

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM, TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman) Cllr. Val Pridmore
Cllr. Karen Walsh Cllr. George Sandy
Cllr. Roger Worthington Cllr. Spencer Norton
Mrs. Holder (Clerk) and seven members of the public.

Open forum

Ms. Hatch referred to the January Council meeting at which she had asked repeatedly for the Parish Council to put the issue of declaring a climate emergency on its agenda. She understood that this seemed to be at the discretion of the Chairman and she was disappointed it was not on this agenda as there was no opportunity to engage with the different facets of the issue. She formally asked the Chairman for this matter to be on a future agenda so that she could make a full presentation on the issues.

The Chairman noted that Ms. Hatch was bundling support for action against climate change with the declaration itself, such that you couldn't address the former without doing the latter.

While he acknowledged the severity of the climate crisis, he felt that declaring a climate emergency was a matter for higher government authorities, notably Unitary, County or District Councils. His position reflected the limited powers and responsibilities of a parish council. Without downplaying the seriousness of the issue, he felt that it was not appropriate for the Parish Council to be drawn into complex social, environmental or political issues over which it has little influence or control. Nevertheless, recognising that we all have a role to play in addressing climate change, the Parish Council would continue to take environmental concerns into account when making decisions and taking action.

In view of Ms. Hatch's desire to make a full presentation, the Chairman suggested that a public debate could be had outside of a council meeting which he would be happy to help facilitate. If such an event were put on, Councillors would endeavour to attend.

Addressing Ms. Hatch's repeated requests for the proposed declaration to be put on a future agenda, he asked for a straw poll of Councillors present whether they would wish to have it so included. Councillors unanimously agreed that they did not support that proposition.

Ms. Hatch noted that at the previous meeting Cllr. Worthington had said that solar panels would not be allowed in a conservation area. She had now researched the matter and that was not the case. She added that Cllr. Dhillon had said the County Council hoped to be carbon neutral by 2050 and not 2030 as recorded.

Mrs. Appleton asked what progress there had been on the issue of improving the footway in Approach Road.

PC/15/20 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Claire Price, Cllr. Louise Symons and Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan.

PC/16/20 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council of 14th January

These were confirmed, with an amendment to the minutes during Open Forum when Ms. Hatch had said that the Bucks County Council (BCC) efforts were laudable rather than lamentable as had been drafted in the minutes. The amended minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PC/17/20 Matters Arising from the minutes (not otherwise on the agenda)

17.1 Cllr. Worthington noted that the new double light at the junction of Approach Road and Station Road was not giving the light solution they hoped for as the heads were down lights and ideally heads that were angled outwards to the side would be what was needed. The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries.

17.2 Cllr. Sandy asked the Clerk to enquire of County Cllr. Dhillon and SBDC what progress had been made regarding the footway at Approach Road and Boundary Road.

17.3 Cllr. Sandy said he had written to BCC about the Marsh Lane bridge and the matter was in the hands of the Rights of Way department.

PC/18/20 To engage with the Playgroup on use of the OPG and repairs to the sheds and fencing

18.1 Two representatives of the Playgroup attended and explained that the current fence was made of heavy wood and difficult to move. The Playgroup had obtained a grant from BCC to put up a new fence with the same specification but made with a lighter composite material. In principle this was favourably received by the Council and the Playgroup were asked to liaise further when more information became available.

18.2 They said that similarly the sheds were very old and decrepit and there was a good chance of obtaining replacements. Again the Council was supportive in principle and awaited further information.

18.3 The Playgroup wished to engage with a local trained leader so that it could offer weekly sessions of the Forest School in the Old Priory Gardens (OPG) starting after the February half term. They would not cause any damage and would leave no trace of their visits. They had held a taster session recently. There would be a maximum of 16 children at any one time with a ratio of 1 staff/parent to every 3 children.

It was agreed to allow the Playgroup to use the OPG in this way. The Chairman asked them to liaise closely with the THRGA volunteers who had already given a glowing report of the taster session. The Clerk emphasised the need for them to undertake risk assessments as appropriate.

PC/19/20 To consider funding air quality monitoring on the A4

Ms. Hatch had circulated a report. In response to questions she confirmed that the results would provide an indicative study but have no legal status as evidence. However they could be used to encourage others to undertake further studies. Cllr. Walsh noted

the results of studies already carried out on the A4 in recent years which could be useful as a comparative study. **It was agreed** – Cllr. Worthington abstaining - to make a £150 grant from the Community Fund to the Hitcham and Taplow Society (HTS) to proceed in whatever way it sought fit – whether to place two tubes in two places for 6 months or one tube in one place for 12 months.

PC/20/20 To contribute to the costs of adding the names of the WW2 fallen to the war memorial

Cllr. Worthington reported that the HTS had received a quote for £1,920 and the Pastoral Parish Council were applying for a faculty with a view to the work being completed by VE day on 8th May. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would contribute £1,000 from the Land Securities Fund towards this work.

PC/21/20 To acquire a new litter bin for the Green

The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with SBDC but they had not yet responded with permission to place a new bin on the Green opposite the school entrance. The Clerk was asked to check if a recycling bin could be resourced and to put the matter on the next agenda.

PC/22/20 To consider issues to raise via SBALC with our new MP

Cllr. Worthington noted that one issue could be the delegating of decisions on minor planning applications. Ms. Hatch suggested the Beaconsfield issues raised at the last meeting and Burnham school closures.

PC/23/20 To consider the following pending items of business carried forward

23.1 Parking issues around Taplow station. Nothing to report.

23.2 Next steps re the barn. Cllrs. Worthington and Sandy had studied the contents of the structural report and believed that the necessary repairs could cost up to £25,000. The Clerk was asked to double check the terms of the Lease and to make enquiries about where to seek quotes for its repair.

23.3 To agree next steps to improve the Village Hall. Cllr. Sandy had sought quotes from two blind manufacturers. Sanderson had come back with a quote for mechanical blinds throughout but he was awaiting further quotes.

23.4 To consider ideas to support the environment. The Chairman noted that ideas for the summerleaze site needed further thought. Ideas could be to plant 40,000 trees or to have a solar farm.

PC/24/20 Planning

Cllr. Worthington noted that:-

24.1 The following decisions have been made

PL/18/3946/FA	Barn for quail rearing	REFUSED
PL/19/3654/FA	West Bapsey extension	APPROVED

24.2 The following are pending decision

PL/19/0027/FA	8 Houses on The Old Boathouse (Gage)	OBJECTED
No public movement since October		

PL/19/3301/FA Huntswood Golf Club replacement club house
Apparently being refused by Planning on contentious grounds
Cllr. Sandy noted that he had been trying to support the owners.

PL/19/3852/FA Thamesbank River Road changes

OBJECTED

Council hearing on 14th February. Changes have been made

24.3 The following are new applications – no objection envisaged

PL/20/0318/TP Taplow House Hotel tree prune

PL/20/0188/RM Telecomms mast at Football Club

Mrs. Appleton asked if the Council would be objecting to the mobile phone mast. She was concerned about health risks. Cllr. Worthington said that the Council had no powers to comment. It was noted that the mobile phone mast was not a power line or a microwave transmitter and there were no known health risks associated with it.

24.4 New application for review:

PL/20/0223/FA Priory Cottage Rectory Road loft conversion

PL/19/4152/FA 1 Stockwells side extension – these plans were being resubmitted and objections would be made as before.

24.5 Update on progress of Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Worthington reported that the scrutiny of the Local Plan was ongoing with public hearings scheduled from mid March. It was felt that there was no common ground with Dorney on which to instruct a consultant but that it was felt that a professional consultant should be engaged to make the case for the Council at a number of hearings. **It was agreed** to meet such costs up to a limit of £2,000 from the Gladys Jones Fund. The Chairman advised that a record be made of the presentation made by our consultant to help inform future presentations.

PC/25/20 Finance

Expenditure in the cashbook **was approved** and Cllrs. Worthington and Sandy authorized to sign cheques.

PC/26/20 Any other business and items for next meeting

26.1 Cllr. Spencer reported that a bollard was missing from the entrance to the bridleway at Huntswood resulting in cars entering the woods. The Clerk said she would chase BCC's rights of way team about reinstating the bollard.

26.2 Mr. Early said he would like to see the Council installing electric car charging points in the car park. He believed that it would cost £4,000 for such points but that funding might be available from the government.

26.3 Mrs. Appleton asked if a recycling and/or litter bin could be installed at the junction of Approach Road and the A4. The Clerk was asked to put the matter on the next agenda.

26.4 Cllr. Worthington noted that the government were keen to celebrate VE day and asked for the matter to be on the next agenda.

26.5 Cllr. Worthington noted that it was time to go ahead with acquiring a new computer for the office which had been budgeted for.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.