

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM, TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, TAPLOW SL6 0EX

Present

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

Open forum

Mr. Steve Warren reported that there will shortly be a consultation on the school catchment area to consider extending the catchment to the parish boundaries rather than the parochial parish boundaries.

PC/27/20 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Claire Price, Cllr. Val Pridmore and Cllr. Spencer Norton.

PC/28/20 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council of 4th February

The minutes **were approved** and signed by the Chairman.

PC/29/20 Matters Arising from the minutes (not otherwise on the agenda)

29.1 Cllr. Worthington confirmed that monies had been transferred to Mrs. Hatch to enable her to acquire air monitoring tubes.

29.2 Cllr. Sandy was concerned that item 23.4 in the last minutes may be setting too high an expectation as to the number of trees that could be planted.

29.3 Cllr. Sandy asked if there had been any progress on installing a bollard as raised by Cllr. Norton at the last meeting. The Clerk confirmed the matter had been reported to BCC but she would chase.

29.4 Mrs. Appleton asked if there had been progress on footway issues relating to Approach Road. The issue of drains being blocked at the top of Berry Hill and fallen trees in Marsh Lane were also raised. These were matters for BCC to resolve and the Clerk would chase.

PC/30/20 To approve acquiring new bins for the Green and Approach Road

30.1 The Clerk reported that SBDC did not have in stock nor would recommend combination recycling and litter bins because they did not lead to much recycling. Even a single item put wrongly into a recycling bin would lead to the contents of the whole bin going into general waste. SBDC did not object to a new bin on the Green. Mr. Warren noted that increased litter in the existing bin might be because the bin in the school car park had been out of commission for several months but should be replaced shortly. **It was agreed** to wait and see whether a new school bin alleviated the problems and bring the matter back to Council in the future if the problem persisted.

30.2 SBDC did not approve a new litter bin in Approach Road owing to parking difficulties but would approve a new bin alongside the layby on the A4 nearby. **It was agreed** that the Council should acquire a new floor standing litter bin to be placed near the bus stop on the Approach Road side of the stop.

30.3 Cllr. Symons asked if a dog bin could be placed near the telephone kiosk by the access to the land leading to OPG. The Clerk was asked to proceed to order such a bin and to put the issue for ratification on the next agenda.

PC/31/20 To consider ideas to celebrate VE day

Cllr. Worthington hoped the names of the WW2 fallen would have been carved into the war memorial by VE Day and that a celebratory procession was being discussed. Following debate, **it was agreed** that the Clerk should apply for a road closure of High Street for Friday 8th May as BCC were currently offering to waive the fee for road closures on that day.

PC/32/20 To consider drainage issues in the Hall car park

32.1 Cllr. Sandy believed the water running across the Hall car park came from springs and a local resident had claimed that the filling in of the school pond in the past was the cause. Mr. Steve Warren said in his opinion the water was a run off from several properties above the school. The school car park was in the same state and he had been developing plans to put in a new drainage system. This would not solve the issues of run off through the school's neighbouring properties. He recommended that if an interceptor was put in along the wall of the Hall car park then water could be diverted into the drains at that point to stop it running across the car park and creating hazardous icy conditions in the winter.

32.2 Cllr. Sandy asked who owned the car park as, if it was a higher authority, they should be preparing the specification for what was needed. The Clerk would check. In the meantime, the Clerk should liaise with the school to try and obtain quotes and to see if there were economies of scale in undertaking any works at the same time as the school's works.

PC/33/20 To consider and agree the following ongoing items of business:-

33.1 parking issues around Taplow station- Cllr. Symons was concerned about residents of Hillmead Court placing traffic cones to prevent parking there which resulted in cars being parked irresponsibly in Boundary Road. The Clerk to ask BCC to remove the cones.

33.2 next steps re the barn – Cllr. Worthington was still trying to identify specialist companies from whom to obtain a quote. Cllr. Sandy had an idea that the barn could be used in future as a community gym.

33.3 next steps to improve the Village Hall:-

33.3.1 Cllr. Sandy noted that, following a recent storm, the office had had a flood and it was clear the flat roof needed re-roofing. Several quotes had been obtained for a replacement fibre-glass roof which had been circulated. **It was agreed** that Cllrs. Worthington and Sandy should consider these quotes more carefully and were authorised to instruct the Clerk to enter into a contract on behalf of the Council as they felt appropriate.

33.3.2 Cllr. Sandy had tried to obtain three quotes regarding new blinds but only two quotes had been received. One from Sandersons and a cheaper one from Unilux. Following debate, **it was agreed** to proceed to contract with Unilux blinds from Blindscape on the quote provided to the meeting.

33.4 steps to support the environment - including Electric Vehicle chargers. Mr. Greig Early had undertaken considerable research on this issue which had been circulated to councillors and included information on the possibility of sharing revenue, residents' only usage and the experience of other councils. Following debate, **it was agreed** not to proceed with this idea at this stage. It was noted that there was insufficient demand at this stage and existing charging points at the Bishop Centre were under-utilized. The Council would however continue to monitor the need for these.

PC/34/20 Planning

Cllr Worthington noted that:-

34.1 The following decisions had been made:

PL/19/4346/F	4 Awdry Cottage Hunts Lane	APPROVED
PL/19/4217/VRC	2 Amerden Cottage	WITHDRAWN
PL/19/3918/FA	Stonecrop Saxon Gardens	APPROVED
PL/19/3852/FA	Thamesbank River Road	APPROVED
PL/19/4310/FA	Laychequers extension	WITHDRAWN
PL/19/4371/PNO	Hermitage conversion	REFUSED

34.2 The following are pending decision

PL/19/3301/FA Huntswood Golf Club replacement club house. Apparently being refused by Planning on contentious grounds. Cllr. Sandy noted that he had been trying to support the owners and had secured a month's reprieve.

PL/20/0223/FA Priory Cottage Rectory Road loft conversion

PL/19/4152/FA 1 Stockwells side extension – The Council had objected to this.

The Riviera Hotel appeal to change the pub into residential properties would be heard at a two day hearing. The Council had objected.

34.3 The following are new applications – no objection envisaged

PL/19/0027/FA 8 Houses on The Old Boathouse (Gage) Amended application keeping Old Boathouse, Driftwood and 6 new. No objections proposed. Cllr. Walsh noted that there was nowhere to park to use the Marina.

34.4 New application for review

PL/20/0120/PNO Cliveden Stud Office conversion. Objections had been made.

34.5 Update on progress of Neighbourhood Plan

34.5.1 Cllr. Worthington reported that he had circulated a report explaining the need to request further funds to allow the Council's planning consultant to properly represent us at the forthcoming Local Plan hearings. A further £2,600 was requested. **This was approved** to be met out of the Gladys Jones Fund.

34.5.2 Mr. Martin Maund commented that the Neighbourhood Plan working party were concerned that SBDC were shifting their position and now seemed to be encouraging their officers to negotiate and try and resolve issues with developers rather than refuse applications. This had the effect of making it harder to object to planning applications against a backdrop of the proposed Local Plan already stripping out about 90% of existing protections - for example removing the Green Belt at Taplow Riverside and Station leaving only 200 yards of Green Belt between Slough and Maidenhead on the

North side of the A4. He added the Working Party were meeting with the local MP on Friday to appraise her of these issues.

PC/35/20 Finance

35.1 Expenditure in the cashbook **was approved** and Cllrs. Worthington and Sandy authorised to sign cheques.

35.2 The Clerk explained that the fire alarm service contractors had advised that, due to a change in the law, the Council needed to fit an emergency light switch and repairs to the emergency light unit were also necessary. A quote had been received from the Council's electrical contractors and circulated prior to the meeting. **This was approved.**

35.3 **It was agreed** to appoint Mr. Dancer as the internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2020.

PC/36/20 Any other business and items for the meeting on 7th April

36.1 Mr. Martin Maund referred to Mr. Nigel Smales' letter regarding the Old Boat House planning application which had been circulated to councillors. He noted that EDRA had been making comments to the Environment Agency and SBDC that the strategic flooding assessment had been incorrect. The Mill Lane area had been downgraded to Flood Zone 2 just before Berkeley Homes put in their application – they may well not have had their application passed otherwise – but the area has since reverted back to Flood Zone 3. EDRA supported the present category but raise the point for clarity and as another example of SBDC's willingness to be obliging towards developers.

36.2 The Clerk pointed out that the next meeting was the last for the existing council and that elections for a new council would be held on 7th May if more than 11 nominations were received by the deadline in early April. She had nomination forms available for anyone to collect from her. If the forms were returned by the end of March she would be happy to hand deliver them as required to SBDC in Denham.

36.3 Cllr. O'Riordan asked if the Environmental Health team had responded to the Council's concerns regarding the fire at Challens' farm. The Clerk would chase.

PC/37/20 S.1.(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

It was agreed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw.

PC/38/20 To review hall hire rates

Following debate revised charges for casual and regular hirers were **agreed**. The Clerk would communicate these to hirers in time for any increases to take effect from 1st April.

The meeting ended at 9.37 pm.