

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MAY 2020 AT 6.30 P.M. VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

Present

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

Open forum

Janet Appleton enquired whether any progress had been made in relation to the pavement in Approach Road. Cllr. Sandy said he would raise it under matters arising.

PC/39/20 To elect a Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Barnard was nominated by Cllr. Worthington and seconded by Cllr. Walsh. His appointment as Chairman was unanimously **agreed** and he signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

PC/40/20 Apologies for absence

There were none.

PC/41/20 To elect a Vice-Chairman

It was unanimously **agreed** to elect Cllr. Price as Vice Chairman.

PC/42/20 To co-opt new councillor/s

The Chairman proposed the co-option of Ashleigh Silver who confirmed her wish to become a councillor. This was unanimously **agreed**.

PC/43/20 To elect members to the Finance Committee

The Chairman advised that all Councillors were entitled to attend Finance Committee meetings. Cllrs. Price, Barnard, Worthington, Sandy and Norton were specifically appointed to the committee.

PC/44/20 To elect members to the following bodies:-

The following appointments were **agreed**:-

- 44.1 SBALC – Cllrs. Worthington and Symons.
- 44.2 Old Priory Garden Working Group – Cllrs. Barnard and Symons.
- 44.3 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Cllrs. Worthington, Sandy, Barnard and Norton together with Mr. Maund, Mr. Knight and Mr. Smales.
- 44.4 Hall Management Working Group – Cllrs. Sandy, Worthington and Walsh.

PC/45/20 To review constitutional documents

45.1 The Clerk advised that all existing constitutional documents and policies had been reviewed with no recommendations for change. However, she recommended a change to the Risk Assessment to cover the risks posed by the Coronavirus. Following discussion including debate on steps necessary when the Hall reopens for all users and the lack of clear guidance at this stage, the wording for the changes to the Risk Assessment were **agreed**.

45.2 It was noted in relation to risk assessment that Play Group had advised that they were looking into a limited opening possibly from 1st June. They had funding to undertake a deep clean. Following debate it was **agreed** that they could undertake a deep clean as long as this did not involve contact with the walls especially the mural in the Reading Room.

PC/46/20 To review contracts for open spaces and streetlighting

46.1 The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had noted that the Council should review its contracts for Open Spaces and Streetlighting maintenance. The Clerk had put out to tender the contract for streetlighting maintenance but only our existing supplier had replied. **It was agreed** that the contract should be placed with the existing contractor and it was noted that the Council had been satisfied with the service it had received in the past.

46.2 Debate ensued in respect of the Open Spaces contract. Councillors present noted the excellent service and reasonable rates charged by the current contractor who was well known locally. **It was agreed** to not put the contract out to tender but to continue with the existing contract.

PC/47/20 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 3rd March and Matters Arising

47.1 The minutes **were approved** and the Clerk was asked to sign them on behalf of the Chairman.

47.2 Cllr. Price enquired if there had been any feedback in relation to the air monitoring tubes sponsored by the Council. Cllr. Worthington said deployment was deferred until traffic resumed after lockdown.

47.3 Cllr. Sandy enquired when the new dog bin was to be installed. The Clerk said she had decided to ask SBDC to acquire and install the bins given the difficulties in doing this directly during lockdown. She would chase.

47.4 Cllr. Sandy noted that the title deeds showed that the Village Hall car park was owned by the Council.

47.5 Cllr. Sandy felt it was time to approach the suppliers of the new blinds and encourage them to fit the new blinds whilst the Halls were unused. He said the curtains needed to be removed and the area cleaned. **It was agreed** to ask the Hall window cleaner and handyman to undertake this and report back if any repair was necessary.

47.6 The Clerk confirmed that despite chasing she had heard nothing from Bucks Council about the pavement in Approach Road. The Chairman asked for this to be an agenda item on the next agenda. Cllr. Sandy said he would pursue this.

PC/48/20 To agree meeting dates for 2021

A draft set of dates had been circulated by the Clerk and these were **approved**.

PC/49/20 To consider the Coronavirus threat and agree future action

Cllr. Sandy noted that Burnham parish council had established systems for helping their residents during the crisis and he had explored whether a refundable grant might be available to benefit Taplow parish. The Chairman believed that existing support frameworks in Taplow seemed to be meeting the expressed needs of parishioners but that the item should be kept on the agenda for the next meeting so as to monitor local need. Cllr. Dhillon said that during his visits to the area he had spoken to a number of residents who seemed lonely and confused. Cllr. Worthington said a comprehensive leaflet drop had been undertaken by volunteers and that HTS had emailed its membership inviting requests for help. The Chairman added that information was also available on the Council website.

PC/50/20 To consider installing mirror at junction of Rectory and Hill Farm Roads

Despite some concern expressed by the Clerk, Cllr. Sandy said TfB had confirmed that the dotted line on the Title Plan for The Lindens showed the line of the 1.25m verge and proved that the existing hedge had overgrown onto it and obscured the visual splay. He said he would be checking with Land Charges whether the owner had any right to allow the hedge to overgrow and if not then it would be up to Bucks Council to pursue the cut back. He added that a mirror was not the answer as it had been suggested before and been rejected for fear of reflected light blinding drivers. It would also be a danger for the same reason to passing horses.

PC/51/20 To consider and agree issues relating to the following ongoing items:

51.1 parking issues around Taplow station – no progress during lockdown.

51.2 next steps re the barn – The Clerk was asked to chase Bucks Council about the request to acquire the freehold.

51.3 next steps to improve the Village Hall :-

51.3.1 Cllr. Sandy noted that a leak had occurred just outside under the entrance porch. He and Cllr. Worthington would investigate and were given authority to have any repair works undertaken as soon as possible as this was an emergency.

51.3.2 Cllr. Price noted that the closure of the Hall would lead to a substantial loss of revenue and a choice would need to be made whether to dip further into reserves by up to approximately £15,000 to undertake the planned Hall improvements (and close the Close Bros deposit account accordingly) or to shelve plans. **It was agreed** to proceed with plans especially during this period of lockdown when there were no users and to close the Close Bros account and look for other deposit accounts. **It was further agreed** that a working group of Cllrs. Price, Walsh, Sandy and the Chairman should be given delegated authority to proceed to replace the flooring in the Perkins Room and have the same redecorated. The Clerk reminded all parties of the need to try and get three quotes.

51.4 steps to support the environment - Cllr. Price noted that the utility suppliers for the Hall had been changed to one with green credentials. The Chairman noted that Bucks

Council had consulted the Council about installing more charge points for electric cars. Following debate, **it was agreed** to nominate the areas around the Station, the new development in the river area, the Hall car park and Cliveden Gages.

PC/52/20 Planning

52.1 The following decisions have been made:

PL/20/0120/PNO	Cliveden Stud Office conversion.	REFUSED
PL/19/4152/FA	Stockwells extension	REFUSED
PL/19/3992/FA	Kingsdown – replace house	REFUSED
PL/20/0223/FA	Priory cottage loft conversion	APPROVED
PL/19/4100/FA	Burwood House new build	REFUSED
PL/19/2637/FA	New shop at Shell garage	APPROVED
PL/20/0819/FA	Hitcham Glebe replace fence with wall	APPROVED
PL/20/0742/FA	Amerden Cottage 2 storey extension	APPROVED

52.2 The following are pending decision

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

PL/19/0027/FA 8 Houses on The Old Boathouse (Gage)

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

52.3 The following are new applications – no objections envisaged

PL/20/1446/CONDA Amendments to Mill Lane office block

PL/20/1202/FA Hitcham Lodge greenhouse

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

52.4 New application for review

PL/20/0746/FA Challen’s Chicks Marsh Lane new house - objection raised

PL/20/0970/FA Wee Cottage side/ rear extension

PL/20/0659/FA Hitcham Lodge Outbuilding conversion – condition requested

PPL/20/1346/CONDA Conditions at 5 Ellington Gardens

PPL/20/1345/CONDA Conditions at 5 Ellington Gardens

Compliance with conditions at Hawthorns care Home -

Document attached

52.5 Update on progress of Neighbourhood Plan

The Inspector Hearings on the Local Plan had been delayed indefinitely.

PC/53/20 Finance

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

53.2 The decision to change energy utilities suppliers for the Hall from British Gas to Octopus was **ratified**.

53.3 The decision to install a dog bin by the entrance to Footpath 9 was **ratified**.

53.4 The Clerk noted that a broker had been in touch about changing the supplier for the streetlighting energy contract and had recommended a deal with our current supplier but on a greener energy footing. The Clerk was asked to contact our current supplier directly about this.

53.5 Cllr. Price presented the accounts and annual return for 2019-20 which were **approved** and the Chairman was authorized to sign them on behalf of the Council.

PC/54/20 Any other business/ items for the virtual meeting on 9th June at 7.30pm

54.1 Cllr. Symons reported that footpath 10.1 contained a lot of historic rusty barbed wire but now fresh barbed wire had been added especially around a gate near the quarry. The Clerk was asked to write to the neighbouring landowners asking for all barbed wire to be removed along the footpath.

54.2 Cllr. O’Riordan was concerned that Japanese knotweed might be present in Marsh Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to Bucks Council about this.

54.3 Cllr. Worthington noted that a tree appeared to be down in Station Road near the Boundary Road junction. The Clerk was asked to report this to Bucks Council.

54.4 Cllr. Walsh reported that as a result of deterioration to the same she had arranged for new defibrillator pads and a new battery to be installed.

54.5 Cllr. Norton asked Cllr. Sandy to emphasise to the planning enforcement team that a number of enforcement matters were getting near to the four year limit which was a cause for great concern.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.