

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 30th JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

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

Open forum

Nigel Smales advised he was ready to help deploy the sentinel camera in the mornings at any of Berry Hill, Marsh Lane and Hill Farm Road.

Tony Harding said he was fundraising for the Old Priory Gardens and hoped the Council would help spread the word.

Wendy McCann, the Playgroup Treasurer, and three other representatives from Playgroup reported that they were concerned for the survival of the Playgroup and requested a reduction in their hiring fee and/or an extension of their usage of the hall at no extra cost. They were experiencing low numbers (averaging at 21 where they had capacity for 36 per day). They were a government funded group for over 3s (reimbursed £4.50 per hour by the government with limited ability to increase charges) and they charged £16 per session for under 3s. They would be in the red within 8 months at the current rate. An extension of usage would allow them to offer longer hours than the 15 hours per week they currently offered which would suit parents as the government funding was available for up to 30 hours. They said there were other playgroups and nurseries in the area. They were aware that they needed to undertake more promotion emphasizing their unique qualities - being in a beautiful location with long lasting members of staff offering learning-based activities and near to the school. They accepted that likely boosts would come when Silchester House closed for rebuilding (and restarted with reduced capacity) and with the new homes being built in the parish. They accepted that they needed to change their management structure which currently meant that volunteers were voted in every year.

County Cllr. Dev Dhillon said he had spoken to the local PCSO who had concerns about children’s safety on the road outside the school. He noted that bollards, yellow lines and temporary signage were being suggested. He said that railings were being installed in Burnham shortly and perhaps they might be more acceptable. If so funding might be found from the LAF, the school or s106 monies. The Clerk was asked to put this matter on the next agenda.

He added that the north end of the Station Road footpath would not be finished in this financial year. The Clerk advised that works recently undertaken had damaged the Council’s streetlights and costs had been incurred to rectify which the Council would be looking to recover from BCC. He said he would pursue.

He noted the drainage problems in Institute Road. BCC were meeting with the developer over the blocked drains but any remedial work couldn't be undertaken in this year's budget.

He suggested the local Rotary Club might be of assistance if the Council were looking at fundraising for more defibrillators.

Finally he noted he had heard nothing further from the Football Club regarding his offer of funding.

PC/01/18 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Claire Price and Cllr. Val Pridmore.

PC/02/18 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2017

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

PC/03/18 Matters Arising

3.1 Cllr. Sandy referred to the suggestion of creating a footpath from Buffins to Hunts Lane. He pointed out there always used to be a verge until the trees grew over it. The Clerk was asked to write to BCC/TfB to arrange to cut back the trees and re-instate the verge.

3.2 Cllr. Worthington noted that BCC had updated their Mineral strategy and although land at Barge farm had been reserved, no action was planned there for the next five years.

3.3 Cllr. Le Touze noted that the footway between the Miller and Carter Steakhouse and the junction with Approach Road was in a terrible state as a result of flooding and asked the Clerk to report it.

PC/04/18 To receive an update on the proposed A4 cycleway and agree next steps

Cllr. Sandy reported that despite everyone's best efforts including Dominic Grieve, it was clear that this was now a fait accompli. Cllr. Worthington said it was important to put pressure on BCC to re-publish the layout and to ask for more safety features such as signage near driveway entrances.

PC/05/18 To obtain new dog bins and litter bins

5.1 **It was agreed** the Clerk should proceed to obtain and arrange to install a dog bin in River Road and – with SBDC's approval - at the corner of Station Road and Boundary Road.

5.2 **It was also agreed** – with SBDC's approval - to install two new litter bins at equidistant intervals along Station Road and another litter bin at the junction of Hitcham Road and Boundary Road although the Clerk would need to check it was within the parish boundary.

PC/06/18 To consider streetlights for Institute Road

The Clerk advised that a member of the public had raised this issue. It was noted that until residents moved into the new homes the Council could not consult with them what they wanted. At the moment any lights would only benefit Burnham residents walking to the station. It was felt the developer would need to pay to install any lights. The Clerk would write to the developer once Cllr. Sandy provided the details.

PC/07/18 To discuss potential uses for the barn

The Chairman had visited the barn and noted the size and possibilities offered. Two action points were immediately apparent. Firstly he would try and meet with SBDC to discuss a change of use for the barn. Secondly action should be taken to review all the items currently stored in there and consider what could be moved, returned or thrown away.

PC/08/18 To agree to apply for funding for debrillator/s

This item was postponed in the absence of Cllr. Pridmore.

PC/09/18 To approve additional works to war memorial

Cllr. Worthington had obtained one quote for the works that could be done and for which a WMT grant might be available. He needed another quote. If he got it he would submit to the WMT. If he didn't he would submit to the Church for them to move things forward.

PC/10/18 To approve additional costs for tree works

A quote had been received from the Council's tree contractors for work to pollard trees along the High Street. **This was agreed.**

PC/11/18 To consider new signs promoting the Taplow Conservation Areas

The Chairman had been impressed with a wooden sign in Dorney which had the effect of calming traffic too. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should explore getting quotes for such signs and for the matter to be on the next agenda to consider suitable sites.

PC/12/18 To repair the white gates on the various entry points to the village

The Chairman said he would like the village gates repaired and repainted. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should ask BCC to undertake this work and in the meantime obtain quotes for the same. The Chairman would advise who to approach for quotes.

PC/13/18 Hall maintenance/repair

13.1 Cllr. Sandy reported that a competitive quote had been received from Mr. McNulty to refurbish the kitchen, overhaul the car park side windows and replace some roof tiles. The Clerk advised she had made reasonable efforts to obtain other quotes but none had been forthcoming. This quote was **agreed**.

13.2 Cllr. Sandy reported that the regular Hall cleaner had offered to steam clean the Hall chairs for a one-off fee of £150. Other quotes had been obtained and this had also been the cheapest option. **It was agreed** to go ahead with this quote and to review how often the work might need doing after that.

13.3 The Clerk was asked to obtain salt for the salt bin and was given authority to engage a local contractor to spread the salt on the icy patch along from the drain in the car park and along footways to the Hall entrance should snow and ice be forecast in the future.

PC/14/18 Planning

14.1 Cllr. Worthington reported on objections that had been made on behalf of the Council in respect of Cliveden Stud, Challens Chicks and Berkeley Homes' application to move

the office block.

14.2 He noted that Silchester Manor House had submitted an application to demolish the house, build 10 apartments and a new nursery. The application did not include a large tract of land to the rear raising the possibility that separate applications may be made to avoid affordable housing regulations. He intended to also lodge concerns relating to the loss of a historic building, change to the building line and overdevelopment in the Green Belt

14.3 He also noted applications submitted by Stockwells – concern being that it would be over dominating - and Sheepcote Manor – two areas of concern.

14.4 He reported that the Thames Riviera Hotel's application had been turned down.

14.5 He noted that he had found out at SBALC that Parish Council's objections were not counted by SBDC in the number of objections necessary to get an application referred to Planning Committee although they were counted in Chiltern District. With the amalgamation of the two Districts' planning departments hopefully this could be resolved.

14.6 SBDC had said that the draft local plan would be ready mid 2018.

14.7 He said the Neighbourhood Plan had been dormant but would be reactivated soon.

PC/15/18 Finance

15.1 Expenditure in the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting **was approved** and cheques signed.

15.2 The Precept for 2018/19 **was agreed** at £25,000. The Chairman had set out the Council's budget as agreed by Finance Committee recently, noting that some £24,000 of reserves would be spent on refurbishments to the Hall and other identified village projects all of which the Council approved in principle. In addition other projects had been identified such as reinstating footways, refurbishing the barn and considering disability access to the Hall and these required the Precept being put up to deliver. It was noted that increasing the Precept only meant an average £3.50 pa increase for householders from last year and the Council would still rank amongst the lowest precepts in the District.

PC/16/18 S.1.(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to agree that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 17 that the public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw

This was **agreed** and the public left the room.

PC/17/18 To consider what support could be offered to the Playgroup

17.1 Following debate **it was agreed** that the Council could not accept any reduction in hiring charges which were already reduced by 30%. Nor could free slots be given as this would prevent other hiring that happened from time to time.

17.2 **It was agreed** to offer a waiver of the hiring charge increase due in September and to offer £250 from the Chairman's allowance as a gesture of goodwill to assist the Playgroup with their promotion costs. The Playgroup should be invited to approach the Council again should their situation not improve, say, in 6 months.

PC/18/18 Any other business/agenda items for meeting on 27th February 2018

There were none.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.