

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman) Cllr. George Sandy
Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan Cllr. Karen Walsh
Cllr. Louise Symons

Mrs. Holder (Clerk) and five members of the public including County Cllr. Dev Dhillon and Mr. Martin Maund (Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan working group).

Open forum

Andrew Keen of Institute Road offered his experience as a quantity surveyor to assist with obtaining best value for the lights to be installed in Institute Road. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Mr. Keen when final costings were available.

Cllr. Dhillon advised that Parliament had approved the structural order for the new Unitary Authority and the process would take up to 6 weeks. A shadow executive committee has been formed with eight members including Cllr. Dhillon. He said seminars were being planned to keep parishes informed and invite feedback. There was a business case but it was not yet finalised – more information would be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

He said he was continuing to protest against the cycleway scheme but works were due to start soon and the cycleway should be completed by November with major works planned for the holiday periods.

With regards to parking issues around the station he said there would be delays in arranging for the relevant manager to come and visit the area. He said that it was a difficult time for BCC with the change to the unitary authority and there were staffing issues. However there was a new local area technician who was very experienced and steps were edging nearer to getting the capital funding necessary to install channelling for the springs in Rectory Road. They were also undertaking a feasibility study to put in a footpath under the railway bridge in Hitcham Road.

PC/40/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Val Pridmore, Cllr. Claire Price, Cllr. Spencer Norton and Cllr. Roger Worthington.

PC/41/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 5th March 2019

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

PC/42/19 Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda and for information only)

There were none.

PC/43/19 Update on progress of the Neighbourhood Plan

43.1 Mr. Maund reported that he was now the chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan working group. The other members were Cllrs. Barnard, Worthington, Sandy and Norton along with Nigel Smales. The Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the official planning process and must comply with the Local Plan (due to be completed by July

but it was anticipated it would not provide a high level of protection against development) and the NPPF which was unfortunately pro- development. Additional stand- alone issues included a National Heritage Asset List and the Townscape Character Assessment - which existed for the Taplow Riverside area strengthening rumours that it will be removed from Green Belt. It was hoped the Gladys Jones fund could be used to assist with fighting any such move.

43.2 As the Plan would need to be scrutinised by public consultations and an Inspector, the working group were agreed that a planning consultant would need to be engaged to help guide the group through the process. Grants were available to assist with this. They would also be looking for support from the Land Securities Fund. Meetings to try and find the best consultant to use were being arranged.

43.3 The Clerk asked Mr. Maund to liaise closely with her and the Finance Chairman so that any contracts were duly authorised by the Council and any funding needs provided for.

PC/44/19 To co-opt a new councilor/s

No candidates had been forthcoming to date. The Chairman encouraged councillors to be more pro-active in encouraging residents to stand. Cllr. Dhillon noted that councillors would also be needed for the new Unitary Authority.

PC/45/19 To approve a policy on use and terms of reference relating to the OPG

Mrs. Claire Ashton-Tait advised that she and the Clerk had agreed draft documentation relating to the use of the OPG, terms of reference for the working group, a risk assessment and the wording of signage. These were **approved** with minor amendments and would be posted on the Parish Council's website. The Risk Assessment needed more work and would be referred to the working group to produce a final version for the next meeting.

PC/46/19 Update relating to lighting in Institute Road

The Chairman reported that the managers of Lansdowne Place had said no monies would be forthcoming from them or the residents towards the lights. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would only proceed to install 4 lampposts and the Clerk advised that Burnham Parish Council's clerk had advised her that they would now only contribute to one rather than the two originally planned in their part of the road. The Clerk would clarify exact locations and costings.

PC/47/19 Update relating to footpaths maintenance

The Clerk advised that the contract had now been placed with Clarke Gardening Services at a cost of 33p per metre.

PC/48/19 To consider next steps relating to speedwatch

The Clerk would liaise with Burnham Parish Council to organise a refresher course for the use of the equipment. Cllr. Sandy advised that he had been approached by members of Penn Parish Council enquiring if they could hire the equipment. **This was agreed** in principal. Cllr. Sandy would forward details of the refresher course to them when arranged. Details of hire charges and terms would need to be finalized and perhaps better packaging for the device would be needed as the box it came in was flimsy.

PC/49/19 To consider ideas relating to the Summerleaze quarry site

Following debate **it was agreed** that Cllr. Symons would prepare a response to

Summerleaze for approval by councillors.

PC/50/19 To consider a request from Playgroup to change the fittings for the gate

Cllr. Sandy reported that the suggestion was to fit a permanent wooden gate but this would overlap with the window in the Perkins Room by about one foot and be unsightly. **It was agreed** that the Playgroup should be asked to recommend a more lightweight removable solution especially given the damage to the wall that the current gate was causing.

PC/51/19 To consider whether to commemorate WWII dead on war memorial

The Chairman reported that the Hitcham and Taplow Society (HTS) was considering the idea of adding the names of WWII fallen to Taplow's War Memorial. The Chairman had concerns including whether this might lead to requests for the names of the dead from other wars being added. Following debate **it was agreed** that the Parish Council would not support this idea but would encourage HTS to focus on one of its alternative suggestions of a separate plaque for the WWII dead.

PC/52/19 To consider the following pending items of business carried forward:-

- 52.1 parking issues around Taplow station – there was nothing to add at this stage but the matter should be kept on future agendas.
- 52.2 next steps regarding the barn – the Chairman was taking a firm line with the Scouts for them to remove their equipment from the barn. The Clerk said there were three filing cabinets belonging to the Council to be disposed of. **It was agreed** to spread the word and offer them to whoever could collect them and use/dispose of them lawfully.

PC/53/19 Planning

Cllr. Worthington had submitted the following report:-

53.1 the following decisions had been made:

PL/19/0276/KA	Red Cottage tree fell	APPROVED
PL/19/0222/FA	Green Springs basement	APPROVED
PL/19/0087/KA	Laurel Cottage tree prune	APPROVED
PL/19/0045/TP	Neighbours tree work	APPROVED

53.2 the following were still pending a decision by SBDC;

PL/18/3946/FA	Barn for quail rearing
PL/18/4426/FA	Stonecrop new house
PL/18/4428/FA	Taplow House Hotel, Spa and Conservatory
PL/18/4641/FA	Mill Lane Public House
PL/19/0311/TP	Tree prune, Taplow Quays
PL/19/0620/FA	Stockwells construction of new dwelling

53.3 PL/19/0027/FA 8 Houses on The Old Boathouse (Gage)

Gage were suggesting that they would improve vehicle access. Cllr. Walsh was concerned there was insufficient parking. She was encouraged to write directly to SBDC.

53.4 New applications no issues

PL/19/0982/TP Amerden Barn tree fell
PL/19/0963/FA Olympia House modifications
PL/19/0852/OA Lamont House replacement house
PL/19/0704/FA Elm View outbuilding

53.5 New applications for discussion

PL/19/1020/RM Telecomms mast on A4

Mobile mast outside Miller and Carter. It was agreed that this was very visible and the Council should object

PL/19/0955/FA 4 Ye Meads side extension

The extension fills much of the gap to the adjacent house of the terrace. If the neighbour has windows in the side then there may be loss of light. It was **agreed** that this seemed to be overdevelopment of the site especially if the extension was two storey which was not clear.

PL/19/0885/FA Cedar Cottage Dropmore boundary fence

The application is for a 2.4m wire fence around this entire large estate, similar to the one around the Dropmore estate. It seemed to be a serious curtailment of the open nature of Taplow and panders to the fortress mentality that is more and more prevalent in all recent developments. It was **agreed** to object as this seemed too high.

PL/19/0774/EU Cliveden Stud House Lawful development for existing use

Affidavits state that this house has for at least 10 years been occupied in breach of planning restrictions and therefore the restrictions are no longer valid. Note that none of the affidavits are from occupants of the house, so it might be argued that they do not have accurate knowledge. Affidavits from other leaseholders on the site relate to the occupation / use of other premises.

Actions could include finding contrary statements from other tenants. Also FOI request to SBDC for the trail of requests for enforcement and enforcement actions over the period. Cllr. Norton's wife had undertaken considerable research and this should form the basis of our objection. The application to remove the ties could affect all other tied properties and in turn effectively create a barrier to The Stud returning to its permitted equestrian and agricultural activities. This would very likely impact upon the maintenance and care of the surrounding pastures leading to a gradual degradation of the whole area and important verdant approaches to Cliveden House and the National Trust Property.

53.6 Infrastructure Delivery Schedule

This was an accompanying document to the SBDC/CDC Local Plan. It contained the following interesting paragraph:

'2.15. The new Elizabeth Line service will increase the number of vehicles accessing Taplow Station. Therefore BCC and the District Councils are currently working with TfL to consider ways of enhancing usage of Taplow Station Car Park.'

53.7 Elibank Court - letters had been received from the owners clarifying that they had been misled by SBDC and had now realized they would need to rebuild the wall when finances would allow.

PC/54/19 Finance

54.1 Expenditure in the cashbook was **approved** and Cllrs. Sandy and Price authorized to sign the cheques listed.

54.2 The Clerk had reviewed the previous fire risk assessment for the Village Hall. All recommendations had been complied with and as there had been no substantial change to the structure of the building she did not recommend that a new fire risk assessment was necessary.

54.3 Barrie Dancer was approved as the internal auditor for 2018-19 year end audit.

PC/55/19 Any other business and agenda items for the next Council meeting on 7th May 2019 at 6.30pm

55.1 Cllr. Sandy reported that SBDC had confirmed that the current fence erected on Rectory Farm would need to be removed and they would be taking formal action. In addition the owner of the site at Hill Farm Road / Hitcham Lane had engaged a planning consultant to retain the barns for agricultural purposes and we could expect a planning application soon.

55.2 Cllr. Dhillon noted that the first of the four grass cuts for this area was due to take place mid- April.

55.3 The Clerk noted that the emptying of documents from the barn had failed to deliver the missing minutes of the Parish Council. Almost all the minutes since the Council was formed in 1894 until 2009 were missing – possibly because previous Clerks had worked from home before the office in the Hall was established. The Clerk was asked to contact Mary Trevelyan to see if she had any information.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.