

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW

### Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman)    Cllr. Rachel Gainey-Corcoran  
Cllr. John Bamberg                    Cllr. Louise Symons  
Cllr. Josie Corio                        Cllr. Marina Grazier  
Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth                Cllr. Iris Midlane  
Cllr. Euan Felton  
Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm. The meeting was adjourned for **OPEN FORUM**. The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

### PC/111/13 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon

111.1 Road resurfacing – Cllr. Dhillon advised Boundary Road would be resurfaced in the next few days. Berry Hill was no longer a priority for 2014 but this could change. He was aware that Station Road might also have to go up his list of priorities for next year. Cllr. Bamberg, having declared an interest, asked for Mill Lane to be reconsidered for resurfacing but it was noted that the Mill Lane development would affect any decision on this. Cllr. Midlane expressed concern regarding Institute Road and the Maypole area and Cllr. Forsyth was concerned about the village pavements.

111.2 St Nicolas school – Cllr. Dhillon had met with the new Head Teacher, Mr Robert Harris, who had asked him about the possibility of having yellow lines near the school entrance and removing the turning point. The Chairman advised that this matter had been debated at the last meeting and the parish council was not in favour of yellow lines which would not be in keeping with the rural nature of the village and would not wish to remove the turning point but would support a pavement being installed around it or the brief use of temporary cones at the start and end of the day.

111.3 Bath Road capacity issues – Cllr. Felton reported that BCC had at last responded on the issue of overcapacity on the Bath Road. In 2001 BCC had said the road was running at twice its capacity and the parish council had written to express its concern about this in April this year especially in the light of increased traffic arising from the proposed Mill Lane and Tesco developments. BCC took 6 months to respond and chose to do so by releasing an article to the Press to say that the criteria to measure capacity has changed and the road is only running at 85% capacity. Cllr. Felton asked for it to be recorded that the length of time and the way BCC chose to respond were both disgraceful but he didn't feel he had the expertise to challenge the assertions made by BCC. He noted that any hold ups on a distributor road like the A4 would lead to economic disadvantages. The Chairman stated that he did not feel the response given was credible given the way the roads were overwhelmed at rush hours. Cllr. Dhillon agreed to meet with Cllr. Felton to pursue this issue further.

111.4 Overgrown vegetation – Cllr. Dhillon reported that it had been agreed that Marsh Lane would now have six regular cuts a year rather than two and that the area gang had been cutting back other vegetation recently and were scheduled

to return before the year end. The Chairman complained that the junction of Hill Farm Road and Boundary Road had a build up of surface vegetation that narrowed the road by several feet and Cllr. Midlane complained about the vegetation along Cliveden Road. Cllr. Dhillon asked the Clerk to forward details to him and he would investigate and liaise with the Local Area Technician.

111.5 20mph petition – Cllr. Dhillon reported that, since March, BCC rules had changed and these issues were now dealt with through LAF funding. He was trying to link Taplow and Burnham's needs together and encouraged those present to sign the petition circulating in Burnham. He noted the Chairman's comments that the parish council continues to deplore the existence of the LAFs and confirmed that any representations he made were as a County Councillor.

111.6 Regular meetings – Cllr. Dhillon was concerned that quarterly council meetings meant that quite a long time elapsed before he could give liaison with the parish council. It was agreed that the Clerk should set up regular meetings between the Chairman, Cllr Dhillon, Karen Smith and herself to move issues forward in the meantime. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Dhillon for all his efforts to help the parish council.

#### **PC/112/13 Apologies for absence**

Apologies from Cllr. John Kennedy.

#### **PC/113/13 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

These were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

#### **PC/114/13 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

114.1 The Clerk reported that Southern Electric had been approached about how changing lampposts to LEDs would affect charges but was advised they would not be drawn until the LEDs were in place and they could re-assess usage. It was noted that BCC were undertaking a process of changing to LED lights and the Clerk was asked to liaise with them to see if they had any useful feedback.

114.2 The Chairman reported that a group of councillors had met with Roots' managing director. It was clear that the business was not successful and that the owner was trying to diversify but didn't seem to understand what he could not do under the existing planning permissions. With regards to the roadside signs they were still up and the Clerk was asked to write again and then liaise with Cllr. Symons who offered to help the Clerk to take them down as we had had permission from BCC to do where they were on BCC verges. Cllr. Forsyth was keen that all companies with roadside signs should be treated equally and she would write to network rail about the signs on their fences and give the Clerk of list of other businesses with signs on verges. Cllr. Bamberg registered his concern that the parish council should be careful not to put companies out of business.

114.3 The Clerk reported that the MVAs was up in the one location currently available. It was agreed that there would be no need for the data to be downloaded from it and accordingly our contractor should be asked to recharge and move locations each month without bringing it to the office.

114.4 The Chairman had tried to meet with the new Head Teacher but had not yet had a response to his phone call.

### **PC/115/13 To agree to install new car park signs**

The wording circulated to councillors with the agenda was agreed and the Clerk advised of the three quotes received. It was agreed to order two wall mounted signs from Signs of The Times at £44.58 each plus carriage and VAT.

### **PC/116/13 To agree expenditure on maintenance issues**

116.1 It was agreed to engage R Watts & Co to undertake the arboricultural survey of parish council managed trees in accordance with their quote of £450 plus VAT. Two other quotes had been received which were both more expensive.

116.2 Perkins Room door – the Clerk had obtained two quotes from Burnham Glass and Price Glass for an aluminium replacement door for £1,834 and £2,800 plus VAT respectively. Ridgwell Windows had not quoted despite being chased. She had not found a firm that did timber doors. The Chairman had located a local firm, The Woodcarving Studio in Wooburn Common, which provided wooden doors and obtained a quote for £2,400 plus Vat for an oak replacement to include double glazing. They might be able to re- use the fittings otherwise this would cost £120 plus VAT. It was agreed to engage the Woodcarving Studio on these terms.

116.3 Heating service – it was agreed to engage RS Boiler services to service the heating system in the village centre in accordance with their quote of 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

116.4 Benches – the clerk had obtained two quotes for bench maintenance. Lushglen recommend digging out the concreted in benches and reinstalling them on paving stones. Their quote for renovating the benches was £750 plus £180 annual maintenance thereafter. Philip Holdford had quoted £635 for rubbing down and oiling the benches and £425pa maintenance thereafter. The Clerk was asked to find a handyman prepared to do a simple rub down and preserver application as these quotes were too high.

116.5 Other small jobs – replacing tile in roof, drain tiles, letterbox flap and painting yellow arrow on car park. Quotes had been received from handy and Mr McNulty. Handy's quotes were better but the Clerk was asked to clarify his best price for securing all the jobs before placing an order.

116.6 The Clerk was instructed to obtain an insurance revaluation of the buildings from Kempton Carr for £500 plus VAT. They were to be asked to advise on whether the barn showed any signs of subsidence. The Clerk noted the barn was a listed building.

### **PC/117/13 To agree terms of renewal of insurance policy**

It was agreed to take up the offer of a new 3 year term contract at a fixed price of £2094.06pa.

### **PC/118/13 To agree meeting dates for 2014**

A list of meeting dates had been circulated prior to the meeting with the agenda and these were agreed.

### **PC/119/13 Finance**

119.1 The cheques listed on the cashbook circulated before the meeting were approved for payment.

119.2 The Standing orders were reviewed and no changes were required. Cllr. Forsyth asked the Clerk to clarify the meaning of Standing Order 23.

119.3 The asset register was approved save that the Clerk should add the telephone box as an asset at a value of £1 which was its acquisition cost. The Clerk said that Mrs Marshall had suggested we owned a bus shelter on the Bath Road near Marsh Lane but councillors present did not recall this and said that the Bishop Centre redevelopment would affect this issue and the parish council did not own any bus shelters.

119.4 Cllr. Bamberg advised he was waiting to hear from the bank about how to maximise our deposit interest rates but would chase them.

### **PC/120/13 Planning**

120.1 **It was agreed** that the Council should make no objection to the following applications:-

- 13/01118/ADJ Maidenhead
- 13/01107/ADJ Maidenhead
- 13/01450/XFUL Harefield River Road
- 13/01464/CLOPED Wedgewood Ellington Road

120.2 13/01385/FUL Marta Villa - it was noted that this would either be withdrawn or refused as a result of a challenge by Cllr. Felton whose research had shown that the property would be extended by 85% not 60% as the planning department had stated in the Officer report on the case.

120.3 13/01431/COND and 13/01190/COND relating to the Bishops Centre had now had the conditions fulfilled as the planning department had ratified the drainage issues.

120.4 13/01693/CAN, 13/01489/CAN, 13/01720/TPO and 13/01697/TPO would be left to SBDC's Tree officer to determine

120.5 13/01546/FUL Hitchambury Farm – Cllr. Felton noted that there was a point of principle to debate as the application was to replace a dilapidated unused barn in Green Belt with a family home on the grounds that the new building was of an exceptional quality of design. After heated debate where concern was expressed about setting a precedent, the neighbours' views, access for construction problems, the quality of the design and the existing state of the barn it was agreed that the parish council would not object but would express their concern that this should not set a precedent and that construction traffic issues should be carefully considered and the builders stick strictly to the plans.

120.6 The following decisions were noted:-

13/01656/TPO	Cedar Chase	GRANTED
13/01390/CAN	Cedar Chase	TPO Not made
13/01185/FUL	Losuces	REFUSED
13/01186/LBC	Losuces	WITHDRAWN
13/01213/FUL	Newlands Ellington Road	GRANTED
13/01224/CAN	Clent House Hill	TPO not made
13/01181/CAN	Newlands	TPO not made
13/01159/FUL	Hitcham Lodge	GRANTED

### **PC/121/13 Enforcement report**

121.1 Cllr. Forsyth had witnessed tree cutting at Ellibank House several months earlier. It was agreed that this was an enforcement issue as all trees in a conservation area needed approval before they could have any work done to

them. The Clerk was asked to write to the SBDC tree officer about this and any future issues should be referred immediately to the tree officer.

121.2 Old Court Hotel – Cllr. Forsyth would chase SBDC.

121.3 Mud on road at Station Road – this was in hand

121.4 Roots - in hand

121.5 The Clerk was asked to chase SBDC enforcement officer and request a complete list of enforcement cases for Taplow with details of progress made and next steps.

### **PC/122/13 To receive reports from outside bodies**

There were none.

### **PC/123/13 Any other business**

123.1 The Chairman reminded everyone who hadn't reserved a place for the SBDC Mill Lane presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> November to do so as 69 places had been reserved already.

123.2 Cllr. Grazier reported that a small working party of her, the Vice Chairman and the Clerk were working on producing a simple bespoke website which the Clerk would administer and update. It had been difficult finding a web designer willing to undertake such a small job but quotes had now been invited from two possible contractors – one of which was the boyfriend of the Clerk's daughter. Cllr Symons suggested a firm called Accurist in Beaconsfield.

123.3 The Clerk reported that with the loss of Joy Marshall as a councillor she had put up the requisite 14 statutory notice inviting applicants but had had no response. The Chairman expressed a wish to take time to think who could be encouraged to stand for co-option and particularly encourage some younger candidates.

123.4 The Clerk reported that our contractor Mr Holdford had said we should have our Christmas lights and electric circuits tested and recommended Active Electrics. Cllr. Corio was concerned that new lights needed to be acquired this year so any testing should wait until they had been acquired.

### **PC/124/13 To consider agenda items for the next meeting**

There were none. The meeting ended at 9.50pm.

The next meeting will be on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Perkins Room Taplow Village Centre High Street Taplow.

### **OPEN FORUM**

There were no representations by the public.

*This concludes Part I of the meeting*