

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2012 AT 7 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM, TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE, HIGH STREET, TAPLOW.

### Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman)    Cllr. Josie Corio (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr. John Kennedy                    Cllr. Louise Symons  
Cllr. John Bamberg                    Cllr. Euan Felton  
Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth                Cllr. Joy Marshall  
Cllr. Iris Midlane                      Cllr. Rachel Gainey  
Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk  
Two members of the public including County Cllr. Dev Dhillon.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.10pm. The meeting was adjourned for **OPEN FORUM** recorded at the end of these minutes. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

### PC/33/12 Report from the police

No members of the police were in attendance.

### PC/34/12 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon

34.1 Cllr. Dhillon reported that a letter from the Chairman of BCC was on its way thanking the parish council for our part in supporting the Olympics and expressing satisfaction that the traffic issues appeared to have been managed very well.

34.2 He confirmed that he would be meeting with the Local Area Technician from BCC to discuss the grass verges by the village signs.

34.3 He was concerned to hear from Si Khan that we had not been consulted on the substantial gas works planned for the Bath Road. SBDC officers had only consulted with RBWM.

34.4 He confirmed that he would be sending a cheque to Taplow PC out of his BCC allocated budget in the sum of £700. £350 of this was to be used to pay for the survey of sites (before Christmas) where Taplow PC wished to install the new MVAS acquired on its behalf by the LAF. The balance of £350 could be applied as Taplow PC thought fit.

34.5 He offered to take up the traffic calming issues with BCC to see if any monies could be made available. He asked for any relevant petitions and the responses from the recent survey to be supplied to him.

34.6 He advised that the LAF was meeting tomorrow to decide on new overarching umbrella themes for the next three years. Cllr. Sandy clarified that the parish council remained opposed to the LAF and asked Cllr. Dhillon to continue to represent Taplow PC's interests as best he could.

34.7 He advised that a discussion on Local Health Care issues would be taking place on 10th October at Burnham Park Library and encouraged attendance.

34.8 He advised that a BCC questionnaire would shortly be arriving and he recommended that it was circulated to as many residents as possible.

34.9 Finally he reported that a few elderly residents in Burnham had been affected by the new benefits system and he encouraged any such victim in Taplow to be directed to him.

**PC/35/12 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

There were no apologies but Cllr. Corio declared her interest in item 42 below.

**PC/36/12 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2012**

Cllr. Forsyth noted that at item PC/20/12 the lock for the telephone box had been purchased but not fitted. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

**PC/37/12 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

37.1 For future reference the point was made that the agenda should include an item to consider and approve minutes of recent committee meetings.

37.2 Regarding the Carol Concert Cllr. Corio reminded those present that further consideration needed to be given to the charity to be chosen. Cllr. Kennedy declared an interest in the charity, Padstones. Cllr. Sandy said the Clerk had obtained a quote for putting in a permanent Christmas tree but **it was agreed** that this would adversely affect the summer party and children playing on the Green. Cllr. Bamberg reminded those present that parish funds were not used for the Christmas event. Cllr. Corio appealed for more volunteers to encourage donations to charity.

**PC/38/12 To consider issues concerning the telephone box**

Cllr. Forsyth suggested ideas for the possible future use of the telephone box but **it was agreed** to lock it up as a historical monument.

**PC/39/12 To consider issues concerning street lighting**

39.1 Cllr. Marshall flagged up the bi-annual safety report undertaken by our street lighting contractors which identified a number of leaning lampposts. Cllr. Sandy said he would take a look at them with Cllr. Marshall to decide if any remedial action might be required.

39.2 She advised that the street lighting contract expired on 31st March 2013. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote based on a five year contract with provision for an annual inflation rise of 3%.

39.3 Cllr. Marshall added that she understood that our insurance did not cover vandalism of the streetlights. The Clerk was asked to enquire what it would cost to cover vandalism.

**PC/40/12 To consider traffic issues**

Cllr. Sandy advised that the survey questionnaire had gone out but the survey results still had to be collated.

**PC/41/12 To adopt new Standing Orders and a new Code of Conduct**

41.1 The draft Standing Orders circulated before the meeting were approved and adopted as the new Standing Orders of Taplow PC.

41.2 The draft Code of Conduct circulated before the meeting were approved and adopted as the new Code of Conduct of Taplow PC with an amendment to Clause 8 to provide that councillors declaring a prejudicial interest should not be required to leave a meeting.

**PC/42/12 To agree appointing a contractor to cut the footpaths**

The Clerk had circulated the three quotations received. Concern was expressed that the costs of maintaining the footpaths had been a lot cheaper in the past. The Clerk's view was that previous maintenance had been ad hoc and not based on the maintenance of

the whole footpath network as was now the case. **It was agreed** that no decision could be taken until we were satisfied that BCC would pick up the costs. The Clerk read out the response from BCC that they were considering our request for £1,500 to maintain the footpaths. The Clerk was asked to continue to pursue BCC for a response.

### **PC/43/12 Finance**

43.1 Payments as per the cheque list circulated prior to the meeting were **approved** for payment. Cllr. Bamberg advised of one further cheque to A.A Stibbs for maintenance work on the shed which in the future would be the responsibility of the playgroup. This was also **approved** for payment.

43.2 The next Finance Committee meetings would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013

43.3 Cllr. Bamberg was concerned that there seemed to be a steady 8% decrease in income from the Hall from last year which would inevitably lead to having to increase hall hire prices or the Precept. Cllr. Felton believed this was due to a drop in casual bookings. Cllr. Bamberg asked the Clerk to arrange for him to have information on usage of the Hall for the last two years including the breakdown of hall users, the hourly rate charged and the total income received.

### **PC/44/12 Planning**

44.1 **White Tower River Road 12/01413/CAN-** Agreed to leave to Tree Officer

44.2 **Elibank House Rectory Road 12/01428/FUL and 12/01458/LBC-** Agreed to leave to Conservation Officer

44.3 **Old Station Yard Station Road 12/01447/FUL-**No objections

44.4 **Longacre River Road 12/01463/CLUED-** No objections

44.5 **Land at King /Queen Street and Broadway Maidenhead 12/01523/ADJ-** No comment

44.6 Cllr. Felton advised that an application for listed building consent for Amerden Priory had been approved.

44.7 Both applications regarding Marsh Mead had been rejected. However bigger lorries seemed to be still using the site. **It was agreed** to raise this as an enforcement issue.

44.8 The application regarding Cliveden Stud had been rejected. Cllr. Felton recommended that Taplow PC pursue the illegal occupancy of the buildings as an enforcement issue.

44.9 He added that electronic planning applications would now be introduced in December rather than September.

### **PC/45/12 Enforcement report**

Cllr. Forsyth advised that she had investigated the complaint by Malcolm Walker regarding the Red Horse Equestrian Centre but could see no cause for concern. A response should go to Mr. Walker from the Clerk to advise him to make his complaint directly to SBDC's enforcement team.

### **PC/46/12 To receive reports from outside bodies**

There were none.

### **PC/47/12 Update on OPG**

Cllr. Sandy advised that the Lease was virtually at a point where it could be signed off. He had had to raise the issue of the Southern and Western boundaries to ensure these would not be the responsibility of Taplow PC. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Sandy and Cllr.

Corio could execute the Lease on behalf of Taplow PC as soon as the final draft accommodating this point was agreed.

**PC/48/12 To consider the insurance renewal quote**

After careful consideration of each item of the insurance renewal quote **it was agreed** to accept the quote as it was.

**PC/49/12 Any other business**

49.1 Cllr. Sandy reported that at the recent Communities PAG at SBDC the Community Safety Officer, Nathan March, encouraged councillors to refer any youth issues to him on 01895 837365.

49.2 The issue of the mobile home recently parked on the Village Centre car park was raised. The Clerk advised that a notice could go up and wording was discussed. The alternative was a height barrier. This was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

**PC/50/12 To consider agenda items for the next meeting**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Perkins Room, Taplow Village Centre, High Street, Taplow.

**Notes from the Public Forum:**

Marilyn Pearman enquired why another traffic survey was being undertaken as similar surveys had been conducted over the years but nothing had been implemented despite 95% approval for a 20mph speed limit to be introduced.

Cllr. Sandy agreed that most people were in favour of a 20mph speed limit on village roads but that there had not been funding available to implement this in the past. However it was hoped that some monies were to be made available to the parish council in the foreseeable future which could be used towards traffic calming measures. In response to further queries by Ms. Pearman, Cllr. Sandy confirmed that the current survey would supersede previous surveys and that the outcome would be made public once all responses had been collated. To date some 50% of those supplied with the questionnaire had responded.

*This concludes the Minutes.*