

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH JULY 2017 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman) Cllr. George Sandy
Cllr. Roger Worthington Cllr. Yannick Le Touze
Cllr. Toby Greeves Cllr. Val Pridmore
Cllr. Louise Symons Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan
Cllr. Karen Walsh Mrs. K H Holder – clerk
22 members of the public and County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

Open forum

Nigel Smales noted that proposals for the A4 cycleway had not materially changed. The scheme was deeply flawed and would increase congestion, pollution and danger and inconvenience residents. He advocated that Cllr. Sandy should lead local objections. He added that he wouldn’t change anything in the village with regard to traffic and parking issues.

Sally Bryant said she had liaised with most of the residents along 1.5 miles of Bath Road who were directly affected by the proposed cycleway that went across their driveways. She regarded the proposals as dangerous and would like to see the Parish Council representing residents on this issue.

Eva Lipman supported Cllr. Sandy and Cllr Dhillon working to protest against the cycleway. If there was no alternative but to go ahead then she suggested that the cycleway would be better on the south side out of Slough crossing over to the north side by Marsh Lane.

Cllr. Sandy said he and Cllr. Dhillon were sympathetic to residents’ concerns and were against the scheme in total and did not wish to give way an inch.

Max Lipman commented that traffic down Berry Hill was too fast to allow safe access to and from Saxon Gardens and Rectory Road because of the poor sight lines.

Eva Lipman added that the best traffic calming measure locally was the cars parked on Rectory Road.

Cllr. Dhillon said he had received a wish list of works from the Clerk for projects which might be suitable for a grant which was within his budget from BCC to provide. Of these he would aim to spend monies on new signs for the village gates and Hill Farm Road and to try and clear vegetation along Approach Road and around streetlights. He would get the work costed first.

PC/31/17 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Claire Price.

PC/32/17 To co-opt a new councillor

Cllr. Barnard noted that no candidate had come forward to date.

PC/33/17 To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of 23rd May 2017

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

PC/34/17 Matters Arising

34.1 Cllr. Sandy enquired about the deployment of the Sentinel camera. Cllr. Le Touze reported that three volunteers had now been accredited by the police but he believed another three volunteers were needed to allow the sentinel to be deployed usefully. He said that owing to the risk of theft or vandalism it was not felt it could be left up without supervision. Further volunteers did not have to be police accredited although more would need to be in the foreseeable future. Cllrs O’Riordan, Pridmore and Greeves agreed to volunteer but not to become PSVs. The Chairman asked the Clerk to put an appeal on the website.

34.2 The Clerk reported that she was attempting to liaise with the school to arrange access over the summer for the contractors to repair the barn roof as agreed at the last meeting.

34.3 The Clerk reported she had not persuaded SBDC to agree to install a dog bin at the end of River Road. Cllr. Sandy said he would approach the environment department with his District Councillor hat on to clarify the issues.

34.4 Cllr. Le Touze confirmed he would be taking photographs of the Jubilee footpath for the Clerk to pass on to the environment agency.

34.5 The Chairman noted that the kerb sets had been fixed on the Green at last.

PC/35/17 To receive a presentation from MMPA

Martin Coker attended with his colleague, John Fowler, who had been the founder of TRUG now amalgamated with the Maidenhead and Marlow Passengers Association. MMPA met quarterly and had good relations with local authorities and network rail, GWR and Chiltern Railways. Corporate membership was £10pa. It issued a quarterly report to members. They were confident the old bridge would be reinstated at the station in Taplow by December 2017 and the new bridge and lift installed by January 2018. They were pressing for Sunday opening. Of major concern was the design of the new trains proposed to be used on Crossrail. In particular they were like the tube and would carry 1,500 passengers with no toilets and seats for only 400. They said the Heathrow to Langley Western airport link were looking for sponsors. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would become corporate members of MMPA and would complain to TfL about the proposed new trains.

PC/36/17 To consider parking issues at Taplow football club

36.1 Paul Holt apologized for the problems caused by Sunday car parking around their site. This was due to membership increasing from 33 to 200 and the fact they had rented out space to the BMW garage staff whilst they were undergoing a refurbishment. Also the previous arrangement with The Harvester pub had ceased when it had changed to Miller and Carter but they were hoping they could negotiate something going forward. The arrangement with the BMW garage would not continue into the next season and they were asking the League if games could be staggered.

36.2 They would be willing to consider parking at the top of the field on grass matting but it depends on cost. They have had a quote of £10,000. They could apply to the Football Association for funds. Cllr. Dhillon encouraged them to contact him as he felt confident he could secure £3,000 of funding for them from a community fund. Cllr. Sandy expressed

he had little sympathy with the club and perhaps double yellow lines might be the way forward.

PC/37/17 To consider action to oppose the proposed A4 cycleway scheme

Cllr. Sandy confirmed he and Cllr. Dhillon were happy to continue to champion the opposition to the proposed A4 cycleway scheme which they considered a dangerous design and waste of money. They were waiting for a response from Martin Tett and Mark Shaw of BCC to their request to arrange a public meeting. Cllr. Sandy said it was felt that BCC had a hidden agenda to save their face. Cllr. Dhillon said he did not believe there was a loss of face issue as he understood BCC would recoup monies spent so far (£300,000) regardless of if the scheme went ahead or not. He was very disappointed as he had been promised a public meeting would take place but this promise had been reneged upon. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Sandy should continue to lead the opposition to this matter with Cllr. Dhillon and working with the local residents and RBWM. Cllr. Sandy said it would be useful if all local organisations such as Residents Associations and HTS wrote independently to complain. He would be in touch with the press. The Chairman added it was worth mentioning to the press that it is already possible to cycle between Slough and Berry Hill along the cycle path beside the Jubilee River.

PC/38/17 To consider visibility at junction of Rectory Road/Berry Hill

38.1 The Chairman reported that residents had asked him to consider issues at the junction of Rectory Road and Berry Hill particularly parking by Hill House residents. Mr. Gavin Gordon said he owned a flat at Hill House and he had not witnessed any problems but he had provided the Council with contact details for the management company should issues arise in future. If registration numbers and photographs of anti- social parking were sent to them he was sure they would act. It was noted that there was only very limited parking on site.

38.2 Cllr. Sandy agreed that turning right into Rectory Road northbound on Berry Hill was difficult because of the poor sight lines but BCC had turned down an application for a mirror in the past. He noted that no accidents had occurred there except for skidding on ice in the winter. The Chairman noted that the lack of fatalities to date was lucky and that increased traffic and speeds made one more likely going forward.

38.3 It was noted that the issue for the cricket club was the speed of vehicles failing to reduce speed from the national speed limit down to 30mph. Cllr. Le Touze confirmed that speed tubes had proved there was a problem with speeding and it was hoped deploying the Sentinel speed camera would help with this. The Clerk added that if necessary additional traffic calming options such as rumble strips or raised tables could be explored with BCC's Sian Thomas and Simon Dando but funding them would be another issue. Cllr. Dhillon said he might be able to apply to the LAF for funding.

38.4 The Chairman concluded that there was no action to be taken at this stage concerning Hill House parking. He asked the Clerk to explore what other traffic calming options might be possible between the cricket club and Rectory Road.

38.5 Cllr. Sandy felt it would be useful to explore what happened to the excess of the

£20,000 funds raised and paid over to BCC in 2001 for the speed hump.

PC/39/17 To consider parking issues along Rectory Road

The Chairman expressed the concerns of various villagers and parents of the village school about regular bad parking at the narrow part of Rectory Road near the Old Rectory. Following debate about widening the pavement to create a chicane, painting white access markings and the non-desirability of double yellow lines in a Conservation Area **it was agreed** to recommend no further action at this time.

PC/40/17 To clear vegetation around streetlights in Station Road and Berry Hill

40.1 The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received about overgrown vegetation and foliage especially around streetlights in Station Road and Berry Hill. The Clerk said that the cutting back of foliage over footways was a matter for BCC who, where apt, should pursue the landowner the hedge belongs to. Cllr. Dhillon said he could ask for foliage to be cut back when the footway repair is carried out on Station Road. This would not extend to cutting back around the streetlights. The Clerk was asked to write to Terry Stevens of Berry Hill Farm to ask if he could cut back his hedges and the foliage around the lights.

40.2 Cllr. O’Riordan was concerned about the waste from clearing the ditch under the railway bridge being dumped on the footway near the A4 junction. Cllr. Dhillon said he would ask for this to be removed and added that the work recently undertaken should lead to no future recurrence of flooding in this area. Nigel Smales noted that reports of flooding had been ongoing since 1840 and this would be a huge achievement if it proved true. The Clerk was asked to put this information on the website.

PC/41/17 To appoint a halls risk officer

The Clerk noted that this role had been identified but no-one had volunteered at the last meeting. Cllr. Sandy volunteered. The Clerk argued that as the Hall was the main asset owned by the Council and the role involved a proactive approach of researching clarifying and establishing best practice it would be better for the Council if a working group be formed. **This was agreed**. Cllrs. Walsh, Worthington and Pridmore agreed to volunteer to join the working group led by Cllr. Sandy.

PC/42/17 To approve a contractor to survey trees

The Clerk reported she had invited tenders from three contractors but only two had responded. Of the two who had responded the quote from R. Watts and Sons was cheaper and as they had undertaken the work previously **it was agreed** that the contract be placed with them. In response to a query from Cllr. Pridmore the Clerk confirmed she was satisfied with their qualifications to undertake the work.

PC/43/17 To approve repairs to the car park wall

Cllr. Le Touze reported that the preferred contractor had submitted a quote to repoint the car park brick wall – to avoid water ingress and future damage - and repair the damage

around the stairs. The quote was regarded as too high and the Clerk was asked to obtain another quote.

PC/44/17 War memorial update

The Clerk reported that the approved contractor had undertaken the non-chemical clean required by the War Memorials Trust but had said he would still recommend a clean with biocides. The Clerk had submitted this to the WMT for further guidance.

PC/45/17 To consider progressing with assignment of OPG lease

The Chairman had met with Roger Andrews of THRGA who had submitted proposals for the Old Priory Gardens which the Chairman had not found acceptable and he had asked THRGA to reconsider them before circulation to councilors.

PC/46/17 To consider progressing with extension of Berry Hill 30mph limit

Cllr. Le Touze said he would be completing a form to ask for this to be costed by TfB and will report back in due course.

PC/47/17 To approve a policy on lending out chairs and tables

Following debate about - amongst other things - the cost of the chairs and their being fabric as well as the danger of setting precedents, **it was agreed** that the Council should not lend out its tables or chairs to anyone.

PC/48/17 To agree meeting dates for 2018

The Clerk argued that the Council should return to monthly meetings except in August and December. This would be in keeping with all other local councils, improve the democratic process, avoid emergency decisions and debate by email. It was also noted by Cllr. Worthington that it would allow councillors to push ahead with projects more quickly and not miss six months of business if they missed a meeting. **This was agreed** on a majority vote.

PC/49/17 To consider engaging with the community payback scheme

Cllr. Symons reported that Burnham parish council had been making great use of the Community Pay Back scheme and she felt that Taplow should explore benefitting from the scheme to assist with litter picking in particular. The Clerk was asked to make contact with the scheme organisers so that Cllr. Symons could meet with them to explore this option.

PC/50/17 Planning

50.1 Cllr Worthington reported:-

50.1.1 13/01546/FUL. The PC's objection to the use of Hitcham Lane for heavy lorries under this application was unsuccessful.

50.1.2 17/01159/FUL The Council raised a concern with this application that care be taken during construction to avoid any pollution or disturbance to the River Thames and its flora and fauna. The Council had advised the Environment Agency and the River Thames Association.

50.1.3 17/01142/JNOT. The Council raised objection to this application for change of use from commercial to residential as contrary to the Supplementary Planning Document agreed with SBDC to govern development on the Mill Lane site.

50.2 It was noted that consultations over the development work relating to the M4 have opened.

50.3 SBDC have not replied to the Council's query as to how to proceed with the development of a Heritage Asset List. The working group have started an activity to produce a first candidate for a Heritage Asset List entry with the intention of offering this to SBDC to set the ball rolling.

50.4 The working party were drafting some first Neighbourhood Plan policies for acceptability.

PC/51/17 Finance

51.1 Expenditure shown in the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting was **approved** for payment.

51.2 The Clerk had circulated a quarterly report made up to 30th June on income and expenditure against budget. This was noted. The Clerk added that the Council income and expenditure was on target against budget.

PC/52/17 Any other business

52.1 The Clerk was asked to write to the Wellbank Residents Associations and THRGA to ask them to cut back the ivy on the wall along Boundary Road which was impeding pedestrians especially when wet.

52.2 Cllr. Sandy said the school field had been gifted by Lady Gage to the school and he remained concerned that BCC had put up a sign saying it was their property when it wasn't. The Clerk was asked to write to the school to suggest they protest about this before BCC acquired any rights over it by default.

52.3 Cllr. Dhillon reported that double yellow lines were to be put down along Hitcham Road by November. S.106 monies were also to be spent on Hill Rise Road to undertake a consultation on a 20mph limit. This would cost £13,000. The whole area would be reviewed after Crossrail arrived.

52.4 Cllr. Symons queried why the ditch was necessary along Station Road as it was only ever full of litter and fly tipping. She asked if it could be filled with earth. Cllr. Dhillon said he believed it belonged to Summerlease. The Clerk was asked to write to Summerlease to see if they would fill the ditch.

52.5 Cllr. Sandy was concerned about the new tree on the Green and felt that in order to guarantee its survival the Council might have to pay for it to be watered frequently, even daily during dry periods. The Clerk was asked to write to the Council's contractor to arrange this.

52.6 Nigel Smales noted that the bollards placed on Mill Lane where the road was closed did not seem passable by emergency vehicles. He asked the Council to check the SPD requirement on this point.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.