipped. The Clerk was asked to defer the matter to the July meeting.

PC/30/15 To agree the Council's policy regarding yellow lines on Institute Road

The Chairman noted that the consultation period was over and that the Parish Council had written expressing its objection to the yellow lines and putting forward an alternative proposal for a one way system. County Councillor Dhillon wished to put on record that the issue of yellow lines was a matter that the Parish Council had supported until recently and at meetings at which the Chairman had been present and that a public consultation had taken place in 2013 and the matter covered by the local press. He said 186 responses had been received to the most recent consultation and only 9 of these had objected to yellow lines (this included the Parish Council's objection). Some of the 9 were not residents but people who commuted into the area and wanted to park on the roads in Taplow. He said the decision would follow a democratic process and he was not involved. The proposal for a one way system was a new issue only raised over the course of this last year. The public had not been consulted on it but he had referred it to the relevant authorities who would consider it.

PC/31/15 To Consider issues relating to Rectory Road springs

The Chairman noted that a petition had been sent to the County Council regarding the danger in winter caused by the Rectory Road springs running across the road particularly at the junction with the lane up to the school. County Councillor Dhillon noted that there was no specific funding available to deal with this issue.

PC/32/15 Finance

32.1 Expenditure shown in the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting was **approved** for payment

32.2. It was **agreed** to ratify the expenditure of £3,000 towards Nigel Smales book Taplow Moments to be paid from the Land Securities Legacy monies

32.3 A copy of the draft accounts, annual return and internal auditors report had been circulated to councilors prior to the meeting. These were **approved** and the Chairman authorized to sign the same

32.4 Constitutional documents including the Standing Orders, the Code of Conduct, the Asset Register and Risk Assessment documents were reviewed and no amendments recommended. Revisions were proposed to the Finance Regulations which had been circulated in draft to councillors prior to the meeting. These were **approved**.

PC/33/15 Planning

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

15/00656/FUL Institute Road - No objection

15/00662/DMA Green Springs Marsh Lane – this was an application to redevelop an existing barn but no such building existed and the application should be refused.

33.2 The planning Inspector had allowed the car wash business at Roots to continue but turned down the application for a food van.

33.3 The Silchester House application had gone to appeal

33.4 Cllr. Worthington said that going forward any objections we made to SBDC would be noted on the website and that any enforcement reporting issues would be managed by the Clerk.

PC/34/15 To receive reports from outside bodies

There were none.

PC/35/15 S.1.(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

It was **agreed** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted to consider changes to staff salary that the public be temporarily excluded for that item which was deferred to the end of the meeting.

PC/36/15 Any other business

There was none.

PC/37/15 To consider agenda items for the next meeting on 14th July 2015

There were none.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.