

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17th MAY 2016 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. Jamie Barnard Cllr. Roger Worthington
 Cllr. Toby Greeves Cllr. Yannick Le Touze
 Cllr. John Bamberg Cllr. Val Pridmore
 Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan
 Mrs. K H Holder – clerk and 10 members of the public

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 8.05pm.

1 Apologies for absence

Cllr. John Kennedy.

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>	2014 (Jan – Dec)	2015 (Jan – Dec)	2016 (Jan – May)	<u>WHAT HAVE WE DONE</u>
Serious Violent Offences	0	0		
Serious Sexual Offences	0	0		
Burglary Dwelling	3	1	5	<u>Burglary</u> Burglary and Burglary non dwelling (sheds) has seen a small rise, however the Neighbourhood team have been offering extensive crime reduction to residents in an effort to combat this.
Burglary Non Dwelling (sheds/garages)	17	3	8	
Robbery	1	0	0	<u>Theft of/from Vehicles</u> Theft from vehicles has seen a decrease, this is down to some extensive work carried out by the team working with prolific offenders and clear car campaigns.
Theft of personal property	5	0	8	
Theft Of Vehicle	1	0	2	<u>Rubbish/Bags in Taplow</u> There have been numerous reports of bags Containing food waste being dumped
Theft of push bike	4	0	0	

Theft/criminal damage from Vehicle	37 0	3 0	4 0	in the Taplow area in particular Marsh Lane and Rectory Road. The Neighbourhood team are carrying out patrols in the area in an effort to identify who is doing this. We have also been working with the community safety team and Parish council to get them cleared as quickly as possible.
Theft of boats				
Less Serious Violence (person)	5 (domestic)	0	5	
Less serious sexual	0	0	0	
Arson	1	0	1	
Fraud/Forgery	0	0	2	
Criminal Damage	2	1	5	
Drug Offences	2	1	2	
Dogs dangerously out of control	1	0	1	

3 Report from Parish Council

3.1 Report from the Chairman

FIRSTLY, THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. MY REPORT FOR 2015/16 WILL HIGHLIGHT EVENTS OF NOTE OCCURRING DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO APRIL. ONE IMPORTANT EVENT THAT HASN'T YET HAD ANY NOTICEABLE AFFECT UPON US IS THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGES WHICH CREATED THE NEW WARD OF BURNHAM LENT RISE & TAPLOW WHICH NOW HAS 3 SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT CLLRS REPRESENTING THREE SEPARATE PARISHES. PART OF BURNHAM, DORNEY AND TAPLOW.

DURING THE YEAR GRANTS WERE AWARDED FROM THE COMMUNITY LEGACY FUND TO A VARIETY OF PROJECTS WHICH OUR CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE WILL COVER LATER BUT THE ONE THAT I MUST MENTION IS THAT THE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE ROYAL ART COLLECTION WERE CHOSEN TO RECORD THE SHEILA HORTON MURAL SO SHOULD IT EVER BE DAMAGED WE NOW HAVE THE ABILITY TO HAVE IT REPAIRED.

AT OUR MAY MTG ZOE HATCH (RESIDENT OF APPROACH ROAD) WAS CO-OPTED TO SERVE AS A CLLR. WHEN CONSIDERING POTENTIAL CLLRS FOR

CO-OPTION WE TRY TO ACHIEVE AS WIDE AN AREA REPRESENTATION AS POSSIBLE AND TO THIS END WERE PLEASED TO FILL TWO VACANT SEATS AT OUR JULY MEETING BY CO-OPTING DR VAL PRIDMORE FROM CLIVEDEN GAGES AND GERRY O'RIORDAN FROM MARSH LANE.

WE TRIED TO PERSUADE TRANSPORT FOR BUCKS TO APPROVE 20MPH SPEED LIMITS ON PARTS OF BOTH BOUNDARY ROAD, BERRY HILL, HILL FARM ROAD, RECTORY ROAD AND THE HIGH STREET. UNFORTUNATELY BUCKS WOULD NOT AGREE TO THE ROADS WHERE SPEEDING IS ACTUALLY MOST PREVALENT BUT THEY ONLY AGREED THE LAST TWO, BUT IN THE SAME BREATH SAID THEY HAD NO MONEY. THEY ALSO INFORMED US THAT THE COST, TO CHANGE THE SPEEDS ON RECTORY ROAD AND THE HIGH STREET WOULD BE £8.4K. THIS FIGURE IS JUSTIFIED BY ALL SORTS OF HIDDEN COSTS BUT IN EFFECT ALL WE WOULD SEE WOULD FOR IT WOULD BE THREE 20MPH SIGNS. AFTER SOME DEBATE THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO STAY AS WE ARE AS IT IS CONSIDERED ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO EXCEED 20MPH BECAUSE OF PARKED CARS AND OUR INFAMOUS SPEED HUMP.

HOWEVER, BUCKS DID AGREE TO CARRY OUT SPEED ASSESSMENT TESTS ON BERRY HILL AND HILL FARM ROAD AND THESE PROVED THAT MANY VEHICLES WERE TRAVELLING AT SPEEDS IN EXCESS OF 40MPH ON BERRY HILL BUT NOT HILL FARM ROAD THERE ARE MANY METHODS BY WHICH SPEED CAN BE REDUCED SO WITH THIS INFORMATION A WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS WHICH WILL THEN GO TO BUCKS HOPEFULLY FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

RENOVATION OF THE VILLAGE GREEN WAS VOTED 2ND MOST POPULAR PROJECT TO BE AWARDED GRANT FUNDING. SO IN SEPTEMBER OUR CONTRACTORS, CLARKES GARDENING SERVICES EXCAVATED THE REMAINS OF OLD FARM BUILDINGS AND HARD STANDING AND THEN SPREAD THE EQUIVALENT OF AN EXTRA SIX INCHES OF TOPSOIL ACROSS THE GREEN. RAISING THE GREEN'S SURFACE ALSO MEANT ALL THE MANHOLES AND ELECTRIC SUPPLY POINT FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS ALSO HAD TO BE RAISED. THE NEW SEED WAS SOWN IN THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AND THANKS TO SEVERAL WARM WEEKS IT GERMINATED QUICKLY. EVERYBODY IS THANKED, ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN FOR STAYING BEHIND THE BARRIERS AND GIVING THE NEW GRASS A CHANCE TO BECOME ESTABLISHED. IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY TEMPTING TO SOME OF THE YOUNGSTERS TO BREAK IN AND RUN ACROSS IT, BUT MAYBE THEY'RE MORE ECO-FRIENDLY THAN SOME OF US IMAGINE.

WHILST ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GREEN IT IS APPROPRIATE TO SAY SOME WORDS OF PRAISE TO TONY HARDING FOR HIS GOOD CITIZENSHIP. LIKE MANY OF US, TONY CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF A FULL LITTER BIN DISGORING ITS CONTENTS ONTO THE GREEN AND SO HAS FREQUENTLY TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO EMPTY IT.....WELL DONE TONY FOR YOUR PUBLIC SPIRITED ACTION.

THE BERKELEY HOMES DEVELOPMENT IS GROWING FAST. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY IMPACT UPON ALL OF US AS TIME PASSES. NONETHELESS, WHAT A BLESSING IT ISN'T BARRATTS DEVELOPING THE SITE....YOU WILL REMEMBER THEIR AMBITION WAS TO BUILD BETWEEN 300 AND 600 HOUSES AS MOST OF YOU WILL KNOW BERKELEY HOMES HAVE CONSULTED US WIDELY AND HAVE TAKEN ON BOARD MANY OF OUR SUGGESTIONS. WE WERE INVOLVED AGAIN RECENTLY IN A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NAMING OF NEW ROADS ON THE SITE. THANKS, LARGELY TO NIGEL SMALES WHO SHARED

HIS HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY SUGGESTIONS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL WE WERE ABLE TO ADD SOME SUPPORT THESE AND THE NAMES, MOST OF WHICH HAVE HISTORICAL LINKS HAVE NOW BEEN ADOPTED.

WE WERE ASKED TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE CASE FOR ONE WAS CONVINCING BUT TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT FROM THE LEGACY FUND THE DEFIRILLATOR HAD TO BE WIDELY ACCESSIBLE AND AS THE HALL IS LOCKED MOST OF THE TIME WHERE WAS THE BEST SITE? OUR SEARCH WAS SOON OVER WHEN KAREN & IAN, LANDLORDS OF THE OAK & SAW VOLUNTEERED TO HAVE IT INSTALLED OUTSIDE THE PUB WHERE IT IS EASILY SEEN AND IS ALSO ILLUMINATED AT NIGHT. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT EVERYONE WHO LIVES WITHIN A 5 MINUTE DRIVE OF THE PUB SHOULD FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE SYSTEM. THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE ON THE CABINET

TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO DISPOSE OF THEIR LITTER THOUGHTFULLY WE HAVE INSTALLED THREE ADDITIONAL LITTER BINS AT MARSH LANE, BOUNDARY ROAD, AND AT THE JUNCTION OF STATION AND APPROACH ROADS.

FOR MANY YEARS FOLK HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT POOR LIGHTING ALONG STATION ROAD WITH ITS DITCH ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAVEMENT AND PARKED CARS BY THE KERB. THAT MADE FOR AN UNEASY SITUATION FOR PEDESTRIANS. APPROACH ROAD ALSO HAD DARK AREAS AND I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT EACH OF THESE ROADS HAVE RECENTLY HAD AN ADDITIONAL 7 LIGHTS INSTALLED AND ARE NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL.

LATE LAST YEAR, OWING TO THE PRESSURE OF A NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITY CLLR JANETTE MACKAY STOOD DOWN BUT IN DOING SO SAID THAT YANNICK LE TOUZE WAS KEEN TO JOIN THE COUNCIL. HIS APPLICATION WAS DUE TO BE CONSIDERED AT OUR JANUARY MEETING WHEN HE WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE BEEN CO-OPTED.

HOWEVER, QUITE SURPRISINGLY, THAT IS FOR A PARISH COUNCIL, A POLL WAS CALLED WHICH MEANT AN ELECTION. THE ONLY TWO CANDIDATES WERE YANNICK LE TOUZE AND ROB THOMPSON. THE WINNER, BY A CLEAR MAJORITY WAS YANNICK LE TOUZE.

WE RECEIVED THE GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COUNTY CLLR DEV DHILLON THAT MARSH LANE, RECTORY ROAD, CEDAR CHASE, BERRY HILL AND RIVER ROAD WILL ALL BE RESURFACED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

AT OUR JANUARY MEETING THE COUNCIL AGREED WE SHOULD PROPOSE A CHANGE THAT WOULD IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOWS AND PARKING BY SUGGESTING TO TRANSPORT FOR BUCKS THAT STATION AND INSTITUTE ROADS BOTH BECOME ONE-WAY THEREBY ALLOWING CARS TO SAFELY PARKED ON ONE SIDE. HAVING GIVEN TfB PARKING MANAGER A TOUR OF THE ROADS HE AGREED IT WAS A SENSIBLE PROPOSITION THAT WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PARKING ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN CROSSRAIL ARRIVES AT TAPLOW BUT THEN SAID THERE JUST ISN'T THE MONEY AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT AND ADDED THAT THE NATURE OF LOCAL GOVERNEMNT IS NOT TO ANTICIPATE REQUIREMENTS BUT TO REACT. WHEN EXPERIENCE SHOWED THERE TO BE A NEED. WHAT A SHAME, BUT I THINK WE SHALL KEEP TRYING.

IF YOU DON'T ALREADY, YOU SHOULD LOG INTO THE PARISH WEBSITE FROM TIME TO TIME TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE PARISH. YOU CAN READ THE MINUTES OF OUR MEETINGS, AND EVEN ADVERTISE YOUR OWN EVENTS PROVIDING THEY'RE NOT OF A COMMERCIAL NATURE.....JUST

DISCUSS YOUR IDEAS WITH HILDA OUR PARISH CLERK AND IF APPROPRIATE SHE CAN ARRANGE FOR THEM TO BE ADDED.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WAS RECENTLY CRITICISED FOR NOT ENGAGING SUFFICIENTLY IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT THEREFORE FOR YOU TO BE REMINDED THAT SIMPLY PUT THE COUNCIL'S ACTUAL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN THE PARISH ASSETS WHICH ARE; THE VILLAGE HALL, THE VILLAGE GREEN, 92 STREET-LIGHTS (NOT THOSE ON THE A4), PLUS A WATCHING BRIEF OVER FOOTPATHS AND WE ARE CONSULTEES ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS. OF COURSE WE BECOME EMBROILED IN OTHER MATTERS, BUT NONE THAT IMPACT DIRECTLY UPON THE PARISH PRECEPT WHICH IS THE AMOUNT ADDED TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL TO COVER PARISH COSTS.

WE DO ENGAGE AND DO SPONSOR SOCIAL EVENTS, HOWEVER TAPLOW IS BLESSED WITH SO MANY GROUPS WHO ORGANISE THEIR OWN SUPERB EVENTS TO WHICH MANY ARE INVITED; THERE'S THE CEDAR CHASE BBQ, THE HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY MID-SUMMER PARTY ON THE VILLAGE GREEN, THERE ARE ACTIVE RESIDENTS SOCIETIES AT HITCHAM GRANGE, HILLMEAD COURT, CLIVEDEN VILLAGE, ORKNEY COURT, ELLINGTON & DISTRICT (EDRA)ODDS FARM RESIDENTS SOCIETY, THE HUGELY POPULAR RACE TO THE CHURCH, THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION TO THE BEACON ON THE MOUND. THIS WAS PROMOTED BY THE COUNCIL, MAGNIFICENTLY ORGANISED BY CLLR ROGER WORTHINGTON WITH CLLR HATCH AND CHARLIE GREEVES SELLING TORCHES AND A SUBERB BEACON PREPARED BY PHIL & CLIFF FROM TAPLOW COURT WHICH WAS LIT BY ROBERT HARRAP THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SGI-UK. SOME WILLING HANDS ACTED AS MARSHALLS AND AN EXCITING FIREWORK DISPLAY PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL WAS ORGANISED BY MALCOLM SMITH AND I BELIEVE IT WAS MIKE CLARKE HAD MOST OF THE EXCITEMENT LETTING THEM OFF.ALTHOUGH THE GREEN WAS OUT OF BOUNDS UNITL EASTER THAT DIDN'T DETER SASHA BODEN AND SCARLETT WAYLAND-SMITH FROM ORGANISING CAROLS ON THE SMALL GREEN WHERE A JOLLY TIME WAS HAD BY ALL WITH PROFITS FROM THE EVENT GOING TO CHARITY . THEY HAVE OUR THANKS FOR ORGANISING IT AND I CAN ASSURE EVERYONE THAT THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS TREE STANDING IN ITS TRADITIONAL POSITION THIS DECEMBER .

CLLR HATCH ORGANISED TAPLOW'S CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN DAY. I'M NOT SURE HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS TURNED UP BUT I DO KNOW THEY COLLECTED A WHOPPING 43 BLACK BAGS FULL OF LTTER. SBDC IS ALSO TO BE THANKED FOR SUPPLYING THE LITTER PICKING EQUIPMENT AND HI VIZ CLOTHING. ALL THESE ACTIVITIES AND THE EFFORTS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS COMBINE TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN TAPLOW WHICH I HOPE MOST OF YOU WILL AGREE IS SECOND TO NONE. YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WAS RECENTLY ACCUSED OF BEING UNPROFESSIONAL. SO IN ORDER YOU MAY JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES EACH MEMBER IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER WILL NOW GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THEIR BACKGROUND AND BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

JOHN BAMBERG –HE HAD BEEN RETIRED FOR MANY YEARS FOLLOWING A CAREER WORKING FOR SHELL.HE WORKED ON A NUMBER OF CHARITY COMMITTEES

JAMIE BARNARD – HE HAD BEEN A LAWYER FOR 12 YEARS CURRENTLY IN THE MEDIA, MARKETING AND ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF UNILEVER. HE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE VILLAGE

TOBY GREEVES – HE HAD LIVED IN THE VILLAGE FOR OVER 20 YEARS. HE HAD WORKED IN THE CITY BUT NOW WORKED FROM HOME. HE HAD TWO CHILDREN.

GERRY O'RIORDAN – HE WAS A RECORDING ENGINEER MAINLY FOR RADIO DRAMA THESE DAYS. HE HAD LIVED IN THE VILLAGE FOR THREE YEARS

DR VAL PRIDMORE – NOW RETIRED SHE HAD BEEN A TEACHER AND OFSTED INSPECTOR AND A GOVERNMENT SPECIAL ADVISOR. SHE WAS ON THE BOARD OF TWO NATIONAL CHARITIES (CHAIR OF ONE) AND A FOUNDER MEMBER OF CLIVEDEN GAGES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.

LOUISE SYMONS – HAD LIVED IN TAPLOW FOR OVER 25 YEARS. AFTER A CAREER IN IT AND AI FOR BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING. SHE NOW RAN A BUSINESS FROM HOME

YANNICK LE TOUZE – HE HAD BEEN AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER BUT HAD BEEN A FINANCIAL ADVISER SINCE 2008. HE HAD LIVED IN THE AREA FOR OVER 2 YEARS AND HAD THREE CHILDREN- TWO AT THE LOCAL SCHOOL AND ONE STARTING PLAYGROUP IN SEPTEMBER.

ROGER WORTHINGTON – NOW RETIRED HE HAD BEEN A HIGH ENERGY ACADEMIC PHYSICIST BUT MOVED ON TO FINANCIAL COMPUTING IN THE CITY. HE WAS SECRETARY OF HTS AND HIS WIFE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE BUDDHIST CENTRE. HE HAD LIVED HAPPILY IN TAPLOW FOR 6 YEARS

AND ME: I STARTED IN ELECTRO-MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, FOLLOWED BY A VARIETY OF POSTS THE LAST THREE BEING; HEAD OF RETAIL AT LONDON REGIONAL TRANSPORT, SOLE UK DISTRIBUTOR FOR A GERMAN MACHINE MANUFACTURER AND ALSO PRIVATE OWNER OF A NATIONWAIDE SERVICE COMPANY. I HAVE LIVED IN TAPLOW SINCE 1971.

AND LASTLY, BUT NOT LEAST WE HAVE OUR PARISH CLERK HILDA WHO IS A FORMER SOLICITOR AND OLIVE, WHO HAS MANAGED ALL THE HALL BOOKINGS INVOICING ETC FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

TO MY MIND THAT IS A HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED, EXPERIENCED TEAM COUNCILLORS SERVE THE PARISH FOR NO PERSONAL NOR FINANCIAL GAIN BUT ONLY FOR THE PLEASURE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONTINUED ENJOYMENT OF RESIDENTS WHO HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO LIVE IN WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE NICEST PARISH IN SOUTH BUCKS.

3.2 Report from The Finance Chairman

Cllr. John Bamberg reported on the recent accounts prepared to 31st March 2016. He advised that the Income and Expenditure Account showed that the Council was within budget for the year. The income had reduced by £2000 owing to the reduced precept. The expenditure was down around £4000 because of savings on the green maintenance during its renovation. Changing streetlights to Led had saved 40% of budgeted costs. He advised that the council was holding £109,000 in the bank; only £29,000 of which is operational money. NALC recommendations are that councils should not hold more than 9 months worth of operational reserves and accordingly the precept was reduced to try and bring the council in line. £8000 is held in the Brooking Fund and £19,000 in a 'Buildings reserve'. As there are no plans to spend this then it would be a matter for the next agenda to allow this money to be reintroduced into day to day expenditure. There was now £46,000 left in the Legacy Fund. The main spend so far had been £13250 on street lighting, £13,000 on the Village Green renovation, £10,000 to the church roof, £5000 to the OPG, £3,500 on planning advise on Mill lane, £3,000 on helping produce Taplow Moments, £2,500 on each of the Mural and WI toilets, £1800 on the defibrillator and £600 on the frog bin.

3.3 Report from the Planning Committee Chairman

Cllr. Worthington reported that although numerically still dominated by tree related applications, there has been a significant growth in applications for extensions to individual residences, in particular along Marsh Lane. Although many are straightforward and fall within permitted development, we have raised concerns with some and there have been rejections on Green Belt openness grounds.

The appeal over Silchester House was rejected but a change of use for The Hermitage to residential was successful, so developments there are awaited. A developer whose application is rejected can appeal but objectors (such as Parish Councils) have no such right if an application is successful. A petition to change this has been rejected by government. The "SGT" development in Institute Road is nearing completion. The development further along Institute Road (15/00656/FUL) has not started. Approval was given in October 2015 with a number of pre-conditions. To date, no application has been made for relief of these conditions. Berkeley Homes re-presented their Mill Lane applications with extensive changes made after meetings and representations from ourselves and other local bodies. These exchanges were open and effective and the results are considered a great improvement on the original applications, including the approval for a roundabout access to the A4 in place of the earlier traffic light based system. The applications (still without the component belonging to National Grid), were approved in September and development is now well under way. The application for the National Grid area has now been submitted and appears to be in line with the original (withdrawn) plan for 12 houses. The area of greatest concern to local residents has been the much greater than expected loss of trees. A local petition has been raised objecting to the planned closure of Mill Lane at the Jubilee river. The original Local Plan initiative from SBDC was withdrawn. This was due to growing government pressure on timescales. As a result, SBDC and Chiltern District have combined resources to produce a joint Local Plan. Taplow Parish responded to the consultation on its first draft, which closed on March 14th. The item that most affects Taplow is the inclusion of a Green Belt area south of the A4 (SB0297 Marsh Lane, Taplow (from Employment Land Review)) for further evaluation in phase two. It is clear that the government is in effect forcing local authorities to reassess Green Belt land. The next release of the Local Plan paper is due in October. It remains to be seen whether objections to this inclusion are accepted.

Taplow Parish has submitted an application to SBDC to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and a statutory consultation is presently in progress, approval is expected by early July. The advantage of a neighbourhood plan over earlier documents such as the Parish plan (2006) is that accepted policies within a neighbourhood plan become part of the formal planning criteria used by the district council to evaluate planning applications. A working party, made up from representatives across the parish, will drive the production but all residents are encouraged to put forward their views on what they wish to see happen in Taplow for the future. We are in process of making upgrades to the Parish website to improve communication with residents in support of this.

4 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon

County Cllr. Dhillon reported that the main issues for the County Council were again financial. Expenditure exceeded £300million pa most of which was spent on adult social care (38%). There were 425 children in care costing up to £100,000 each pa. £17million is due to be spent on roads but savings of £51 million needed to be made. The Leader was looking into the feasibility of a unitary system and it is possible the next County

elections might be the last. After initial set up costs it is anticipated that savings could be made in this way.

On the issue of the parking problems and one way system he had to advise that this had to be on the back burner. He had asked the LAF for funding for yellow lines on the corner of Hillmead Road, Marsh Lane and Hitcham Road. If the application fails then match funding might be possible.

Station Road, the bottom of Berry Hill and Marsh Lane will be resurfaced between June and August but Ellington Road and River Road will have to wait until next year.

He encouraged any local charities seeking funding to contact him as he could assist in applying for funds from the Bucks Community Foundation.

He was aware of the dumping of soiled bags.

Cllr. Barnard asked if the pavement along Station Road could be repaired. Cllr. Dhillon said he was aware of this but had other funding priorities for the time being.

Cllr Pridmore asked about the provision of a streetlight for Cliveden gages which she had understood would be provided by TfB. Cllr Dhillon said he could apply to the LAF but did not recall promising this would happen.

Cllr. Symons asked if Station Road could be widened or yellow lines be put in on both sides of the road in the middle to allow for a passing place. Cllr. Dhillon said he would enquire.

Cllr. O’Riordan was concerned that double yellows along the length of Marsh Lane might appear too draconian. He suggested single yellows along Marsh Lane, with time limits, would be preferable to double yellows all the way

Mr. Nigel Smales asked if Cllr Dhillon was satisfied with the performance of TfB. He confirmed he was not.

5 Questions from residents

Mr Smales enquired how much PC elections cost. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council had paid £2366 in January for the bi –election. He understood £490 had been charged for election costs by one of the candidates but it was not clear who had paid that – the PC or SBDC. Mr Smales asked if this had been budgeted for. The Clerk advised that in an election year the Council considered the election costs and likelihood of a contested election and took that into account when budgeting. However contested by –elections were never really taken into account for budgeting purposes as they were so rare. Cllr. Bamberg confirmed that in his 10 years on the Council this was the only one he had encountered.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.