

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

### Present

Cllr. George Sandy (Chairman)            Cllr. Rachel Gainey-Corcoran  
Cllr. John Bamberg                        Cllr. John Kennedy  
Cllr. Elizabeth Forsyth                   Cllr. Louise Symons  
Mrs K H Holder - clerk  
Nine members of the public including County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

The Chairman called for a minute's silence before the meeting as a mark of respect for Cllr. Iris Midlane who died just over a month ago. He then declared the meeting open at 7.05pm.

In open forum, Mr. Karl Lawrence referred to the Mill Lane planning applications as being the most important in the last 50 years. He said that the key documents included the planning statement, community consultation, the Design and Access Statement and the Traffic Assessment statement. He said the Design and Access Statement was the most important document to read. The Chairman agreed and asked for this to be circulated to each Councillor in rotation.

### PC/62/14 Apologies for absence

Apologies from Mr. Roger Worthington, Cllr. Euan Felton and Cllr. Josie Corio.

### PC/63/14 To confirm the Minutes of the meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August

These were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman.

### PC/64/14 Matters Arising

64.1 The Chairman and Cllr. Forsyth had met with the new Head Teacher at St Nicolas School, Mr Paul Adams. The meeting had been very positive and it was hoped communications between the School, Church and Parish Council would improve. It had been agreed to use the Parish Council website to list events and check for clashes of dates. It had been explained that the trustees of the School and the Church were the same people and that the admissions policy gave priority to children within the ecclesiastical parish rather than the geographical parish. This had thrown up anomalies for example that the east side of Hill Farm Road and parts of Marsh Lane were not in the ecclesiastical parish and the trustees had been asked to reconsider the boundaries. It had also been clarified that the School field belonged to the trustees and not BCC and a misleading sign would be replaced. Finally next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School and former staff and pupils are asked to contribute memories for a celebratory display.

64.2 The Chairman confirmed that following the decisions taken about the legacy fund the Parish Council had written to every member of the parish informing them of the decisions taken and inviting ideas for new projects. Only two ideas had come back neither of which were within the Parish Council remit to deliver.

64.3 It had previously been agreed to allow THRGA a grant of up to £5,000 towards the work they were undertaking at the Old Priory Gardens provided that evidence of what is planned and quotes were received. The Parish Council had now been advised that quotes had been received for a proposed hedge laying project. THRGA wished to go with the quote for £5,800 and accordingly it was agreed to release a cheque for £5,000 to THRGA for this project.

64.4 The Parish Council had agreed to request a Housing Needs Survey be undertaken by

Community Impact Bucks at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT. SGT had agreed to pay these costs. The Chairman learnt today that a large number of residents had not received their mailing. In particular residents at Ellington Court, Wellbank, Buffins and Old Marsh Lane did not seem to have received anything. Clearly the deadline for responses would need to be extended until at least the end of October and if necessary the Parish Council should insist on a complete re-mailing.

64.5 It was not clear if anything had been done about the Leylandii issue at the Buffins raised by Mr Harding at the last meeting. The Clerk was asked to pursue this.

**PC/65/14 To consider the co-option of Roger Worthington and Toby Greeves**

The Chairman advised that both Mr. Worthington and Mr. Greeves had applied to be co-opted onto the Council. Mr. Worthington unfortunately was not able to attend the meeting but both had submitted short 'CVs'. The co-option of both Mr. Worthington and Mr. Greeves was unanimously approved and Mr. Greeves joined the Councillors for the remainder of the meeting.

**PC/66/14 Report from County Councillor Dev Dhillon**

Mrs. Marshall wished to report an issue with missing metal covers on the road on the approach to the Thames Bridge and the Clerk agreed to forward emails on the subject to Cllr. Dhillon.

Cllr. Dhillon reported that a new permanent local manager, John Lowe, had been appointed for TfB. He had toured the area with Mr. Lowe and priorities would be clearing the gullies on the Bath Road to prevent flooding and to cut back vegetation by 1.5 metres in Hill Farm Road. He encouraged as many as possible to respond to the BCC budget consultation but the Chairman commented that the budget consultation was phrased in a way that hid the issues. Cllr. Dhillon added that he believed the Tesco parking problems were already settling down but he was arranging for traffic assessments to be undertaken in November, January and Easter next year to give a truer picture of what is happening. The Chairman was concerned that insufficient parking spaces was causing knock on problems for residents in neighbouring streets and he had heard a rumour that Tesco's would be looking to find parking on Green Belt which would be resisted.

**PC/67/14 To consider the issues relating to the implementation of the 20mph zones**

The Chairman reported that he understood the new 20mph zones would cost approximately £7,000 to implement which he found extortionate. Cllr. Dhillon explained that only a portion of that went to BCC, the rest was tied up with meeting Government requirements. He held out some hope that LAF funding might be forthcoming but suggested that any bid might be more successful with match funding by the Parish Council. The Chairman said that - given that the Legacy monies were negotiated to partly fund traffic calming measures - he felt that the Parish Council could be morally bound to offer some match funding. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed that the earliest the LAF would make a decision would be in March 2015 but it may be deferred until July. Implementation could take a year to complete after that.

Cllr. Bamberg was not certain whether imposing a 20mph zone would make much difference in practice given the difficulties in speeding along the roads in question but was nevertheless willing to support the results of the survey the Parish Council had undertaken.

The Clerk was asked to obtain a breakdown of the estimated costs and it was agreed that the Parish Council would meet the actual costs of the work involved and Cllr. Dhillon would apply to the LAF for the balance of the other costs.

**PC/68/14 To consider the response to the consultation on double yellow lines on Institute Road**

Cllr. Dhillon reported that the yellow lines had not yet been put down because of the problems with flooding. The Chairman responded that the road had never had a ditch in it and BCC were trying to offload liability for drainage onto the landowner whereas the problem was the gullies had not been cleared. He added that it was bad timing to lay the lines now as a planning application was about to be submitted and dropped kerbs would be part of the new scheme. Cllr. Dhillon agreed that he would ask the Road Safety Team to have another look at the area and whole loop around Tesco's to see if the Parish Council's preferred one way system might be a better option. The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation to say that the Parish Council opposed it and would prefer a one way system.

**PC/69/14 To consider the request from BCC to devolve more services to parish councils**

Cllr. Bamberg expressed his view that the real purpose behind the proposals were as a cost cutting exercise by BCC which would result in the precept having to be put up dramatically. The Chairman expressed his disappointment that a letter sent to the Chief Executive Officer requesting more financial information had met with no response. It was agreed that Taplow Parish Council could not accept the devolution offer.

**PC/70/14 To discuss forming a working group to consider the necessary elements to be included as a basis for the creation of a Taplow Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman referred to research undertaken by the Clerk and the need to form a working group to consider what could be achieved. Mary Trevallion and Martin Maund had agreed to be on the group along with two volunteers from the Hitcham and Taplow Society and Cllr. Felton and the Chairman. Ideally one or two more members would be useful perhaps representing Marsh Lane and Ellington Road. It was agreed that the first meeting of the group should be held early in the New Year.

**PC/71/14 To consider the transfer of the Old Priory Gardens lease to THRGA**

It was agreed that steps should be taken to try and assign the lease to THRGA as soon as possible. The Clerk pointed out that SBDC didn't have to agree to this until after November 2015 but that she would make enquiries.

**PC/72/14 To approve extending the pavement to the school and a new access**

The School wished to have a new safer entrance installed at no cost to the Parish Council moving the three planters to create a buffer, extending the pavement and creating a new hard standing area. Plans had been circulated from TfB. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the proposals. Cllr. Dhillon confirmed he had already obtained funding for the extension of the pavement.

**PC/73/14 To consider the standard of maintenance of the Village Green**

The Chairman reported that it had been agreed that part of the Legacy monies should go towards the renovation of the Village Green. He believed the problem was that there needed to be more topsoil over the whole of the Green and either re-turfing or re-seeding. The cheapest option would be re-seeding. With labour costs the total cost would be likely to be between £13-14,000. Mr. Clarke said that something did need doing as an area of tarmac was already coming through making the area unsafe. He felt that this might need to be dug out before any topsoil was added. **It was agreed** in principle to proceed to firm up the quotes with a view to

undertaking works in September 2015.

#### **PC/74/14 To approve meeting dates for 2015**

A list circulated to councillors before the meeting was agreed.

#### **PC/75/14 Finance**

Cllr. Bamberg confirmed that the finances were in line with forecasts although there was some variations against cost headings.

#### **PC/76/14 Planning**

76.1 Cllr. Forsyth commented that some paperwork had been received for Silchester House but no new application yet. Also regarding the Footbridge application – the date of this had been put back. The Chairman added that he had heard the developers were not yet happy with the design.

76.2 The following responses were agreed to pending applications:-

14/01919/CAN and 14/01918/TPO Nutshell River Road – leave to tree officer

14/01871/JNOT The New Boathouse Mill Lane – no comment

14/01846/OUT Land adjacent to 5 Ellington Gardens – agreed to object on grounds that trees had been cut down without planning permission, no privacy, inapt development and overdominating effect on neighbours.

14/01819/CAN East Bapsey Cliveden Road – leave to tree officer

14/01768/VC & 14/01769/VC Dropmore park Heathfield Road – no comment

14/01804/LBC Cliveden Hotel – no comment

76.3 Mill Lane applications - Cllr. Forsyth explained that this consisted of four applications. The main one was for the demolition of existing buildings and major redevelopment. It was agreed to engage a planning consultant at £65ph – she would draft a letter of objection shortly to be circulated and sent before 19<sup>th</sup> November deadline. Other comments would also be taken on board. Mrs. Marshall mentioned air quality; the Chairman added that all demolition for all related applications should take place before any development takes place. Cllr. Bamberg was keen to emphasise the need to be constructive and seek amicable solutions in a non-aggressive way. Cllr. Forsyth said there were good things to mention including the importance of regeneration, removing the gas holders, preserving public open spaces and the footbridge. The main concerns were traffic, whether to close Mill Lane and the differences between the SPD and the new plans, how the green areas will be maintained and the number of houses. It was agreed not to accept the offer from Berkeley Homes to meet with them.

#### **PC/77/14 Enforcement report**

Cllr. Forsyth asked the Clerk to pursue Gavin Treen over his offer to help remove the signs on the A4. The Clerk was asked to see if M F Clarke might assist in removing some signs. Cllr. Forsyth was also concerned about the use of the words 'Cliveden Village' for the Cliveden Gages development and asked the Clerk to see what could be done.

The Chairman referred to a new sign put up outside Cliveden. The Clerk had written to them but they had said the land was theirs. The Clerk was given some documents suggesting otherwise and asked to write to Cliveden accordingly.

#### **PC/78/14 To receive reports from outside bodies**

Cllr. Forsyth had attended the SBALC meeting where a Community Links officer had given a presentation on an initiative to reduce isolation amongst the elderly. SBALC were also asking

BCC to attend their next meeting to answer questions about devolution. Hedgerley had won the Best Kept Village competition and Wexham hospital was to have another 500 car parking places.

**PC/79/14 Any other business**

The Chairman said that the Boundary Commission had decided that Taplow would now be in a ward with Dorney, Lent Rise and Burnham Church Ward which was disappointing but he was keen to try and clarify that Taplow should be the main name in the ward title.

**PC/80/14 To consider agenda items for the next meeting**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.