

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

### Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman)    Cllr. Claire Price  
Cllr. Roger Worthington            Cllr. George Sandy  
Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan                Cllr. Karen Walsh  
Cllr. Louise Symons                  Cllr. Spencer Norton  
Mrs. Holder (Clerk) and six members of the public.

### Open forum

Mr. C J Ryan was concerned there had been no progress on Buffins’ parking issues. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with L&Q.

### PC/25/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Val Pridmore and County Cllr. Dev Dhillon.

### PC/26/19 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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

### PC/27/19 Matters Arising (not otherwise on the agenda and for information only)

It was noted that no progress had been made on the draft submission to the John Hampden consultation and it was now probably too late to do so.

### PC/28/19 To co-opt a new councilor/s

No candidates had been forthcoming to date.

### PC/29/19 To approve the contractor for footpaths maintenance

29.1 Mr. C J Ryan expressed concern that the problem with the footpaths was encroachment from neighbouring landowners and that the Council’s focus should be on writing to them rather than undertaking cuts themselves. The Chairman responded that both the Parish Council and the County Council had been writing to the worst offenders but to no avail. He noted that the footpaths also needed their up-growth cutting back which was not the responsibility of neighbouring landowners.

29.2 The Clerk reported that three contractors had submitted quotes. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Price should make the final decision following clarification of a couple of discrepancies thrown up in the quotes.

### PC/30/19 To agree whether to accept the LAF offer of funding for lighting in Institute Road which falls short of the amount requested

30.1 The Clerk reported that the LAF sub group were recommending to the LAF committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March that only £2,696 rather than the £4,500 requested should be allocated as a grant towards this project. On the basis Burnham Parish Council would own two of the eight lights then they had already agreed with the Clerk that they would be willing to pay a further one quarter of the shortfall of £1,804 being £451. This would leave a further £1,353 for the Parish Council to contribute being a total of £4,728 altogether.

30.2 **It was agreed** that the Parish Council did not have the budget to contribute more than the original offer of £3,375. The Clerk was asked to find out whether it was

possible to reduce the number of lights from the 6 in our parish to 4 and whether the agents for Lansdowne Place might be able to fund the shortfall.

**PC/31/19 To consider matters relating to the Old Priory Gardens (OPG)**

31.1 The Chairman explained that the matter had been put on the agenda so as to pull together various conversations about the responsibilities relating to the OPG – that is, how best to manage this asset in partnership with THRGA - and to help develop a policy on how it should be used following a recent request for a choir to perform there. He added that Wellbank residents had also expressed their concerns to him.

31.2 Mrs. Claire Ashton Tait from THRGA advised that THRGA was in the process of obtaining signs (including a spare set in case of vandalism) at both entrances and by the pond to warn visitors about risks. The signs would be metal on wooden posts and were likely to cost £250. The Chairman asked if he could look at the wording.

31.3 Mrs. Ashton Tait noted that the forthcoming choir event was likely to consist of only about 8 people and reported that the scouts and the school regularly used the area but tended to visit the 'school area' which was quite far from Wellbank. She said generally visitors were respectful although the shed had been broken into a few times needing new locks. The Chairman read out a draft policy on user prepared by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to send a copy to THRGA and put back on the next agenda.

31.4 The Chairman advised that to ensure proper management and due diligence it was necessary to have an annual risk assessment undertaken – preferably in time for the Annual Meeting in May - together with an annual management plan and regular inspections. **It was agreed** that a working group with representatives of THRGA and the Chairman should meet bi-annually so as to fulfill these obligations and report back to the Council.

**PC/32/19 To agree to replace the dog bin on Boundary Road**

The Clerk clarified that it would cost £150 to replace the damaged dog bin. **This was agreed.**

**PC/33/19 To approve new lighting for Station Road**

33.1 The Chairman advised that a quote of £640 had been received from the Council's streetlighting engineers to replace an old cracked concrete post on the junction of Approach Road and Station Road. **This was agreed subject to the work being deferred until October.**

33.2 The Chairman noted that complaints had been received that the northern tunnel under the railway lines on Station Road was unlit and dangerous. The Clerk was asked to report this to Network Rail.

**PC/34/19 To consider supporting the Great British Spring Clean 22.03 – 23.04**

This was agreed to be a good initiative and Jacqueline Turner of the Berkeley Homes Estate was to be asked by Cllr. Symons if she would be willing to co-ordinate it.

**PC/35/19 To consider and/or approve some or all items of the quote received from Lillyfee Studios for hall improvements, new signage and re-oiling benches**

35.1 Cllr. Sandy explained that he and the Clerk had met with Colin Mantripp of Lillyfee studios to discuss the hall improvement projects and quotes had been received and circulated to councillors. What had quickly become apparent was the very bad state of repair of the large window in the Reading Room which needed emergency window replacement. A quote of £6,700 had been received to replace the window with a new oak framed one with double glazed panes.

35.2 He added that another pressing issue was the Reading Room fire door mechanism which had failed on a number of occasions leaving the doors open accidentally overnight. A quote of £420 had been received to undertake the repairs to this.

35.3 **It was agreed** to proceed with the repairs to the window and fire doors outlined above. However as a result other hall improvement projects would be shelved until further discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting. The matter should be put back on the Council agenda following the Finance Meeting. Cllr. Sandy felt the window replacement cost should come out of the legacy fund. This was to be agreed.

**PC/36/19 To consider the following pending items of business carried forward:-**

36.1 parking issues around Taplow station – in the absence of County Cllr. Dhillon no progress could be made on this issue.

36.2 the boundary issue between Rectory Farm and the Green – this was now a planning issue as the boundary issue had been resolved and the matter should be removed from the next agenda.

36.3 next steps regarding the barn – the Chairman advised that Burnham Concert band had now vacated the barn and the scouts were hoping to secure containerized storage in Dorney soon.

36.4 progress of budgeted hall improvements - in the light of item 35 above this item should be removed until the September meeting agenda.

**PC/37/19 Planning**

Cllr. Worthington reported that:-

37.1 the following decisions had been made:

PL/18/3981/SA	Amerden Caravan, year round use for touring vans	APPROVED
PL/18/4727/FA	Barge Farm, roof work	APPROVED
PL/19/0045/TP	Neighbours, tree prune	APPROVED
PL/19/0087/KA	Laurel Cottage, tree prune	APPROVED

37.2 the following were still pending a decision by SBDC;

PL/18/3946/FA	Barn for quail rearing
PL/18/4426/FA	Stonecrop new house
PL/18/4428/FA	Taplow House Hotel, Spa and Conservatory
PL/18/4641/FA	Mill Lane Public House
PL/19/0027/FA	8 Houses on The Old Boathouse
PL/19/0222/FA	Green Springs basement
PL/19/0276/KA	Red Cottage, tree fell
PL/19/0311/TP	Tree prune, Taplow Quays
PL/18/4426/FA	Subsequent to the last Council meeting and the letter received from Mr. Tillbrook, Cllr. Worthington had written to SBDC highlighting the offers made in that letter that were in accordance with the Council's requirements.

37.3 Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – there had been a Working Group meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the future direction for the NP. The working group consisted of Jamie Barnard, George Sandy, Spencer Norton, Roger Worthington, Nigel Smales (HTS) and Martin Maund (EDRA). Conclusions were that, whatever the outcome for the SBDC/CDC Local Plan were, there was good justification for proceeding with an NP for Taplow with sufficient content to form useful policies. Those present committed to working on the NP and, subsequent to the meeting, Martin Maund volunteered to lead it, should the Council approve the work. Detailed working is to be developed but attention must be given to funding needs. Grants for the 2019/2020 year are becoming available (up to £9,000) and it was hoped the Legacy fund could be called on (subject to cash

flow vs, investment policy). Professional assistance will be needed, to be identified. There are now many NPs in existence to act as templates for approved content.

37.4 Heathrow - Cllr. Worthington had attended the Heathrow airport exhibition in Maidenhead, run by the Airport itself rather than the Government. No flight path details yet but two declared design principles do not bode well for Taplow:

6b “Minimising number of people newly overflown” This means that if you are already overflown then you will receive all the added traffic.

6f “Minimising total population overflown”. A recipe for sending traffic over Taplow.

37.5 Cllr. Spencer noted that the end result would most likely be dispersal rather than concentration. He said the biggest problem for Heathrow was that they were limited by the location of RAF Northolt so most additional traffic was likely to go south.

### **PC/38/19 Finance**

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

38.2 Following debate **it was agreed** to not obtain a fire risk assessment for the Hall given there had been no real changes since the last assessment was drawn up. The Clerk would review the previous assessment to assess whether it was satisfactory.

### **PC/39/19 Any other business and agenda items for the next Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 at 7.30pm**

39.1 The Chairman asked for the matter of the ideas for the Summerleaze quarry site to be back on the next agenda.

39.2 Cllr. Sandy reported that he had just received a plan showing Playgroup’s request for changes to the gate. He would study it and asked for the matter to be put on the next agenda.

39.3 The Chairman reported he had had a complaint from Wellbank residents about the wall at Elibank Court. They were aggrieved that they had repaired their wall but the Elibank wall remained unrepaired. No planning application to install railings instead of a wall had been made as had been stated by the owners last year. The Clerk had just written to the owners and was awaiting a response. Cllr. Worthington would write to SBDC to enquire whether enforcement action could be taken.

39.4 Cllr. Walsh reported that she had been informed that a visitor to the hall had fallen over a raised paving stone recently in the dark as one of the Hall lights near the entrance door was not working. The Clerk had checked the paving slabs and could not see where the problem had arisen except if the visitor had tripped over the corner of the raised manhole platform. The Clerk would ensure the light was fixed as soon as possible.

39.5 Cllr. Sandy reported that he had had a call from a resident of Buffins to advise that the streetlights were not working well – some were day burners. The Clerk was asked to clarify who owned those lights and refer the matter to our streetlighting contractor if appropriate.

39.6 The Chairman asked the Clerk to report the dislodged concrete setts on the Green opposite the Oak and Saw.

*The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.*