

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27th MARCH 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. Louise Symons Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan

Cllr. Yannick Le Touze Cllr. Spencer Norton

Cllr. Val Pridmore Mrs. K H Holder – Clerk

Three members of the public including District Councillor Matt Bezzant.

Open forum

Tony Harding noted that his recent fund raising efforts had been very successful and he offered to use some of the funds to help provide extra storage facilities for playgroup subject to council approval as he had noticed that their storage was inadequate. He added that their problems would be helped if they could leave their climbing frames in the Hall. He would write to the Clerk and asked for the matter to be on the next agenda.

Nigel Smales expressed concern at the news that the Secretary of State for Communities had said he was minded to support Bucks County Council’s bid to be the sole unitary authority for the County.

PC/32/18 Apologies for absence

Cllr. George Sandy, Cllr. Karen Walsh, Cllr. Toby Greeves and Cllr. Claire Price.

PC/33/18 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2018

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

PC/34/18 Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda and for information only)

34.1 The Clerk was asked to continue to pursue the issues raised at item 21.4 (reimbursement for repair of lights in Station Road).

34.2 The Clerk reported that she hadn’t pursued Blacks re item 21.6 about street lighting in Institute Road because she had examined the planning permissions and did not see any conditions to install street lighting on them. She would pass the papers to Cllr. Worthington for his opinion.

34.3 The Clerk reported regarding the large village signs that County Cllr Dhillon had given her a contact for the person who had organized the sign for Dorney but that person did not seem to be employed by TfB any longer. Dorney PC had been unable to help and efforts to obtain quotes from two other potential suppliers had not yet met with any response.

34.4 Cllr. Worthington reported that HTS’ offer to donate raffle proceeds to the Playgroup and then the School had been turned down in the light of their impending fundraising effort being the fete.

34.5 Cllr. Worthington reported that Cllr. Sandy had written to BCC about signage for the cycleway and received an overwhelming amount of information, most of which was not relevant.

PC/35/18 Update on the barn

The Chairman reported he had spoken with Chris Marchant of SBDC who had been very supportive about using the barn for amenity purposes. He had advised the Parish Council to look into planning and conservation issues before proceeding. The Chairman had made further enquiries and was waiting to hear from the planning pre-application department for more advice.

PC/36/18 To approve the repair of the village gates

36.1 Two quotes had been received to repair the 6 village gates. **It was agreed** to proceed with the quote from Mr. Wayland – Smith who would also repaint the old telephone kiosk free of charge.

36.2 Mr. Wayland-Smith would also be asked to quote to repair what appeared to be a seventh gate on Marsh Lane if it was in fact repairable.

PC/37/18 To agree a response to the consultation on unitary authorities

37.1 District Councillor Matt Bezzant said all the district councils had been against a single unitary authority and had proposed two such authorities – one in the north and one in the south of the County. The main issues were debated. Cllr. Bezzant admitted that parish councils might get more powers under the BCC proposals but it was unlikely they would be properly funded.

37.2 **It was agreed** that the Clerk should draft a response to the consultation and circulate it to councillors for approval. Steps should be taken to inform residents via the website and newsletters with bullet points and advice on how to submit responses.

PC/38/18 To agree projects to put forward for a grant from the County Councillor's members fund budget

County Cllr. Dhillon had advised that a proportion of his members' fund budget was available to spend in Taplow and had invited the Parish Council to submit a list of possible capital projects. Following debate the following **were agreed** in the following order:-

- To either re-instate the chevrons that were knocked down on the bend on Marsh Lane or put up 3 or 4 reflective bollards instead. At night this stretch of the road was very dangerous now.
- To re-set in a less generous curve - so as to soften the corner - the granite sets on the corner at the junction of Rectory Road and Hill Farm Road. Over time these have become knocked out of kilter; leaving gaps and holes in the ground.
- To side out Approach Road along the pavement adjacent to the fence. Vegetation has encroached onto the pavement which becomes almost impassable with nettles and shrubbery.
- Side out the parts of the pavement that require it along Cliveden Road particularly between Cliveden Gages and Cliveden House on the west side.
- Put in bollards to stop parking on the verge and repair damaged drain cover at junction of Station Road and Boundary Road.
- Re- mark the white lines along the centre of Cliveden Road.

PC/39/18 To approve the quote to replace the windows in the Perkins Room

A quote had been received from the suppliers of the Perkins Room fire door. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should try and obtain another quote and put the matter back on the April agenda.

PC/40/18 Misc. matters on footpath to Mill Lane

In respect of the footpath in Mill Lane it was **agreed** :-

40.1 to install a new litter bin subject to SBDC approval

40.2 to remove an old noticeboard and

40.3 to ask BCC to repair/replace the footpath post or allow the Parish Council to do so.

PC/41/18 Planning

Cllr. Worthington reported that:-

41.1 Cliveden had put another signpost outside their front gate on common land. The Clerk was asked to write to ask them to remove it.

41.2 Two applications had been turned down at Amerden Lodge and the Hawthorns Care Home; in both cases for narrow Green Belt reasons.

41.3 He had spoken to Network Rail about the trees cut down on Station Road and been told that they had been too close to overhead lines. He intended objecting as no clear justification had been given on the application.

41.4 A series of applications had been made in respect of the Lindens.

41.5 An application to put a second house on the plot in Ellington Gardens had been made.

41.6 He had attended the MMPA AGM where Network Rail said they had just started the design for the new bridge. They would not be putting it where the old bridge had been for infrastructure reasons. Cllr Worthington was asked to encourage Network Rail to try and incorporate in the new design some of the features of the old bridge such as the lettering and old style finials.

41.7 He had drafted a letter regarding parking at the station and was given approval to send it.

42 3 Saxon Gardens had received permission for vehicle access onto Rectory Road although it will be very close to the junction with Berry Hill (subject to a Highways licence). Two applications have also been made for extensions to the house as entitlements under planning legislation rather than being subject to any criteria of suitability.

42.1 Berkeley Homes had put in an application to convert Dunloe Lodge into nine apartments including two to be built over the garage. **It was agreed** to object to the extra two apartments over the garage as this was an overdevelopment not in keeping with the SPD and creating more traffic.

42.2 SBDC and CDC were undertaking an Open Spaces Review but he did not recommend commenting as Taplow had no open spaces under threat.

42.3 There was a Landscaping consultation for the M4 road widening scheme underway.

PC/42/18 Finance

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

42.2 **It was agreed** to appoint Mr. Dancer as the internal auditor for 2017/18.

PC/43/18 Any other business (for information only) and to approve agenda items for meeting on 24th April 2018

43.1 Cllr. Worthington had not been able to get another quote for the war memorial and would like the matter on the agenda for April with a view to proposing that the £3,300 repair costs already quoted be met by local contributions and match funding from the legacy fund.

43.2 Cllr. Worthington noted that there were a series of presentations being given by BCC about the unitary authority consultation and he would be attending one of them.

43.3 The Chairman asked the Clerk if she would write to the owners of Elibank Court again for news of when works were planned to take place.

43.4 Concern was expressed about preserving the water filled gravel pit for community amenity and Cllr. Symons said she would try and arrange a meeting with Mike Lowe of Summerleaze to discuss this further.

43.5 The Clerk noted that the organizers of the village fete had asked to use the hall in case of wet weather. It was agreed to waive charging them the usual fee for this although a completed booking form and security deposit should be obtained.

43.6 The Clerk reported that the Playgroup had asked for their hire fees to be reduced by a sum equal to three days to reflect the days it was closed because of the snow and the paths not being cleared. It was felt this was an act of god and we had in fact applied grit on the paths and car park the day after the snow fell. It was not clear if they were refunding the parents for the days the playgroup was closed. It was agreed as an act of goodwill to deduct one day's hire fees from their next invoice.

43.7 The Chairman asked the Clerk to refer the blocked drains on the right hand side of Berry Hill to BCC for cleaning.

43.8 The Clerk was asked to get a quote from a local firm to install and maintain flowers in the stone planters around the Green and put this on the next agenda.

43.9 The Clerk was asked to write to SBDC and Summerleaze about the mud on the pavements near the football ground on Berry Hill.

43.10 The Chairman would write to Paul Holt again about whether there had been any progress on the parking issues at the football ground.

The meeting ended at 9.37 pm.

That concludes the meeting