

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2015 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE READING ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman) Cllr. Louise Symons
 Cllr. John Kennedy Cllr. Roger Worthington
 Cllr. Toby Greeves Cllr. Janette Mackay
 Cllr. John Bamberg Cllr. Zoe Hatch
 Mrs. K H Holder - clerk

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Jamie Barnard.

2 Report from Thames valley Police

No-one was present from the police but the following written report had been submitted prior to the meeting.

<u>Offence</u>	2013 (Jan – Dec)	2014 (Jan – Dec)	2015 (Jan – March)
Serious Violent Offences	0	0	0
Serious Sexual Offences	0	0	0
Burglary Dwelling	3	1	2
Burglary Non Dwelling (sheds/garages)	17	3	3
Robbery	1	0	0
Theft of personal property	5	0	4
Theft Of Vehicle	1	0	0
Theft of push bike	4	0	1
Theft/criminal damage from Vehicle	37	3	3

Theft of boats	0	0	0
Less Serious Violence (person)	5 (domestic)	0	2
Less serious sexual	0	0	0
Arson	1	0	0
Fraud/Forgery	0	0	1
Criminal Damage	2	1	1
Drug Offences	2	1	2
Dogs dangerously out of control	1	0	0

3 Report from Parish Council

3.1 Report from the Chairman

ON BEHALF OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. WELCOME ALSO TO OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEV DHILLON WHO MANY OF YOU WILL ALREADY KNOW REPRESENTS US AT AYLESBURY AND LIKE ME, ALSO SERVES ON SBDC. FIRSTLY, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T ALREADY KNOW THEM YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS WILL NOW INTRODUCE THEMSELVES. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT PARISH CLLRS DON'T RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL REWARD FOR SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. THEY DO IT BECAUSE THEY CARE ABOUT TAPLOW AND GIVE FREELY OF THEIR TIME TO HELP MANAGE OUR PARISH AFFAIRS

OLIVE STRAW, MANAGES THE VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS, INVOICING ETC AND GENERALLY KEEPS AN EYE ON THE UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS OF THE BUILDING. LASTLY, NOT LEASTLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW HILDA OUR EXCELLENT PARISH CLERK. SHE TAKES CARE OF ALL OUR ADMIN AND SHOULD BE YOUR FIRST PORT OF CALL REGARDING ANY QUERIES OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT ANY ISSUES RELATING TO THE PARISH.

DURING THE YEAR WE WERE SORRY TO LOSE TWO LONG-STANDING CLLRS. EUAN FELTON AND LIZ FORSYTH BOTH OF WHOM HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM TAPLOW BUT I'M ASSURED THEY DIDN'T GO TOGETHER! THEIR INPUT OVER THE YEARS WAS QUITE INVALUABLE.

THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE QUITE FEW IN NUMBER; THEY MAINLY COMPRISE; THE VILLAGE HALL, VILLAGE GREEN, STREETLIGHTS, AN OVERVIEW OF FOOTPATHS WHICH ARE ACTUALLY BCC'S RESPONSIBILITY BUT WE KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE UPON THEM AND ALSO WE ARE CONSULTED ABOUT PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

AN ADDED RESPONSIBILITY AND ONE THAT HAS CREATED A DEAL OF EXCITEMENT WAS THE £100K DONATION FROM LAND SECURITIES WHICH WE RING-FENCED FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS. THOSE OF YOU WHO ATTENDED LAST YEAR WILL REMEMBER THAT EIGHT PROPOSALS WERE TABLED AT THE APM. PREFERENCE SURVEY FORMS WERE DISTRIBUTED AND RESPONDENTS MARKED THEIR TOP THREE PREFERENCES IN NUMERICAL ORDER. THIS ENABLED THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR EACH PROPOSITION TO BE MEASURED. SO NOW, AT THIS APM WE CAN TELL YOU THE GRANTS THAT WERE APPROVED DURING THE YEAR FROM APRIL 2014 TO MARCH 15.

HAVING DETERMINED THE % OF SUPPORT FOR THE VARIOUS PROPOSITIONS EACH WAS THEN MEASURED AGAINST THE POLICY STATEMENT AND THOSE THAT QUALIFIED WERE THE FOLLOWING;
 CREATION OF A PERMANENT RECORD OF THE READING ROOM MURALS
 RESTORATION AND RE-SEEDING OF THE VILLAGE GREEN - THIS WILL BE DONE THIS AUTUMN
 THE OLD PRIORY GARDEN PROJECT (A DONATION TO CREATE A NEW LAID HEDGE SURROUND)

A CONTRIBUTION TO REPAIR ST NICOLAS CHURCH'S ROOF
A CONTRIBUTION TO ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TOILET FOR DISABLED FOLK IN TAPLOW 'S
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL
AND AN ADDITIONAL TWO STREETLIGHTS WERE RECENTLY INSTALLED IN APPROACH ROAD
AND FINALLY TODAY, A GRANT TO COVER THE COST OF PRODUCING COLOUR PRINTS IN "TAPLOW
MOMENTS" BY NIGEL SMALES HAS JUST BEEN RATIFIED.
SOME OF THE OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH DURING THE PAST YEAR WERE;
THAT FOLLOWING A SURVEY AND OUR REQUEST FOR SPEED LIMITS TO BE LOWERED ON ALL THE
ROADS APPROACHING ST NICOLAS SCHOOL WHICH WE REPORTED LAST YEAR BUCKS AGREED
THAT RECTORY ROAD AND THE HIGH STREET SPEEDS BE REDUCED TO 20MPH BUT FUNDING HAS
NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED - SO WE AWAIT THEIR DECISION.
IT IS OUR AIM TO IMPROVE SAFETY AROUND THE ENVIRONS OF THE SCHOOL, VILLAGE GREEN,
CHURCH AND PUB. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A WIDER AREA THAN THAT ALREADY
AGREED TO BE LIMITED TO 20MPH.
WE CONTINUE TO BATTLE WITH BUCKS OVER MAINTENANCE COSTS OF THE PARISH FOOTPATHS.
BUCKS IS LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR UPKEEP AND HOPEFULLY DEV MAY BE ABLE TO
ELABORATE LATER UPON WHAT WE SHOULD EXPECT IN ORDER THAT THEY WILL BE MAINTAINED
TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD DURING THE YEAR, ALL PARISHES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WERE
INVITED BY BUCKS COUNTY TO TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN
ELEMENTS OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT.
IT WAS CALLED A DEVOLUTION OF POWER TO THE PARISHES. I'LL SAY NO MORE ABOUT THIS
BECAUSE I KNOW THAT JOHN BAMBERG WILL COVER THIS LATER. BE IT SUFFICIENT TO SAY WE
WERE NOT ENAMOURED WITH THEIR PROPOSITION.
A SMALL ISSUE, BUT ONE I BELIEVE YOUNGER PARISHIONERS SHOULD LOCK AWAY IN THEIR
MEMORIES IS THE FACT THAT ALL THE OPEN AREAS STRETCHING FROM CLIVEDEN STUP UP PAST
THE FEATHERS, AND THE ENTRANCE TO CLIVEDEN AND BEYOND TO NOBLEMANS CORNER ARE ALL
PART OF TAPLOW COMMON. SO, WHEN THE NATIONAL TRUST RECENTLY ERECTED A SIGN OUTSIDE
THEIR MAIN ENTRANCE TO CLIVEDEN, WHICH THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO DO WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE
IT REMOVED. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO ALMOST ALL OF THE PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF THE
FEATHERS PUB WHICH MEANS ANYBODY CAN PARK THERE WITHOUT HAVING TO BE CUSTOMERS
OR REGULARS!
THE JO BROOKING BEQUEST AGAIN FUNDED THE PURCHASE OF A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE
VILLAGE GREEN. TWO YOUNG LADIES, SASHA BODEN AND SCARLETT WAYLAND-SMITH, SHOULD BE
CONGRATULATED BECAUSE THEY ORGANISED A CAROL SINGING EVENING ON THE GREEN WITH
REFRESHMENTS, IT MADE A GOODLY SUM, £250, WHICH WAS SHARED EQUALLY WITH THE ST
NICOLAS CHURCH ROOF FUND AND THE SALVATION ARMY.
HTS ARE THANKED AGAIN FOR ORGANISING THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL VILLAGE GREEN PARTY
AND ALSO THE EASTER EGG HUNT. SUCH EVENTS ALL HELP BUILD UPON THE STRONG SENSE OF
COMMUNITY THAT WE ALL ENJOY IN TAPLOW.
LAST YEAR WE REPORTED THAT COUNTY PROPOSED THE AREA SURROUNDING TAPLOW STATION
SHOULD BECOME 'PAY & DISPLAY'. THIS WAS A PROPOSAL WHICH THE COUNCIL SUCCESSFULLY
REJECTED.
WE HAVE FOUGHT THE URBANISATION OF TAPLOW FOR MANY A YEAR AND YOU MAY RECALL HOW
SHOCKED WE WERE TO LEARN THAT DOUBLE-YELLOW LINES WERE TO BE LAID ON BOTH SIDES OF
INSITUTE ROAD. WE WERE ASSURED THEN THAT THIS WAS ONLY "A TEST" AND THAT IF
UNSUCCESSFUL THEY WOULD BE REMOVED. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED BY
ENDING THE HEAD-ON CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN DRIVERS BATTLING THEIR WAY ALONG THE
ROAD THE FACT IS THAT LITTLE IF ANY LATERAL THOUGHT WAS APPLIED TO THE NEEDS OF THE
WHOLE AREA.
THE PROBLEMS THEY WOULD CREATE FOR THE WOMENS INSTITUTE HALL, THE RUGBY, FOOTBALL
AND CRICKET CLUBS, PLUS THE SCOUTS, CUBS AND BROWNIES HUT, VISITORS TO THE 68 NEW
FLATS BEING BUILT ON THE SGT SITE ON TOP OF WHICH THERE WAS A PENDING APPLICATION FOR
A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING SOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
ALL OF THESE FACTORS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN IGNORED SO, WITH THE TEST NOW ENDED THE
PARISH COUNCIL HAS REQUESTED THAT THE DOUBLE YELLOWS BE REMOVED IN FAVOUR OF AN
ALTERNATIVE ONE-WAY SYSTEM THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE MANY
PARKING SPACES LOST ALONG INSTITUTE ROAD. AND ALSO PREVENT STATION ROAD CONTINUING
AS A 3-LANE ROAD BECAUSE IF THIS WERE DONE CAR-PARKING COULD BE MOVED OVER TO THE
LEFT-HAND SOUTHBOUND SIDE OF THE ROAD THEREBY MAKING THE PAVEMENT -SAFER FOR
PEDESTRIANS. BTW WE ARE CURRENTLY TESTING SOME DIFFERENT LAMPS ALONG THE
PAVEMENT TO TRY AND IMPROVE ITS LIGHTING - IT IS HOPED SOMETHING SENSIBLE WILL
EVENTUALLY EMERGE THAT WILL ALLOW ALL THE FACILITIES ALONG INSTITUTE ROAD SO BADLY

AFFECTED TO THRIVE AND BE SCHEME THAT WILL MAXIMISE THE NUMBER OF MUCH NEEDED PARKING SPACES AROUND TAPLOW STATION.

HARD WORKING COMMUTERS AND ALL THE LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA WOULD BENEFIT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED TO BOTH NETWORK RAIL AND CROSSRAIL THAT THEY SHOULD HELP ALLEVIATE PARKING CONGESTION BY CONSTRUCTING A LAYERED CAR-PARK ON THE SOUTH SIDE TO PROVIDE SECURE PARKING FOR CYCLES, SCOOTERS AND SMALLER VEHICLES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE GREEN TRAVEL. MAYBE....ONE DAY IT WILL HAPPEN.

IT IS TIMELY AND WITH SADNESS THAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER JOHN WILLMORE WHO DID SO MUCH TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONS OF TAPLOW SATATION. HIS ENERGY AND INPUT TO TRUG AND LATTERLY THE MAIDENHEAD & MARLOW PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION WHICH NOW INCLUDES TAPLOW WILL BE MUCH MISSED.

YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED AT THE RECENT DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION THAT TAPLOW HAD LOST SINGLE-HEADED STATUS DURING THE REVIEW BY THE BOUNDARIES COMMISSION AND THAT THE WARD IS NOW KNOWN AS BURNHAM LENT RISE AND TAPLOW. THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO ALTER THE RESULTS MUCH FROM BEFORE AS THE NEW WARD ENJOYED A THUNDERING GOOD RESULT FOR WHICH FOR ALL OF YOU WHO PUT A CROSS BY MY NAME, ARE THANKED VERY MUCH INDEED. PERSONALLY, I SAW THE LOCAL RESULTS AS A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT WIN, BUT COLLECTIVELY, THEY REPRESENTED A HUGE WIN FOR DOMINIC GRIEVE AND THE COUNTRY.

FINALLY, CAN I REMIND YOU THAT WE NOW HAVE A PARISH WEBSITE WHICH WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT METHOD OF COMMUNICATION ONCE FOLK START TO USE IT AND WHEN OTHER FEATURES ARE ADDED. TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF JUST GOOGLE "TAPLOW PARISH" AND YOU CAN THEN GO TO THE PAGES THAT INTEREST YOU. IT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHERS TO USE...FOR EXAMPLE HTS MAY WISH TO ANNOUNCE THEIR EVENTS AND RESIDENTS CAN READ THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHATS HAPPENING. IF YOU EVER WANT TO PROMOTE A COMMUNITY EVENT ALWAYS CHECK WITH HILDA TO SEE IF IT CAN BE INCLUDED ON THE WEB.

3.2 Report from The Finance Chairman

Cllr. John Bamberg reported that last year the Council had budgeted for a small deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account as reserves had been healthy. In fact the Council made a surplus on the year due to savings by investing in LED streetlighting. The annual electricity bill for the streetlights was reduced by about 80%. The Council has budgeted for another small deficit this year enabling a reduction of the Precept by a further 10%. The Precept was now roughly half of what it was 8 years ago and the lowest in the District by a factor of five and getting lower with each year.

About a year ago all local parishes were approached by the County Council with a view to devolving a large tranche of their responsibilities to the parishes. However the money being offered by them was insufficient to provide an adequate level of service and to have accepted devolution would have led to a substantial increase in the precept so the offer was declined. Regarding the Land Securities monies he reported that about £12,000 had been spent. Monies had been placed in a deposit account and would generate about £1,000 of interest for the year. Another £25,000 had been committed to other projects so he believed that the monies were in a healthy state with scope to pursue other projects should they arise in due course.

3.3 Report from the Planning Committee Chairman

Cllr. Worthington reported that he had taken over as chairman in January so much of the report would relate to matters arising under the previous chairman's stewardship. He said most applications related to tree issues and modest extensions to single dwellings. Of the more significant applications the dominant one has been the Mill Lane Opportunity site for which the SBDC Supplementary Planning Document has been the template.

Berkeley Homes (Three Counties) took over and bought the site and following public consultations submitted their plans together with the National Grid in September 2014. Concerns centered around housing density, height of multi storey buildings, treatment of Skindles and traffic lights on the A4. Planning officers recommended refusal on density grounds and National Grid withdrew their part. Since then Berkeley Homes have engaged in

very open discussions with the Council and other local groups and outlined significant changes to their proposals most of which are welcomed. They are yet to formally submit a new application which is expected shortly. Whatever the outcome, Taplow will be suffering disruption during the multi-year build phases with heavy site traffic on the A4 but the redevelopment of the site is long overdue.

The next large scale development is Institute Road. The SGT is in full construction and the Council has today considered the remaining development of the site.

Both these large developments will grow Taplow housing by about a quarter and the full impact on traffic and infrastructure is yet to be understood.

Several Victorian /Edwardian large houses are subject to development intentions. The latest in a long line of applications on the Hermitage has just been withdrawn and the fate of Silchester House has gone to appeal.

Currently the rowing club has withdrawn an application after objections on traffic /parking grounds. It remains to be seen if they can find a solution to this.

The Green Belt area south of the A4 is under steady pressure. The Marsh Lane Farm application has been rejected but concerns remain in the long term for the area which have been identified in the TPC submission to the development of the new SBDC local plan.

SBDC has started the process of re-developing the Local Plan. A preliminary public questionnaire process was completed by 24th April as the first step to have a new plan running through to 2036. To assist with the TPC response an online anonymous survey was prepared and advertised via local societies and the TPC website. 42 responses were received which gave a general feeling for matters concerning Taplow. A short response based on the 'raw' data gained was made raising in particular the advent of crossrail, the coming impact of Mill Lane and Institute Road developments and the separation of Maidenhead and Slough as major areas of concern for the future health of Taplow. In meetings with SBDC advisers it seems clear that the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Taplow in the short term would almost immediately become obsolete and it may be better to pursue this objective via input to the new Local Plan. He encouraged all residents to engage with the development of the new Local Plan.

4 Report from County Councilor Dev Dhillon

County Cllr. Dhillon reported that the main issues for the County Council were financial. The Government had said County Councils should be self sufficient and so they were trying to save £49million over the next 5 years at a time when there were extra pressures from the children portfolio and an ageing population. A debate was ongoing whether monies could be borrowed from the Public Loans Board. A result of these problems was that there was no money in the budget for footpaths unless they could be proved to be in a dangerous condition. He confirmed that the Parish Council's suggestion of a one way system had been put to the decision makers and that he would not be involved further. He was pushing for funding for Station Road but could confirm that the pavement would be resurfaced. Cliveden Gages would be getting a new streetlight and grass cutting of verges six times a year would shortly be underway. He noted some parishes had taken up the devolution offer but as a cluster and no individual parishes had taken up the offer. He had attended a meeting about the Frimley Trust and their finances seemed to be in good shape although they were aware of the car parking continuing to be a problem. The Council were putting £25million into roads with £3million of that for rural roads. Their reserves were very low.

5 Questions from residents

5.1 In response to questions from Mr. Peroni about wanting a permanent Vehicle Activated Sign for Berry Hill Cllr. Dhillon commented that research showed that keeping them in one place lost their effectiveness and it was best for them to be moved around. The Chairman

confirmed that the Parish Council had acquired a Moveable VAS and the Clerk was asked to confirm it was being moved around regularly.

5.2 Mr. Smales commented that TFB had let Taplow down by being reactive to planning applications rather than having any long term sensible plan to cope with Highways issues particularly in the light of the Mill Lane development. Cllr. Dhillon said he too was concerned about bottlenecks and when an application is made by the Mill Lane developers he would arrange for Highways to come and answer questions. The Chairman commented that the reality was that the A4 was running at an overcapacity 10 years ago and was not fit for purpose.

5.3 Mr. Bamberg expressed disappointment with the competence of TFB when viewed in the light of the recent suggested alternative routes along Mill Lane for the Berry Hill works. Cllr. Dhillon accepted that this was unfortunate and the route had now been changed.

5.4 Mr. Langton was concerned about the flooding under the bridge in Station Road because the drain was not maintained regularly. Cllr. Dhillon said he believed this situation had greatly improved.

5.5 Mr. Smales wished to clarify a point made by the planning chairman about the new large developments increasing housing by a quarter. The actual figure for the three major sites would increase the current housing stock of 791 (2009 census) by 40 or 50% not just a quarter.

The meeting ended at 9.02 pm.