

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2014 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE READING ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW

Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman) Cllr. Rachel Gainey-Corcoran
Cllr. Iris Midlane Cllr. John Bamberg.
Cllr. John Kennedy Cllr. Euan Felton

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 6.30pm.

PC/24/14 Apologies for absence

Apologies from the Clerk, Cllr. Marina Grazier, Cllr. Louise Symons and Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth.

PC/25/14 To elect a Chairman for the coming year and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

It was unanimously **agreed** that Cllr. Sandy be elected as Chairman. The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of office.

PC/26/14 To confirm the minutes of the meetings of 14th January, 14th March and 30th April 2014

Minutes of the three meetings held on 14th January, 14th March and 30th April were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

PC/27/14 Matters Arising from previous meetings (not covered elsewhere)

There were none.

PC/28/14 To agree to co-opt Josie Corio as a councilor

Mrs. Corio agreed to stand for co-option as a councillor. This was unanimously **agreed**. Cllr. Corio signed her Declaration of Acceptance of office and Declarations of Interests Forms. She applied for dispensation under S33 of the Localism Act 2011 which was **approved**.

PC/29/14 To elect a Vice-Chairman for the coming year

It was unanimously **agreed** that Cllr. Gainey-Corcoran be elected as Vice Chairman.

PC/30/14 To elect members to the committees for the coming year

It was **agreed** that all committee memberships would remain the same and Cllr. Corio would advise the Clerk which committees she would like to join in due course.

PC/31/14 To elect members to outside bodies

- 31.1 SBALC – It was **agreed** Cllr. Forsyth, Cllr. Gainey-Corcoran and Cllr. Grazier would continue.
- 31.2 Taplow Charitable Trust – Cllr. Forsyth .
- 31.3 School Travel Plan Steering Group – Cllr. Forsyth.
- 31.4 Priory Gardens Working Group – it was **agreed** that no representatives were required.

PC/32/14 Finance

- 32.1 It was **agreed** to appoint Mr. B Dancer as internal auditor
- 32.2 Expenditure since 1st April 2014 as set out in the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting was **approved**.
- 32.3 Cllr. Bamberg advised that the Finance Committee had approved the Accounts and Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2014. He recommended the Parish Council

approve these. These were unanimously **approved** to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk for submission to the external auditors.

32.4 It was **agreed** to create a new reserve in the accounts for the Land Securities monies.

32.5 It was **agreed** to donate £75 to the Brownies.

PC/33/14 Planning

33.1 Cllr. Felton had circulated a list of current planning applications and proposed responses prior to the meeting. These were **approved**. Two in particular were of importance:-

33.1.1 Internally illuminated fascia sign at The Bishops Centre: It was agreed to ask for limited hours of operation 6am and 11pm.

33.1.2 Mandarin House, Ellington Road has submitted an application for side doors and roof lights. The front elevation view shows that it is disproportionately large and the dormer windows project rather a long way into the conservation area. It was agreed to object on the basis that all the other loft conversions involve roof lights, which are flat and do not protrude.

33.2 To note recent planning decisions - opinion received from SBDC that the Berry Hill gravel extraction should not go ahead and we have already put in our objection to the county council. Not a decision so much as an event to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. The Silchester House application, which we objected to, has now been withdrawn.

PC/34/14 To consider acquiring a new intruder alarm system

The alarm system in the Village Hall is obsolete and needs to be upgraded. The two options are to replace the keypad or to replace the entire alarm. The Clerk will review and report back.

PC/35/14 Enforcement report: Cllr Forsyth

No formal report is available. Cllr. Sandy reported that an order had been served to remove the unlicensed car wash and catering wagon at Roots. The signs advertising these illegally sited businesses are also to go but nothing has yet happened.

PC/36/14 To receive reports from outside bodies

There were none.

PC/37/14 Any other business

37.1 County Cllr. Dev Dhillon has done a good job getting holes filled in the road at the bottom of Berry Hill but there are more on Berry Hill which need attention. Cllr. Dhillon was asked to put in further requests.

37.2 The Council was delighted to acknowledge that Paul Adams, our new headmaster of St Nicolas' School joined the meeting. He mentioned that it is lovely to work with Taplow as a community and everyone had spoken highly of the community spirit here. His aspirations are to make the children 'citizens of the future' and continue the great work in Taplow. One of the events he will focus on in September is the school's 50th anniversary and explore how we can celebrate together with the community. Paul aspires to make this an area where people feel valued and with the church, school and village green, make the children aware and care for the heritage and to engage with what Taplow is about. Mr Adams was wished well in his new role.

Cllr. Sandy added that the person who must not be forgotten during any planned celebrations is Helen Grellier. She was headmistress for many years and she should be at the heart of the celebration. In response to a question as to what proportion of the pupils are actually from Taplow, Paul Adams responded that he was not sure but it is something the Council would be interested in knowing. This is relevant to the traffic problems. In 1971 Cedar Chase had 57 children from 24 houses and everyone walked. This is now clearly changing and the traffic ebbs and flows with these changes. Cllr. Bamberg also mentioned that the new development in Mill Lane will affect the demographics of the school.

37.3 Mr. Canon of Institute Road raised the issue of double yellow lines in Institute Road. Mr. Canon says that this discussion has been going on for years and wants to know why the Council opposes the double yellow lines. Cllr. Sandy responded that the council has not been

involved in this discussion and was horrified about the lack of consultation. We resist 'yellow lines', we resist 'pay and display' and we resist 'signage': We wish to remain rural and not subject to decisions made under Burnham rules for a Taplow site. On top of all of this, the plans pending for additional housing may render the yellow lines redundant anyway. A further solution is a one-way system which Mr. Canon disagreed with.

Cllr. Bamberg added that some solution has to be found but double yellow lines on one side of the road may not be the answer. Cllr. Dhillon insisted that the yellow lines are only for a 6 month period and regrets that the Council was not involved.

37.4 Tony Hickman said it was good news about potholes on Berry Hill however the contractors continue to leave their signs behind. Further, he wanted to draw attention to the eastern side of Hill Farm Road and Boundary Road: Flailing of the hedgerow and leaving the debris on the road is a hazard and if the council would properly lop all the overhanging bushes and clear the road surface, we could gain almost a yard in terms of road width. Tony Hickman feels all of these things get forgotten by the Highways Agency.

Cllr. Sandy advised that he had an upcoming meeting to discuss this and the yellow line issue plus the 20 mph on the corner from the stables up to Hill Farm Road.

37.5 Anthony Harding from 33 Buffins said that when he was a child from Lent Green in Burnham there were tarmac paths with two kissing gates and there is one that disappeared when they built the new school. The very last one at Berry Hill Farm is a wonderful kissing gate and the spindle is so worn that it is going to snap and when it goes will it be repaired by the council or will it be scrapped? The footpath is so narrow that if the gate breaks and a horse is loose on the path, then this could cause panic.

Cllr. Sandy advised that the kissing gates are the responsibility of the farmers and therefore Summerleaze needs to get this sorted.

PC/38/14 To consider agenda items for the next meeting on 15th July 2014.

It was **agreed** that this should include the outcome of the request for funding to be made at the APM.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.