

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 24th APRIL 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman) Cllr. Claire Price
Cllr. Roger Worthington Cllr. George Sandy
Cllr. Louise Symons Cllr. Toby Greeves
Cllr. Yannick Le Touze Mrs. K H Holder – Clerk
Seven members of the public including County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

Open forum

Maria Hirst of St Nicolas Playgroup thanked the Council for its support during a difficult year and made a case to ask for more storage space such as use of the cupboard in the corridor to alleviate problems with staff lifting heavy equipment. She also asked the Council to investigate the uneven paving slabs as most of the accidents happened outside by children tripping. Finally she noted that the landline supplied by the Council had developed a fault and although it might be costly to repair it was of great importance to the playgroup as their main point of contact.

Tony Harding was concerned with dogs fouling on the school field and the risk of disease. Although outside the Council's remit the Clerk offered to write to the school to advise them of his concerns. He added that the sign on Berry Hill referring to the 'village only' roads was very dirty and needed cleaning.

PC/44/18 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Gerry O'Riordan, Cllr. Spencer Norton, Cllr. Val Pridmore, Cllr. Karen Walsh, and District Councillor Matt Bezzant.

PC/45/18 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2018

These were **approved** (subject to the deletion of a comment attributed to Mr Smales) and were signed by the Chairman.

PC/46/18 Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda and for information only)

46.1 The Clerk reported that BCC were disputing the bill for the repair of the Station Road lights saying they had paid SSE to fix all the problems themselves. Cllr. Dhillon was asked to assist.

46.2 Cllr. Dhillon said that the proposed footpath from Buffins to Hunts Lane would be a matter for next year's LAF budget which he would pursue.

46.3 Cllr. Sandy confirmed he did not think it was possible to pursue the developers of the SGT site to install streetlights as there was no requirement to do so in the planning permission granted. Cllr. Worthington confirmed this was his understanding too.

46.4 Cllr. Sandy asked about whether quotes had been sought for signs for the village gates. The Clerk said bespoke signs could be ordered which would cost in the region of £100 each but she would need input on the exact wording required.

46.5 Cllr. Dhillon confirmed he had received the wish list of items for his member's budget. The Chairman wanted to add to the recorded item relating to the corner of

Rectory Road that the road sign had sunk badly. Cllr. Dhillon asked if wooden bollards similar to the ones in Lent Rise Road would be sufficient for the Boundary/Station Road junction. This was agreed.

46.6 Cllr. Symons had been in touch with Summerleaze and their CEO would attend our next meeting to discuss plans.

46.7 The Chairman reported that good progress was being made on repairing the village gates.

46.8 The Clerk confirmed that a litter bin had been ordered for Mill Lane and the old noticeboard removed. BCC had confirmed they would replace the footpath sign.

46.9 The Clerk confirmed she had written to Cliveden about their sign and would chase. It was noted that a sign by the Woodland Walk was also on Common Land.

46.10 Cllr. Worthington would soon attend the talk by BCC on the unitary issue. One of his concerns was that the proposal to radiate down to hubs implied a recognition that BCC was too big and the costs of the hubs would add costly layers of bureaucracy.

PC/47/18 Planning

47.1 Roots' site - Cllr. Worthington reported that the Council had made objections that the application appeared to be jumping the gun as the Local Plan had not been finalized and that the area could be vital for car parking for the station once the Elizabeth Line was operational. Also the issue of screening the site from the A4 was very important. Two representatives from Gillings Planning (agents for Roots) were present. They confirmed that screening was catered for and that SBDC had confirmed to them that given the stage they were at and given the special circumstance and benefit to the community that the 82 bed specialist care home would provide, the old Local Plan only carried limited weight. They said they had in fact offered half the site for car parking but that offer had been rejected on the basis that there was no established need in Taplow and the plan was to have more parking up and down the Elizabeth line. There were 27 parking spaces on site – their residents did not need cars and in practice had few visitors.

47.2 Cllr. Worthington noted that no response had been received from BCC or SBDC about our concerns about parking for the Station and in the light of the comments made he would escalate this.

47.3 He was meeting with TfL about the bridge at Taplow Station later this week. Cllr. Symons noted that quarter of a million pounds had been spent on it in 2007. The Chairman asked Cllr. Worthington to apply pressure for the incorporation of the old bridge features into the new one.

47.4 Cllr. Worthington noted that as a result of the merger with CDC, SBDC were closing down their afternoon answer service temporarily and were tardy in putting information on the website.

47.5 Cllr. Sandy said that he was pursuing the highways planning department with his concerns about the access at Autumn House.

47.6 Cllr. Worthington noted that the Thames Riviera Hotel application was back again with only cosmetic changes and to resubmit previous objections.

47.7 He added that Egg Homes had withdrawn their application for 13 houses on the Old Boatyard.

47.8 He noted that the NPPF was being revised.

47.9 He confirmed objections had been submitted on Dunloe Lodge and Ellington Gardens applications- in the latter case this was because of the mass/density of the development and its incompatibility in a conservation area.

PC/48/18 To consider the Playgroup's needs

48.1 Cllr. Sandy commented that his own daughter used the playgroup in 1977 when it was just in the Reading room with no sheds/storage space. Step by step over the years the Council had done more and more to accommodate the needs of Playgroup and two large sheds were now provided as well as the storage cupboard in the Perkins Room. He felt a good clear out might be required and would particularly oppose allowing the climbing frame to remain in the hall. He added that the Playgroup had said their numbers were falling and the need for increased storage didn't make sense in that context.

48.2 The Chairman agreed it was important to protect against project creep and that the Council had already accommodated increasing the paved area and putting in a fence amongst other requests. He would be reluctant to allow more storage space to the Playgroup given the Council's own plans to empty the barn and its own storage needs. Cllr. Worthington added that although there was some space in the roof above the Perkins Room this would need reinforcing and would only be suitable for archived material.

48.3 Maria Hirst noted that lifting the equipment was the issue and all the equipment was needed for variety - despite the numbers attending - to allow a daily rotation to meet OFSTED requirements.

48.4 **It was unanimously agreed** that that no further storage space could be made available to the Playgroup.

48.5 On the issue of the paving the Chairman noted that if it was a problem then playgroup should stop using this area for play. However he would put the matter on the next agenda for further consideration.

48.6 It was noted that the landline provided in the hall for incoming and emergency calls cost the Council between £400-£500 pa to run and now it had developed a fault it would cost £245 to get a BT engineer out to fix. **It was agreed** that – given the prevalence of mobile phones it was no longer necessary to provide the phone and the Clerk should terminate the contract and have it removed.

PC/49/18 Update on the barn

Cllr. Worthington was thanked for his recent efforts meeting with Mrs. Trevallion to clear some boxes from the barn. The Chairman had made some progress in identifying who he needed to contact in order to have a pre-planning meeting and a further inspection meeting with the Conservation officer at SBDC.

PC/50/18 To approve the repair of the seventh village gate

The Chairman would ask the contractor repairing the village gates to investigate and report back on the viability of and quote for repairing the gate in Marsh Lane.

PC/51/18 To agree to replace the windows in the Perkins Room

The Chairman had contacted another local contractor and had been told that the quote we already had was a brilliant price which he couldn't beat. **It was agreed** to place the contract with Lillyfee.

PC/52/18 To consider the St Nicolas church south side appeal

The Chairman noted that the Council had already contributed generously via the Legacy fund to the general roof appeal in the recent past and his greater concern was the war memorial which would need £3,500 to repair. Cllr. Price noted that there was already a considerable commitment to use legacy and precept funds for the hall repairs and other projects that were in the pipeline. Following debate **it was agreed** that the Council would not offer any contribution to the south side appeal but would contribute to the war memorial restoration instead. As the issue of the war memorial was not on the agenda at this meeting any decision relating to this would be made at the May meeting.

PC/53/18 To agree a response to the consultation on unitary authorities

The Clerk had not been sure her draft was approved. She was asked to amend it as she thought apt in the light of all comments made and submit as soon as practicable.

PC/54/18 To approve the use of inflatables on the Green for the village fete

Following debate in which it was agreed that liability was not an issue provided the organisers accepted they alone were liable and had insurance, **it was agreed** that as it was a community event the village fete could use inflatables on the Green. They should be asked if possible to have any inflatables on the part of the Green nearest to the Barn. This was not a general policy and each request from other applicants would be decided on a case by case basis.

PC/55/18 To appoint a data Protection Officer and next steps under GDPR

The Chairman agreed to be the Data Protection Officer and would liaise with the Clerk to finalise a data audit, policies and privacy notices.

PC/56/18 Finance

56.1 The Clerk advised that she had noticed she hadn't put the Close Bros account interest into the Cashbook which she had corrected since the financial figures had been sent out.

56.2 Cllr. Price asked for an update on the progress of the bigger plans identified by the Finance Committee. It was confirmed that the kitchen repairs were scheduled for the Summer holidays and that the gates were being repaired currently. The Perkins windows had been approved. Major upgrades to the Perkins room would need to be considered in more detail. The Chairman and Cllr. Price agreed to meet and clarify what needed to be done.

PC/57/18 To agree an expenses policy

The Clerk had circulated a policy for those attending meetings on behalf of the council outside of the parish to be able to reclaim a mileage allowance. **This was approved.**

PC/58/18 To agree to contract to plant and maintain flowers in stone planters on the Green

A quote had been received from Windowflowers. As this was a specialist service offered at a reasonable price and this was a local firm the Clerk advised that she did not think it necessary to obtain another quote. The quote **was approved** with a view to planting commencing in May.

PC/59/18 Any other business (for information only)

59.1 Cllr. Sandy reported that a complaint had been received by him as a district councillor relating to the fence put up on the boundary of the village Green by the owners of Rectory Farm. The allegation was that it enclosed part of the Green and broke the convention that the best side should face neighbours. He had referred it to planning.

59.2 Cllr. Worthington noted that he had been called out by Playgroup in the week saying the fire alarm procedure which they practised every week was flawed and they couldn't put the alarm off. The engineer was called out. The Clerk said she had spoken to the engineer who had insisted it was operator fault. She would liaise further with Playgroup to clarify what might have gone wrong.

59.3 It was noted that Summerleaze had kindly removed the mud from the pavement in Berry Hill. The Clerk was asked to thank them.

59.4 The Chairman noted that meetings on the last Tuesday of the month did not suit Cllr. Price and asked the Clerk to work with Cllr. Price to suggest a way to resolve this.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

That concludes the meeting