

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

Present

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

Open forum

The Chairman noted that a small sombre socially distanced assembly had taken place for Remembrance Sunday attended by the police.

Mr. Brian Kavanagh gave a presentation, on behalf of the owner Mr. Sanghera, relating to the land adjacent to 801 Bath Road which was in the Green Belt in Burnham Parish but within 20 metres of the Taplow Parish boundary. Prior to making a planning application he wished to see if the Parish Council had any comments on their proposals at this stage. He had previously made a presentation to Burnham Parish Council who supported their proposals. He explained the unsightliness of the site and the owner’s wish to develop it. Pre-application advice from the Planning Department had been that their first proposal would very likely have been rejected. They now wished to develop four new affordable two storey houses on the site. From the street view these would appear to be one storey given the land sloping away to the rear. They believed they met the tests for development on the Green Belt, the most challenging of which was the one that no harm be caused to the Green Belt. The Chairman expressed concern that development like this threatened the rural firebreak that separates Taplow from Slough and Maidenhead - one of the founding principles of the Green Belt; noting that the Council had always fought hard to prevent urban sprawl. Mr. Kavanagh argued that this was a corner plot completing a cluster of development and amounted to infilling of a previously developed area. Mr. Sanghera confirmed he had purchased the land for development 7 years ago and did not own any other such land.

PC/101/20 Apologies for absence

There were none.

PC/102/20 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 6th October

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

PC/103/20 Matters Arising from the previous minutes

103.1 the Chairman confirmed the wording for the plaques for the paintings in the Perkins Room were now agreed. These would be put up shortly. Cllr. Sandy asked for the

paintings to be screwed onto the walls for safety reasons.

103.2 Claire Ashton- Tait reported that she was in the process of obtaining quotes for the new signs in the Old Priory Gardens.

103.3 The Clerk confirmed that Bucks Council had agreed to re-lay the loose and missing kerb stones alongside the Green but had given no date yet to do so.

103.4 Cllr. Worthington reported that no decisions had been made in the Pride of Bucks awards yet.

103.5 The Clerk confirmed she had asked the contractors from three years ago to quote for the tree inspections but they had not yet done so. It was her view that there was no need to go through a full tender process as this had been done last time and the contractor was now our preferred contractor for this work. The Clerk would liaise with the Finance Chairman before placing the order.

103.6 The Clerk confirmed that the Council had been unsuccessful in its attempt to apply for funding for electric car charging points.

103.7 The Clerk confirmed she had not yet received the refund from HTS relating to the air pollution monitoring tubes.

PC/104/20 To consider the draft Burnham & Taplow Parking Scheme

The Chairman proposed that the Parking Manager be asked to attend our next meeting in January before a formal Parish Council response is drawn up. Cllr. Norton suggested a working group be set up to consider the scheme prior to the January meeting. Cllrs. Norton, Worthington, Sandy and the Chairman would form the working group.

PC/105/20 To consider Wild Wood Rangers sessions in the Old Priory Gardens

Claire Ashton-Tait reported back on a meeting that representatives of THRGA had recently had with the Wild Wood Rangers. Their request was to hold an after-school session for two hours on a Monday afternoon and in due course possibly on a Friday afternoon. THRGA were in full support of the sessions as they met the ethos of respecting and not impacting on the environment. Rather, their activities enhanced the environment with the litter picking they did and other initiatives such as putting up bird feeders. They had been very impressed with the positive effect the current sessions had on the Playgroup children. Some concern was raised whether a precedent would be set and Cllr. Norton made the point that whilst he had no objection per se, it would be prudent to document what they would specifically do there and what they do in return for using the OPG. **It was agreed unanimously** that the Rangers should be able to provide up to two after-school sessions a week without charge unless terminated by a term's notice in writing and on the basis the usage was clearly documented. The Clerk confirmed that she had been satisfied the Rangers were properly insured and was awaiting a risk assessment.

PC/106/20 To consider next steps to deal with drainage issues in the car park

106.1 The Chairman reported that three quotes had been obtained relating to the drainage issues. The first had recommended installing a pre-fabricated trench and grille and connecting these to the main drains. The other two had recommended installing a

concrete concave groove channeled into the main drains. **It was agreed** to accept the quote from Clarkes Gardening Services to install the concrete channeling.

106.2 Cllr. Worthington noted that it had become clear that the guttering at the car park side of the Hall needed replacing as it was leaking and causing damp and damage to the bricks. Wider plastic cast iron effect guttering was needed.

PC/107/20 To consider replacing the fire alarm panel

The Clerk explained the difficulties both she and Playgroup had been having for a long time undertaking routine testing. The alarm box was difficult to use and chaos ensued every time a test was undertaken as it would not switch off without a fight. The quote to replace it seemed high and the Clerk was asked to obtain two more quotes. **It was agreed** to replace the box but the decision to place an order was delegated to the Clerk and the Finance Chairman.

PC/108/20 To consider and agree issues relating to the following ongoing items:-

108.1 environmental initiatives – The Clerk was asked to invite Mike Lowe to attend our February meeting to discuss Summerleaze’s plans for the quarry site.

108.2 to review rules for reopening the Village Hall – the rules were reviewed with no amendments suggested. The Clerk noted that ballet school classes had returned but had stopped under the new lockdown. Only Playgroup were using the Hall now.

PC/109/20 Planning

109.1 The following decisions have been made:

PL/19/0027/FA 8 Houses on the Old Boathouse site – Granted but noted that there are 28 conditions attached

PL/20/1815/FA River Bank House River Road new garage – Refused for Green Belt reasons

109.2 The following have decisions pending:

PL/20/0970/FA Wee Cottage extension

PL/20/3446/VRC The Chestnuts, River Road – applying to remove the restriction of permitted development rights.

PL/20/3519/FA Challen's Chick Farm, Marsh Lane - Erection of new dwelling for agricultural worker. This should be dependent on the appeal over the refusal to erect a quail barn.

PL/20/3601/AGN Little Karoo Farm, Hill Farm Road 1 x storage building and 3 x field shelters. It was felt that this was excess to need and there was no legal access to the land.

109.3 To consider government proposals to revise planning law – Cllr. Worthington had submitted an objection to the White Paper largely along the line of arguments made by Bucks Council.

109.4 Update on progress of neighbourhood plan – Cllr. Worthington said there was a government scheme to help fund the preparation of a Local Heritage List. **It was agreed** that the Council should apply for such funding.

109.5 Cllr. Worthington reported that SBALC was concerned about the lack of access to Bucks Council by parish councils. The only point of contact seemed to be via the Community Boards.

PC/110/20 Finance

110.1. Expenditure in the cashbook circulated to councillors before the meeting **was approved.**

110.2 The Chairman noted that several residents had asked if the Christmas tree lights could be changed from multi-coloured to a warm white. He had obtained one quote for £192. This was felt to be too expensive. **It was agreed** to change the lights provided that a cheaper quote could be obtained.

110.3 Cllr. Price noted that the Close Bros fixed term deposit matured late November. She was concerned about the reduction in income due to covid restrictions closing the Hall and said it was necessary to tighten belts. She recommended the monies could stay on deposit with Close Bros provided there was no further large expenses due before the next tranche of precept was received in April. **This was agreed.** She would prepare a budget for the January Finance Meeting showing contingencies of things being back to normal or still being in lockdown. She asked for likely expenditure proposals for next year. Guttering, sound proofing the Perkins Room, reoiling benches and window frames and the tree inspection were mentioned. The Chairman noted that work was needed to the barn and the Clerk was asked to check the lease to see who was liable for that.

PC/111/20 Any other business and items for the next meetings

Cllr. Silver had recently had an unpleasant incident involving a car doing 30mph on Rectory Road which was within the speed limit but seemed too fast. It was noted that steps had been taken to try and reduce the speed limit some years ago but the cost of the process was prohibitive. The Clerk was asked to circulate the previous information she had on this. The Chairman asked for this to be on the February agenda.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.