

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

### **Present**

Cllr. Claire Price (In the Chair)      Cllr. Val Pridmore  
Cllr. Karen Walsh                              Cllr. George Sandy  
Cllr. Roger Worthington                      Cllr. Spencer Norton  
Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan                        Cllr. C. A Silver  
Mrs. Holder (Clerk) and two members of the public.

### **Open forum**

No issues were raised.

### **PC/55/20 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Jamie Barnard and Cllr. Louise Symons.

### **PC/56/20 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May**

The minutes **were approved** and the Clerk was asked to sign them.

### **PC/57/20 Matters Arising from the previous minutes**

57.1 Cllr. Sandy referred to item 47.6 and noted that the vertical blinds installed in error for the Reading Room were attractive and were to be kept but that roller blinds as originally ordered would be supplied for the Perkins Room in due course.

57.2 Cllr. Sandy referred to item 49.20 and wished to clarify that the grant he had suggested would only be refundable to the extent it hadn’t been spent.

57.3 Cllr. Sandy noted that the leak in the porch had been fixed as an emergency once he and Cllr. Worthington had investigated the problem.

57.4 Janet Appleton asked who was responsible for the state of the pavement in Approach Road as the brambles in particular were overwhelming the pavement. Cllr. Sandy said that the pavement was the responsibility of Bucks Council (BC) but the overgrowing vegetation was the responsibility of Network Rail. BC had procedures to enforce and he would refer the issue to them if she would provide photographs to him via the Clerk.

### **PC/58/20 To consider the Coronavirus threat and agree future action**

**It was agreed** that no further action was necessary at this stage.

### **PC/59/20 To consider steps to re-open the Halls**

Cllr. Price referred to recent research undertaken by the Clerk which clarified that the Government did not currently allow any other users to use the Hall except effectively the Playgroup. Playgroup would be returning for morning only sessions for the rest of the term. A set of rules had been drafted to make the Hall ‘covid secure’ and these were

**agreed** for use when the Government regulations were lifted. **It was agreed** that the Clerk should acquire and install in the foyer a wall mounted sanitising gel dispenser.

#### **PC/60/20 To consider environmental initiatives**

60.1 Cllr. Barnard had drafted a policy document relating to climate and the environment.

**This was agreed** subject to a few minor amendments.

60.2 Cllr. Worthington would add a new page to the website to deal with environment issues.

#### **PC/61/20 To consider steps necessary re WCAG 2.1 AA compliant website**

Cllr. Walsh noted that these regulations, which had to be complied with by September 2020, were aimed at making websites more accessible to people with disabilities and that in the next two months the Council needed to have an action plan and an accessibility statement in place. Cllr. Worthington had compiled a two page checklist that needed to be complied with and he believed that the Council would need to be certified as compliant. The Clerk was asked to research what the certification process involved and examples of accessibility statements to discuss at the next meeting.

#### **PC/62/20 To agree next steps to improve the Village Hall**

Cllr. Sandy said the Hall working group had agreed that a broad oak strip around the Perkins Room would be the best way to avoid damage from hirers moving tables and chairs. He hoped to get a quote shortly. Cllr. Walsh had obtained one quote for the new flooring to the Perkins Room and was still seeking two more to also include the foyer. **It was agreed** that the final decision on which supplier to contract with could be delegated to Councillors to decide by email and be ratified at the next meeting given the need to ensure the work is undertaken during the holiday period. Playgroup had asked if they could leave it until the end of term to empty their cupboard and this was agreed.

#### **PC/63/20 To consider and agree issues relating to the following ongoing items:**

63.1 problems with pavement in Approach Road – dealt with above.

63.2 parking issues around Taplow station – no progress.

63.3 next steps re the barn - no response from BC yet.

#### **PC/64/20 Planning**

##### **64.1 The following decisions have been made:**

PL/19/2164/FA Mill Lane condition APPROVED

PL/20/1085/KA Tree prune 1 River Close No TPO

##### **64.2 The following have decisions pending**

PL/19/3301/FA Huntswood Golf Club replacement club house

PL/19/0027/FA 8 Houses on the Old Boathouse site

PL/20/1202/FA Hitcham Lodge Greenhouse

PL/20/1173/HB Taplow House Hotel roof work

PL/20/0970/FA Wee Cottage extension

PL/20/0659/FA Housekeeper accommodation

PL/20/0746/FA Challen's Chicks new house

Riviera Hotel appeal delayed

### **64.3 The following are for review**

PL/20/1439/FA 1 River Close – outbuilding. **It was agreed** to object. The property is within the Green Belt and within the Taplow Riverside Conservation Area (TRCA). The bulk, style and location of the addition is quite out of character with the TRCA description, ill matched to its Edwardian surroundings and highly visible. The size of the proposed cabin is excessive in relation to the plot size, again contrary to the TRCA setting and contributing to a loss of openness within the Green Belt. It is prejudicial to the amenity of the existing property. It restricts access to the rear garden very significantly (only 765mm) and creates almost total light loss to the adjacent window of the living room. It does not conform to requirements for spacing from the boundary wall. The applicant refers to C3 use of the current building. It must be clear that this categorisation must not include the proposed cabin. There is no statement as to the interior fitting of the cabin. It should be clear that there is no plan to connect to mains water and drainage services. We are concerned to note that construction of the base for this cabin is already in progress.

### **64.4 The following are new applications – no objections envisaged**

18/00772/VC Mill Lane - office appearance  
PL/20/1417/SA Lamont House River Road  
PL/20/01678/FUL 5 Ellington Gardens - conditions 5,6,7 (\*)  
PL/20/1118/NMA Balcony changes Mill Lane gasometer site

### **64.5 Update on progress of Neighbourhood Plan**

Local Plan inspectors inclined to reject plan on Duty to Co-operate grounds. BC to respond. It was **agreed** to write to the BC Leader.

### **PC/65/20 Finance**

65.1 Expenditure in the cashbook **was agreed**.

65.2 Cllr. Price reported that a new 2 year contract for the streetlighting energy contract had been entered into with SSE on their 100% green energy tariff. This should also lead to a saving. **This was ratified**

### **PC/66/20 Any other business and items for the virtual meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July**

66.1 Cllr. Silver noted that someone on a motorised scooter was using Footpath 9 & 10 now that the kissing gate between the two and also the kissing gate on Boundary Road appeared to have been removed. Cllr. Sandy believed part of the problem was the removal of vegetation around the gates but felt the responsibility lay with the landowner. Cllr. Silver agreed to provide photographs to the Clerk who would write to the landowner asking if they would take steps to ensure access be limited to walkers.

66.2 Cllr. O’Riordan noted that the Marsh Lane streetlight was still not working.

66.3 Cllr. Silver noted that there had been some vandalism in the OPG. She had spoken to THRGa and signage would be printed and put up shortly. Cllr. Sandy advised that they would need to be very sturdy. Cllr. Norton said that if they were considering any CCTV they would need to put up signage to that effect. Vandalism was also taking place in other local spots and Cllr. Walsh believed this was due to bored youths during lockdown.

66.4 The Clerk reported that a local resident had written to ask for parking prohibition on Rectory Road near the junction with Berry Hill and more streetlighting there. Following debate it was decided not to support these initiatives. Parking had not become noticeably worse and there was nowhere else for residents to park. The Clerk was asked to contact BC to see if they would reapply the white hatching on the road on Berry Hill corner.

66.5 The Clerk reported that the removal of the curtains in the Reading Room had left holes in the mural. She had obtained a quote from a local resident with an art degree who

could fill up the holes and repaint them - colour matching the mural with acrylic paints. He had quoted £300. This was agreed to proceed as soon as possible and would be on the next agenda for formal ratification.

66.6 Cllr. Worthington noted that the Council no longer had support for future maintenance of the website. Cllr. Worthington would supply the Clerk with a specification of what this involved and the Clerk would seek quotes.

66.7 Cllr. Sandy was concerned that - over the years - a hedge had been allowed to grow between the High Street and the Hall car park. This meant the car park had become very secluded and suspicious activities seemed to be taking place there. The Clerk was asked to get a quote from our grounds maintenance contractor to completely remove the hedge and repair the exposed fence where necessary.

66.8 Cllr. Sandy noted that the hedge between Rectory Road and the Green was also overgrowing and the Clerk was also asked to obtain a quote to have this cut back.

*The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.*