

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29th MAY 2012 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW

Present

Mr. George Sandy (Chairman) Mr. John Kennedy
Mr. John Bamberg Mr. Euan Felton
Ms. Elizabeth Forsyth Ms. Joy Marshall
Ms. Louise Symons Ms. Sue Griffin – Acting Clerk
Ms. Hilda Holder – Assistant to the Acting Clerk
Three members of the public.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.00pm. The meeting was adjourned for **OPEN FORUM** recorded at the end of these minutes. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

PC/1/12 Report from the police

No report was available.

PC/2/12 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon

No report was available.

PC/3/12 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Cllr. Josie Corio and Cllr. Iris Midlane gave apologies. Cllr. Joy Marshall declared an interest in the planning issues relating to Ellington Gardens where she lived.

PC/4/12 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2012

4.1 Cllr. Kennedy wished to correct the minutes:-

4.1.1 On page 2 the minute relating to the insurance of Old Priory Gardens. This should read that Mrs. Trevallion had checked with the council's insurance company and Old Priory Gardens can be added to the council's policy with no extra premium being payable.

4.1.2 On page 4 the minute relating to Marshmead chicken farm should read that Cllr. Kennedy stated that he had been informed that Peter Beckford was looking into this matter.

4.1.3 With regard to the closed part of the meeting it was clarified in relation to item 4 that the bank signatories should be any two of the following four councillors namely Cllr. Josie Corio, Cllr. Euan Felton, Cllr. George Sandy and Cllr. John Bamberg.

4.2 Cllr. Forsyth wished to correct each reference to 'Wellbank residents' on pages 1 and 2 to clarify that the views expressed were those of the four residents present.

PC/5/12 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

5.1 County Councillor Dev Dhillon had agreed to investigate the situation regarding the funding of footpath maintenance. No report had been received from him yet on this issue. Cllr. Marshall advised of a new 'P4C' grant scheme run by Natural England which might be worth investigating. She added that footpath 8

was now impassable. Cllr. Forsyth recorded her thanks to Chris Ashford who had recently been seen cutting a way through this footpath. Cllr. Kennedy advised that a volunteer, Stuart Grazier, had come forward to walk the footpaths with Cllr. Marshall. Cllr. Bamberg reminded the council that BCC were responsible for footpaths and had historically refunded costs incurred by the council to the tune of about £1400pa. The Acting Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from the council's regular contractor to maintain the footpaths for the next year so that this sum could be agreed with BCC.

5.2 The Chairman reported that Dominic Grieve MP had agreed to attend Taplow's jubilee event and would be lighting the bonfire.

5.3 Cllr. Kennedy asked the Acting Clerk to desist from putting up any signs in Burnham as this had given rise to complaints from Burnham councillors. The Acting Clerk explained that this error which had occurred because of a shortage of time to undertake a leaflet drop when the previous clerk had just left.

5.4 The Chairman advised that it had been decided at the last meeting to change meeting dates to the last Wednesday of the month but this was not convenient for some councillors. **It was agreed** to move meetings to the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. The Chairman also reported that there was no legal requirement to have any more than 4 meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting in any year. **It was agreed** to meet quarterly with the next meetings being on the first Tuesday in July and thereafter September and January to be agreed by the Chairman and the Acting Clerk.

5.5 The Chairman reported that he was meeting a lawyer from SBDC at Old Priory Gardens who he believed would be bringing the lease for signature. The assistant clerk asked if she could review the lease.

PC/6/12 Election of Chairman and Declaration of Office

Cllr Sandy retired as Chairman and the Acting Clerk asked for nominations for the post. Cllr. Forsyth proposed Mr. Sandy for re-election. This was seconded by Cllr. Felton and **unanimously agreed**.

PC/7/12 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman proposed Cllr. Corio – who had advised him she would be willing to stand. This was seconded by Cllr. Kennedy and **unanimously agreed**.

PC/8/12 Election of members to committees

It was unanimously agreed that all committees would continue with the same members as before.

PC/9/12 Election of representatives to outside bodies

9.1 BALC- The Chairman. **It was agreed** membership of BALC would be reviewed in due course

9.2 SBALC – Cllr Symons, Cllr. Forsyth and Cllr. Kennedy would continue

9.3 Taplow Charitable Trust – Cllr. Forsyth

9.4 School Travel plan steering group – Cllr. Forsyth

PC/10/12 Finance

10.1 **It was agreed** that Cllr. Bamberg be appointed as the Responsible Financial Officer.

10.2 Cllr. Bamberg recommended the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012, which had been examined and approved by the Finance Committee, to

the council for approval. **These were unanimously approved** and the Chairman and the RFO were authorised to sign the same on behalf of the council.

10.3 The Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2012 was presented to the council and **approved**. The Chairman, Acting Clerk and RFO were authorised to sign the same on behalf of the council.

10.4 Payments as per the cheque list circulated prior to the meeting were **approved** for payment. It was noted that torches for the jubilee event had been acquired. Cllr. Forsyth offered to sell these at £1 each on the night.

PC/11/12 Planning

11.1 **12/00677/FUL** Windrush application to erect a new fascia much higher than the existing one was debated. **It was agreed** to raise no objections.

11.2 **12/00745/FUL** Pink Cottage Ellington Gardens- After much consideration it was **agreed** to object to this application on the grounds that the property is in a Conservation Area and on Green Belt land and SBDC's core strategy provides that infilling in this way is not acceptable in a named Conservation Area. The property will overlook a number of adjoining gardens and will impact on green spaces including trees especially as it is visible from the public domain of the adjoining public footpath. Finally the development is in a flood plain area.

11.3 **12/00784/TPO** Cllr Felton proposed that the council make no comment but leave this to the tree officer.

11.4 **12/00858/CM** Hill Farm relating to gravel extraction near Boundary Road. This had been received this week. The council cannot complain about the extraction as permission has already been given subject to the company complying with issues relating to wildlife and flora. Cllr. Symons was asked for her opinion as she lives nearby. She said that the noise started earlier than it should, the dust was unpleasant and she believed had triggered health problems for her and some of her neighbours. The Acting Clerk was asked to write to SBDC and the extraction company to advise them of the residents' complaints and asking for them to take steps to reduce the dust – referring to the health issues – and to limit noise to permitted working hours.

11.5 An application had been received from Wellbank to cut back a chestnut tree. Cllr Felton was concerned there may be evidence that a TPO granted in 1962 may have been disregarded by SBDC themselves. The Chairman said he would look into it.

11.6 Planning decisions were noted.

PC/12/12 Enforcement report

12.1 Cllr. Forsyth had nothing to report. In response to a query from Cllr. Kennedy regarding Marshmead she confirmed that no application for retrospective planning permission to rectify the outstanding enforcement issues there had been made to her knowledge.

12.2 Cllr. Felton commented on the fence which appeared to be over 2 metres high which had been put up around one third of Abbots Wood in Heathfield Road and for which no planning application had been made. Cllr. Kennedy suggested the enforcement officer be asked to advise whether planning permission is required.

PC/13/12 To receive reports from outside bodies

Cllr. Forsyth reported that the school steering group were in favour of cycle paths and a number of other initiatives. The Chairman asked her to report back that these were highly unlikely to become a reality.

PC/14/12 Chairman's submissions

14.1 The Chairman proposed that the council request the Secretary of State to review the Land Securities planning application. He explained that the decision made at the last meeting was flawed in that it was confusingly worded and Cllr. Felton added that as the matter had not been on the agenda it was not a valid decision. After heated debate the resolution **was agreed** by 5 being for and 2 against the proposition.

14.2 The Chairman reported that Taplow had consistently refused to support LAFs as they were undemocratic and unconstitutional. Cllr Kennedy was concerned that the battle was lost with other parish councils being won over to join. Cllr. Forsyth expressed a view that there was more to be gained by being involved than not. **It was agreed** by a majority decision that the council should stay outside the LAF but that this situation be reviewed from time to time.

14.3 **It was agreed** that Mary Trevallion and her husband in the first instance and thereafter such other person as the Chairman shall decide should be offered the chance to represent the parish council at the Lord Lieutenant's Jubilee Party in Henley.

14.4 **It was agreed** by a majority vote to support the campaign against onshore wind turbines.

14.5 **It was agreed** that future agendas and minutes could be sent by email rather than hard copy although efforts should be made to make it clear that these are important documents in the heading of the email for example using the heading 'SUMMONS FOR MEETING'.

PC/15/12 To consider agenda items for the next meeting

The following items were suggested:-

Telephone Box

Acoustics in the Hall

To consider co-opting a new councillor

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd July 2012 at 7.30pm in the Perkins Room Taplow Village Centre High Street Taplow

Notes from Public Forum

James Vauxhall of Ellington Gardens expressed objections on behalf of his neighbours— two of which were also present- in respect of the planning application for Pink House to build a two storey detached dwelling on space currently occupied by garages. He had circulated a written submission containing his objections. In summary these included concerns about intolerable congestion and the safety of the young children in the area, inappropriate materials and design, properties being overlooked, impact on visual amenities, flood risks, inaccurate and misleading information and that the South Bucks core strategy does not allow infilling in Green Belt and Conservation areas.

The Chairman advised the residents to write separate individual letters to SBDC and

demand that the matter go to planning committee. A formal request made to him within the timescales for consultation– as he was a member of the planning committee- would be sufficient to ensure this would happen.