

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM, TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

Cllr. Claire Price (in the Chair)

Cllr. Karen Walsh

Cllr. George Sandy

Cllr. Roger Worthington

Cllr. Louise Symons

Cllr. Spencer Norton

Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan

Mrs. Holder (Clerk) and 15 members of the public including County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

Open forum

Ms. Carol Linton asked if the Parish Council supported the CAB based in Burnham. The Clerk confirmed that it did not. She added that no request for support had been made.

Mrs. Ann Thorne reported that the litter bin at the top of the Village Green was always overflowing. The Clerk was asked to enquire of SBDC how often it was emptied and whether another litter bin nearby would be allowed. The Clerk was asked to put the matter on the next agenda.

Ms. Janet Appleton complained that the footway between the Station and the A4 along Approach Road was dangerous owing to overgrowth of vegetation and build up of debris. Mr. Michael Turner added that the irregularity of the tarmac was also a factor and the footway would benefit from resurfacing. County Cllr. Dhillon agreed to raise the issues with the Local Area Technician at BCC.

Mrs. Sally Sandy added that some parts of the footway along Boundary Road were almost impassable with a buggy due to mud. Cllr. Dhillon agreed to also pursue this.

Ms. Zoe Hatch spoke about the importance of the Parish Council declaring a climate emergency. She referred to the work of eminent scientists, David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg and noted that 270 councils had already made such a declaration. She wished to see a working party set up to consider actions that could be taken. She recognised that it could be argued that Taplow Parish Council was too modest in size to make an impact but making such a declaration would show leadership in doing all it could to protect residents and put a structure in place for future action. In the last two weeks as Chair of the Green Party she had spoken to 150 local residents; 100% of whom either fully or partially supported the local council doing more. She hoped that this was just the start of her conversation with the Council and she submitted a handout of a list of possible actions the Council could take which she hoped would be discussed during item 5 on the agenda.

County Cllr. Dhillon said that the green agenda had had a lot of support at County level and noted a number of initiatives such as the work which started in 2008 to reduce greenhouse gases and that the County Council had plans to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Ms. Hatch commented that action to date had been laudable and without more action there would be a 4 degree increase in climate temperature.

Cllr. Sandy commented that everyone would support reducing carbon footprint. Individuals were already doing what they could and there was not much a Parish Council could do. Pollution issues caused mainly by forms of transport were not something the Parish Council could control.

Ms. Hatch asked for the motion for the declaration of a climate emergency to be tabled again and asked for support from two councillors so that the matter could be forced onto a future agenda.

Ms. Alison Adcock reported that the new Marsh Lane bridge was only 1.5 metres high and this made it dangerous for the 150 known horse riders in Taplow who could fall over the parapet in an accident. It would be possible to raise the height by 30 cm but BCC said there was no money in their budget to do so even though they accepted there was a danger. Cllr. Sandy would pursue this issue. Cllr. Dhillon said he would also raise it with Highways England. Ms. Adcock added that she was concerned that the forum consulted by Highways England comprised Maidenhead, Slough and Berkshire areas but not South Bucks.

Cllr. Dhillon reported that he and Cllr. Sandy had attended a meeting with Mr. Mark Davies of BCC re car parking issues around the station. They were waiting for new proposals and had received confirmation that there would be extensive consultations in due course.

He added that this was a good time for local councils to have input into the development of the community boards.

PC/01/20 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Jamie Barnard and Cllr. Val Pridmore.

PC/02/20 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council of 5th November

These were confirmed, with an amendment to the minutes at item PC/119/19 to replace 'The item was postponed to the next meeting' with the words 'The Chairman requested the matter be postponed to the next meeting'. This was requested by the Clerk to better reflect what had happened as the previous wording had had the effect of causing a misunderstanding on the part of one of our parishioners who believed this had placed a

legal obligation on the Council to have the item on this agenda. The amended minutes were approved and signed by Cllr. Price.

PC/03/20 Matters Arising from the minutes (not otherwise on the agenda)

3.1 Cllr. Sandy had now obtained a copy of the conveyance of the school field. He remained concerned about public right of access to certain areas and issues of ownership as one of the original trustees was the chairman of the Council with the implication the Council had some ownership interest. Cllr. Sandy was asked by Cllr. Price to take this up directly with Cllr. Barnard who had expressed his view as a lawyer at the previous meeting.

3.2 Cllr. Worthington reported that Mr. Andrew Findlay had repaired the MVAS.

3.3 Cllr. Price noted that ticket purchase was now contactless from Taplow Station.

PC/04/20 To engage with St Nicolas school on future plans

4.1 Mr. Steve Warren, the business manager at St Nicolas school, expressed despair that ownership of the school field and their right to enclose it remained an issue. He said the fencing was finished and the look of some of the fencing would improve as it weathered in. Cllr. Sandy enquired why metal fencing had been necessary rather than the softer wood effect especially in a Conservation Area but Mr. Warren replied that the school needed to see who approached the front entrance and there were no children to protect in that area from prying eyes. They intended to put some wooden planters in too.

4.2 He noted that building plans had been approved for the new frontage but that he was awaiting news of funding bids before it could go ahead. Mrs. Thorne was concerned that the new frontage would change the aspect of the village and particularly the Village Green. Mr. Warren believed it would improve things. Cllr. Worthington confirmed that the Council had decided not to object to the planning application but would work with the school to ensure the materials used in construction were appropriate.

4.3 Mrs. Thorne noted that if schools were mandated to not allow children to be watched from outside the school how did that apply to the Playgroup. Mr. Warren said the Playgroup rented space and it was up to them.

PC/05/20 To discuss ideas on supporting the environment

5.1 Cllr. Price explained that when setting the agenda for this meeting there had been no documentation for her (standing in place of the Chairman at short notice) to pre-read so she had revised the agenda item to be phrased in more general terms. She emphasized that all councillors were hugely supportive of the environment agenda. She acknowledged that Ms. Hatch had - subsequent to the agenda going out - provided documentary evidence to support her claims and had made a good presentation earlier in the meeting. Cllr. Price said she did not want a political or personal debate. The Council was following Government advice and was keen to keep the environment agenda high but the issue of climate emergency was not on this agenda.

5.2 Cllr. Price said the Council took environmental issues seriously and referred to the work undertaken by the Council. She pointed out that the Council had taken steps at its own expense to protect the local footpaths, it was working with Summerlease to look into planting more trees in the former gravel pit area, it had taken on the Old Priory Gardens as a village amenity and it managed the Village Green and its planters. She noted the Council was not in a higher tier of government and had limited powers but it would be willing to discuss any specific ideas that came forward.

5.3 Cllr. Worthington noted that environmental issues were very much to the forefront of the Neighbourhood Plan working group and he would be happy to liaise with Mrs. Hatch in due course.

5.4 He noted that some of the ideas on the list handed in by Mrs. Hatch such as solar panels would not be possible in Conservation Areas and only a small number of houses would be able to benefit from them.

5.5 Further debate ensued on what else the Council could do. Cllr. O’Riordan noted that all street lighting was now LED as were the new lights put into the Perkins Room.

PC/06/20 To consider funding air quality monitoring on the A4

Ms. Hatch explained that local residents were concerned about air quality and congestion and asked if the Council would consider a formal request for funding. She said they had a budget of £600 to place one monitor on the A4 for 6 months at a place to be agreed. Cllr. Sandy noted that there wasn’t any great pedestrian use on the A4 and any pollution would be due to traffic which the Council could do nothing about. Cllr. Worthington felt there was some merit in undertaking monitoring so as to feed into the debate on Infrastructure and Development issues in the Local Plan and the possibility of increased pollution as a result of any development of the Green Belt which the Neighbourhood Plan group were opposing. He believed HTS might be interesting in helping to sponsor a monitor. Mrs. Hatch invited Councillors to put this again on a future agenda.

PC/07/20 To consider requesting changes to the voting rights under the Terms of reference of the proposed Community Boards

The Clerk referred to a letter from Buckingham Town Council requesting increased voting powers for Parish Councils on the proposed Unitary Authority’s Community Boards. **It was agreed** to write in support of them.

PC/08/20 To consider supporting the Local Electricity Bill

The Clerk had circulated a resolution in support of a Bill to encourage local electricity creation and supply. **This was agreed.**

PC/09/20 To consider next steps relating to the noticeboard in Ellington Road

It was agreed this was not economical to repair and should be removed. Cllr. Worthington noted that a request had been made to the post office to remove the disused parcel box alongside the noticeboard. The Clerk was asked to pursue this.

PC/10/20 To consider the request for an additional light in Institute Road

The Clerk reported that Mr. Keen, who had worked with the Council on lighting issues previously, had said that another light was necessary in his opinion. It was noted that the Station Road light with the new double head was not yet in place and might make a difference. **It was agreed** to defer this issue until a report on the effect of the new light could be assessed.

PC/11/20 To consider the following pending items of business carried forward

- 11.1 Parking issues around Taplow station. Cllr. Dhillon's statement in open forum was noted.
- 11.2 Next steps re the barn. Cllrs. Worthington and Sandy agreed to study the contents of the recent structural report and bring it back to the next meeting.
- 11.3 To agree next steps to improve the Village Hall. This to be dealt with below.
- 11.4 To replace the door closing device on the front door. **This was agreed** along with push and pull signs.

PC/12/20 Planning

Cllr. Worthington noted that:-

12.1 The following decisions have been made

PL/19/3556/AGN Little Karoo Farm	REFUSED
PL/19/0885/FA, Cedar Cottage Dropmore	FENCE REVISED
PL/19/3257/FA St Nicolas School extension	APPROVED
PL/19/3234/SA Lea Rig swimming pool	APPROVED
PL/19/3026/FA 2 Amerden Cottages – large extension	WITHDRAWN
PL/19/2358/FA Gas yard Cliveden changes	APPROVED
PL/19/4232/NMA Taplow House Hotel	WITHDRAWN
PL/19/4137/EU Cliveden Stud House lawfulness	REFUSED

12.2 The following are pending decision

PL/18/3946/FA Barn for quail rearing	OBJECTED
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Cllr. O'Riordan noted there had been a toxic fire on site on Saturday and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries of the fire brigade and environmental health what was in the fire.

PL/19/0027/FA 8 Houses on The Old Boathouse (Gage)	OBJECTED
PL/19/3301/FA Huntswood Golf Club replacement club house	
PL/19/3852/FA Thamesbank River Road changes	OBJECTED

12.3 The following are new applications – no objection envisaged

PL/19/4100/FA Burwood House rebuild	
PL/19/3654/FA West Bapsey extension	
PL/19/3586/FA Cliveden Orangery reconstruct	
PL/19/3992/FA Kingsdown Marsh Lane replace building	
PL/19/4346/FA 4 Awdry Cottage	
PL/19/4217/VRC 2 Amerden Cottage	
PL/19/4371/PNO The Hermitage 10 flats – no objection	
PL/19/4310/FA 7 Laychequers	

PL/19/3918/FA Stonecrop New building – Cllr. Worthington would write to add that the Council would have no objection to a modern design and the developers had misunderstood our previous concerns.

12.4 Update on progress of Neighbourhood Plan – matters were stalled due to other commitments of the Chair. Dorney had similar problems with the proposals in the Local Plan and were seeking support on jointly engaging a planning consultant. This might cost up to £3,000 for each Council. The Neighbourhood Plan team would bring back any such proposals to the next meeting.

PC/13/20 Finance

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

13.2 Cllr. Price reported that the Finance Committee had agreed the budget for next year and were proposing no increase in the level of the individual household precept. A list of capital projects had been drawn up, mainly concerning hall improvements such as upgrades to the Perkins room, redecoration and new doors - the costs of half of which would come from reserves - but also new village signs as well as the continued maintenance of footpaths. **It was agreed** that the Precept should stay the same next year at the individual household level of £25.93, resulting in a total precept of £38,633. Cllr. Worthington noted that the adding of WW2 names to the war memorial would cost £2,000 before May this year. HTS would be approaching the Council formally for a contribution to the costs of this at the next meeting and he requested the matter go on the next agenda.

13.3 Cllr. Price noted that a decision had been taken to reinvest the Close Bros deposit until May. **This was ratified**. It was noted that a change of signatories was required as Mr. Bamberg was still down as a signatory. **It was agreed** that Cllrs. Price and Sandy should be the signatories going forward.

13.4 **It was agreed** to set up a Community Fund of £1,000 out of reserves and a Grants Policy drawn up and circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting **was approved**.

13.5 **It was agreed** that there was no present need to set up a separate Barn Fund as distinct from the Buildings Fund.

PC/14/20 Any other business and items for meeting on 4th February 2020

14.1 Cllr. Sandy was investigating options for battery operated blinds and would obtain quotes for the next meeting.

14.2 Cllr. Sandy noted that planners were putting forward plans to develop Beaconsfield and a fighting fund was being launched to prevent this. He believed that any overdevelopment would impact on Taplow for example because of increased traffic. The fund was asking people to donate £50 each. Ms. Hatch expressed her support for this too and encouraged the Council to have the matter as a future agenda item.

14.3 Cllr. Worthington had been asked by the General Manager of Cliveden to mention the Spring Gathering event to be held at Burnham park Hall on 7th February between 10 and 3pm.

14.4 Cllr. Worthington noted that Ms. Hatch had asked for the Council to promote the Green Party's plastic attack event. He said he would circulate the poster via HTS but that the Clerk would only add an excerpt to the Council newsletter.

14.5 Mr. Nigel Smales said he and Mr. Martin Knight on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan working group had attended the Maidenhead vision meeting. They were issuing a draft charter and inviting comments by 25th January. He would circulate information on this shortly.

14.6 Spencer Norton noted that over Christmas cars were parked on the double yellow lines near Tescos on Hitcham Road. He asked the Clerk to refer this to the local police PCSO.

14.7 Mr. Turner noted that the lights on Approach Road were often out. Ms. Hatch added that 3 were particularly dodgy. She asked the Clerk to require the Council's contractors to notify the Council whenever they said they had fixed streetlights.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.