

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS 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. Val Pridmore
Cllr. Jamie Barnard Cllr. Zoe Hatch
Cllr. John Bamberg Cllr. Gerry O'Riordan

Mrs. K H Holder – clerk

Six members of the public.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

In open forum Norman Rossiter, Chairman of the Hillmead Residents Association, complained about parking problems in Station Road and on the left hand bend into Boundary Road all day during most weekdays. He said drivers came from far afield to have 'free' parking and lower season ticket costs. Visibility splays were obstructed and the situation was very dangerous with many reported 'near misses'. Complaints with accompanying photographs had been sent to the County Councillor and the police. The police have said they will not take action as they have not observed any obstructions. Mr. Rossiter referred to the Highway Code which stated that no parking should take place within 20 metres of a junction. The Residents Association wanted to have double yellow lines along both sides of Station Road and at the left hand bend onto Boundary Road. They were also concerned about the poor state of Station Road and would like to see it resurfaced.

The Chairman responded that the Parish Council was aware of the problems and had some sympathy with residents. He noted problems were likely to increase when Crossrail comes into operation. However the Parish Council supported an initiative to have Station Road and Institute Road turned into one way systems with parking allowed along one side. A meeting had been had with Crossrail and Transport for London seeking their support for such a scheme as well as pushing for more 'green' parking on the south car park.

Cllr. Hatch expressed concern that the Chairman had not adequately responded to the residents' problem. She felt a future solution did not meet the needs of residents who were concerned about parking now and sought immediate action from the Council. She asked the Clerk to clarify what steps were needed to be taken to have double yellow lines installed. The Clerk explained that Bucks County Council would need to be involved and consultations take place and the cost would be in excess of £8,000.

Mr. Rossiter expressed concern that a one way system would result in the streets becoming race tracks.

PC/54/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllr. Janette Mackay.

PC/55/15 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of 14th July 2015

These were **approved** with one amendment and signed by the Chairman. The amendment was in respect of item 49.5. The Chairman had not said that the rowing club had 400 members but had said it claimed to have in excess of 350 members.

PC/56/15 Matters Arising

56.1 The Chairman was concerned that the proposals for a Neighbourhood Plan – which it had been agreed should be funded by the Community Grant Fund - should not be delayed. It had previously been thought better to wait until the review stage of the Local Plan but a local strategy setting out where the Parish Council would and would not support development was needed without delay. **It was agreed** to invite Mr. Winwright from SBDC along to another meeting as soon as possible.

56.2 The Chairman had met with the Infrared heating suppliers and seen plans which satisfied him that the heating units would not be intrusive. An independent heating consultant would be visiting in the next week to advise on running costs. No decision would be taken until brought back to Councillors.

56.3 On the issue of the Mural photography, Cllr. O'Riordan had taken copies of the images made by Todd White and liaised with Philip Langton and Raymond Blythe to produce some prints. Cllr. O'Riordan explained that no guarantees existed that the current media would survive long term storage. He advised that copies should be kept in several places and re- copied onto the latest technology regularly. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should keep a copy in the office safe and that Cllr. O'Riordan should arrange for encryption and then keep a copy and put it on his laptop and into cloud storage. Sheila Horton should also be given a copy and asked if she would be willing to sign a formal assignment of her intellectual property in the Mural to the Parish Council as she had in the past informally agreed to do.

56.4 The Clerk advised that no application could be made for a grant for disabled toilets until plans had been advanced. Debate ensued as to the need for independent advice on this issue.

56.5 The Chairman reported that the renovations to the Village Green had been completed at a cost of £13,125.54 – well within the £15,000 budget. Cllr. Hatch expressed concern that the installation of the two new trees had not been agreed at a council meeting. Cllr Hatch was reminded that all Councillors had been emailed regarding the replacement of trees and a majority had agreed and their cost came well within budget. Cllr. Hatch expressed concern that spending decisions were being made outside of Council meetings. The Clerk confirmed that Council decisions should be made at Council meetings.

PC/57/15 To consider the devolution offer from Bucks County Council (BCC)

The Chairman explained that BCC were trying to get parish councils to take responsibility for BCC's legal duties such as cutting grass and hedgerows. At the recent Finance Committee meeting it had been decided to recommend to Council that the offer should not be taken up as the money on offer was inadequate and might result in up to a 40% increase in the precept. Cllr. Hatch suggested more should be done to investigate the offer as the cost might be acceptable to residents if it meant services improved. The Chairman proposed a motion asking councillors to vote in favour of BCC continuing to be responsible for the services they are legally liable to undertake. This was carried with one abstention. Cllr. Bamberg added that he was against devolution because it added another layer of bureaucracy making the Parish Council into another cost centre.

PC/58/15 To consider proposals for funding from the Community Grant Fund

58.1 **It was agreed** to spend up to £2,000 of Community Grant monies towards the installation of a defibrillator in the village. The Chairman had spoken to the Landlord of the Oak and Saw Public house who had agreed that one could be installed at the side of the pub.

58.2 **It was agreed** to put the issue of whether to have more litter bins on the next agenda. Cllr. O'Riordan and Cllr. Symons proposed that more litter bins were needed in Marsh Lane and Boundary Road respectively. Councillors were asked by the Chairman to put forward potential sites for more litter bins for debate at the next meeting. Cllr. Bamberg said this should not be a matter for the Community Grant Fund but a general expenditure item.

58.3 Cllr. Hatch reported that, following detailed research, she recommended that 7 new streetlights with yellow LED lights should be installed on each of Station Road and Approach Road. The expenditure would total £11,180. Cllr. Barnard said that Station Road should have priority for any funding as it was a petition from residents for more lights in Station Road that instigated the issue. Cllr. Hatch said residents had at the same time complained about Approach Road so the matters had converged. Following debate as to relative footfalls, distance between lights, the effect of overgrown vegetation, unevenness of footways and the relative darkness of the two roads **it was agreed** that Station Road should get priority and that 7 new streetlights should be installed in Station Road with yellow LED lights. Cllr. Hatch expressed her disappointment that these matters were being debated before she could undertake further research and provide more information on issues such as footfall. She was asked to provide more information and arguments for the need for more lights in Approach Road.

58.4 The Chairman explained that a lot of advice had been received from Raymond Blythe in relation to the way to photograph the Mural and this had led to a significant saving to the Council from the original quote received from Strobix. **It was agreed** to make a donation of £250 to Mr Blythe out of the Community Grant Fund. **It was also agreed** to refund Mr Peroni the costs he incurred for accommodating Strobix when they attended to provide the first quote.

PC/59/15 Planning

Cllr. Worthington reported:-

59.1 Cycleway -Formal consultation moved back to November 2015

Not yet clear how crossing Maidenhead Bridge is handled. Letter of concern from resident of Bath Road.

59.2 Taplow Station -We have met further with TfL, who take over the station from November 2017. The damage to the bridge presently suggests that the section to the south car park will be removed. Not yet clear about the remaining section but looks to be expensive to re-instate. Unfortunately the temporary bridge has been built where the new bridge would be if the existing bridge is retained. The general state of parking problems around the station were raised but TfL are clear that their brief is limited to the station grounds. They will provide cycle racks as required by growing demand. The buildings on platform 3 will be restored as waiting rooms. TfL are also open to restoration / maintenance of the flower beds. Crossrail have responded to concerns, particularly from Ellington Road, that clearing of the embankments is creating higher levels of noise and loss of visual amenity. They state that they are not doing anything to alleviate this. It is clear that parking around the station is progressively becoming more of a problem. It is likely that the solution needed by the time Crossrail arrives is to limit commuter parking on all of the local roads, which will give TfL the commercial incentive to build a larger car park. The vehicle for achieving this may well be the new Local Plan. In the interim we need to pursue temporary alleviations.

59.3 M4 widening -An Examining Authority has been appointed to assess the proposals. Real concerns remain over noise, visual exposure and air quality.

59.4 Maidenhead Rowing Club - This application, to which we had objected, was refused on parking capacity grounds.

59.5 Mill Lane - The revised applications have now been approved and work has started. The National Grid application is still missing but SBDC appear confident that it will be made and will be constrained to be in accordance with the earlier (withdrawn) application for 12 houses. The applications included responses to many of the points of

concern raised by us from the previous rejected application, to our general satisfaction. Approvals do include working practice controls monitored by SBDC. Things not in the application but that were agreed to at the approval meeting include provision of a public toilet, a café facility at the car park and curtailment of the grounds of Dunloe Lodge to preserve the sensitive woodlands to its north. There has been some concern that the Berkeley Homes (BH) marketing of the site is being called "Taplow Riverside", when much of the development is actually outside the Conservation Area of that name but no action is presently planned.

The actual demolition of the gas holder has been approved to take place in 2016.

Unfortunately we were unable to save the willow tree outside Skindles but the developers are required to get SBDC approval for any mature tree removals.

The roundabout access from the A4 was approved at the last minute by TfB.

59.6 Planning Applications - No current planning applications presently are seen as causes for concern. They do include a temporary marketing suite for BH.

PC/60/15 To receive reports from outside bodies

There were none.

PC/61/15 Finance

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

61.2. Cllr. Bamberg advised that £100,000 was being re-invested with Close Bros for 18 months at 1.6% per annum.

61.3 It was **agreed** to renew the insurance policy with Aviva for 3 years at a cost of £1823.41.

PC/62/15 Any other business

62.1 Cllr Hatch asked for the issue of improving communications including by the use of social media to be on the next agenda.

62.2 The Chairman asked for volunteers to represent the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service. Cllr. Greeves volunteered.

62.3 Cllr. Hatch enquired whether the Brooking Fund could be used for an alternative Christmas celebration in the village. The Chairman advised it could only be used for a Christmas Tree and there was nowhere to put one up this year.

62.4 The Chairman noted that a request had been received from the National Trust asking if the Council would pay to install dog bins in Cliveden. It was agreed this would not be appropriate.

62.5 It was noted that the frog bin was not being emptied regularly and was now defaced with graffiti. The Clerk reported that a formal rota had never been put in place by the school, but that the Chairman had authorized that the graffiti be removed which would be done after half term.

62.6 Cllr. Hatch asked that Councillors should be reminded by the Clerk to submit items for the agenda. Councillors were in disagreement so Cllr. Hatch requested this as an agenda item for the next meeting so it could be formally agreed upon.

62.7 The next meeting would be on 26th January 2016

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.