

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PERKINS ROOM TAPLOW VILLAGE CENTRE HIGH STREET TAPLOW SL6 0EX

### Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman)    Cllr. Claire Price  
Cllr. George Sandy                    Cllr. Roger Worthington  
Cllr. Yannick Le Touze                Cllr. Karen Walsh  
Cllr. Toby Greeves                    Cllr. Val Pridmore  
Mrs. K H Holder – Clerk  
Three members of the public and County Councillor Dev Dhillon.

### Open forum

Cllr. Dhillon referred to the Parish Council's wish list of works for projects which were within his budget from BCC. He confirmed that resurfacing the pavement on Station Road was agreed as was cutting back vegetation near village signs and replacing the horse sign. In addition, all drains would be cleaned in the New year. He had asked for jet patching to take place in Wellbank and Saxon Gardens. He confirmed River Road and Ellington Road resurfacing would be undertaken in October. He had received complaints from Hunts Lane residents about flooding which he had asked TfB to investigate. If he had any funds left he would pass these on to the Parish Council. Cllr. Sandy encouraged BCC to give notice to residents about gulley cleaning so that cars could be moved in time. It was noted that the bridge under the railway in Station Road was flooding again despite assurances the problems had been resolved.

### PC/53/17 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Louise Symons and Cllr. Gerry O'Riordan.

### PC/54/17 To co-opt a new councillor

Mr. Spencer Norton put himself forward as a candidate. He said he had lived in the area for three and a half years with his wife Katie and was motivated to try and maintain the traditional values of Taplow and enhance them where applicable. He is a training captain at B.A. **It was agreed** unanimously to co-opt Mr. Norton as a new councillor and he signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

### PC/55/17 To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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

### PC/56/17 Matters Arising

56.1 Cllr. Sandy clarified his comments at item PC/36/17. He believed what he had said was that he was concerned that the football club was renting out parking spaces thereby creating a problem as its own members were having to park on the roads. Cllr. Le Touze commented that the Parish Council should do more to support the football club in finding a parking solution. The Chairman said he would encourage the club to contact Cllr. Dhillon.

56.2 Cllr. Worthington had contacted Berkeley Homes regarding the bollards at Jubilee River and been assured that they were capable of being lowered. The Clerk was asked

to liaise with Berkeley Homes and the emergency services to ensure that the relevant services know how to get the key in an emergency.

56.3 The Chairman advised he would be meeting with THRGA shortly. Cllr. Sandy asked to attend that meeting.

56.4 The Clerk reported that she had received a response from Mr. Terry Stevens to advise that the trees in Station Road were not on his land as he had sold the land 25 years ago. The Clerk was asked to write to Summerlease.

56.5 Cllr. Sandy remained concerned that the school field could become BCC land by prescription as they had put a sign on the gate. The Clerk confirmed she had written to the school to warn them. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr. Dhillon to ask BCC to remove the sign from the gate. The Chairman and Cllr. Sandy would meet with Mr. Taylor the church warden who held documents which might be relevant to establishing title.

56.6 The Clerk confirmed she had written to Summerlease about filling in the ditch on Station Road but had not received a reply.

### **PC/57/17 To receive an update on the A4 cycleway and agree next steps**

57.1 It was reported that BCC had stonewalled all efforts by Cllr. Sandy and Cllr. Dhillon to hold a public meeting. When Cllr. Dhillon had raised the issue face to face, Cllr. Shaw of BCC had said that this was a government initiative that he was obliged to deliver. They were now pursuing the issue with the local MP.

57.2 The Chairman had written separately to Cllr. Shaw and an offer had been extended by Cllr. Shaw for the chairmen of Taplow and Burnham to meet with him at BCC's offices. Cllr. Dhillon suggested he respond to say some residents would be attending as well.

57.3 Debate ensued on the need for signs on the North side warning of danger if the scheme went ahead, the likely support from the press, the lack of research undertaken by BCC when compared with the efforts being put in by RBWM on their own scheme and the lack of information available about how the consultation process had been handled. Nigel Smales wished to place on record his belief that the scheme was lamentable and BCC were not representing their constituents.

57.4 **It was agreed** that the Parish Council should submit a freedom of information request to try and shed light on what appears to have been a mismanagement of this project between October 2016 and July 2017 and to clarify what commercial contracts may have already been entered into. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr. Worthington to agree the wording of the FOI request.

### **PC/58/17 To approve repairs to car park wall**

A second quote had been received but it was not clear that it was a like for like quote. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting between the contractor and Cllrs. Le Touze and Sandy.

### **PC/59/17 Update regarding war memorial repairs**

Cllr. Worthington reported that the contractor had submitted a supplementary report on completion of the cleaning works. The War Memorial Trust had made it clear that grants were not available for maintenance type works and there appeared to be only one of the proposals which they might be inclined to accept. It might be useful to obtain a quote for these works and then decided whether to bother applying for a grant. The application process would be time consuming. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Worthington should pursue the matter a little further.

**PC/60/17 To review and agree action following the recent tree survey**

The Clerk had circulated the tree survey report which had identified a number of trees where further works were required. The cost of the works necessary on the Village Green trees had been quoted at £1,130 plus Vat. **It was agreed** to proceed to have this work undertaken at that price. Various consents were necessary which the contractors would pursue. Cllr. Sandy asked if a quote could be obtained for re-pollarding trees T18-T22. A quote had been received for works to the trees in the Old Priory Gardens. The Chairman would take this up with THRGA in due course.

**PC/61/17 To consider cutting back vegetation around streetlights**

The Parish Council's electrical contractors had quoted almost £3,000 to clear branches away from the streetlights along Station Road and Berry Hill. It was felt it would be useful to identify which trees are most affected and prepare a list. **It was agreed** that with the impending leaf fall not to proceed at this time.

**PC/62/17 Update regarding extension of Berry Hill 30mph limit**

62.1 The Clerk read out an email from a BCC engineer who had undertaken an informal site visit. He said that there were no suitable locations to move the signs to. He could only identify two possible locations. The first was not suitable as it depended on a hedge being cut back and maintained. The second was not ideal because it would mean installing a sign on private property (believed to be Berry Hill Court) and would need their consent. If we wanted to proceed the first step would be for them to undertake a formal feasibility study and they would have to prepare a 'cost estimate' for that.

62.2 The Clerk was asked to obtain the cost estimate on the basis that we would wish to proceed with the second location and possibly include the feasibility of works near the cricket club on Berry Hill.

62.3 The Chairman, Cllr Le Touze and Cllr. Greeves would meet to clarify the Parish Council's wishes in respect of desired works further up Berry Hill. The matter should be on the next agenda.

**PC/63/17 To discuss potential uses for the barn**

Cllr. Price said that as the barn roof had been renovated she was keen to explore the best use for the barn and possible limitations. The Clerk advised that the current use was as storage and planning permission for change of use and any consent required as it was in a conservation area should be sought. She added that it was currently full of Council's own papers as well as the Cubs and band materials although they did not seem to pay anything for such storage. Cllr. Price noted that the school were keen to use the attic storage space and the Clerk noted there was a clause in the lease to say nothing heavy could be stored there. Cllr. Worthington noted that the lease also provided that any commercial rents would have to be shared with SBDC. Cllr. Walsh felt that the best use was for social events not costly to the Parish Council. Some of the issues included access and the need for toilets. **It was agreed** that Cllrs. Price, Pridmore, Walsh, Greeves and the Chairman should form a working group to take this forward.

### **PC/64/17 To consider engaging with the Community payback scheme**

The Clerk said she would shortly be contacting the scheme but prior to that she wanted a steer as to the main issues to be addressed. Following debate two issues were agreed as suitable – namely repainting the village gates in Boundary Road, Hill Farm Road, Berry Hill and Cliveden Road as well as litter picking wherever possible. Insofar as they needed rest facilities and access to toilets, the Clerk could provide the supervisor with a key to the hall.

### **PC/65/17 Planning**

65.1 Cllr Worthington reported applications had been received for Priory Cottage Rectory Road and Green Springs Marsh Lane - no objections had been submitted.

Berkeley Homes had applied for relief of conditions regarding Mill Lane – namely changes to piling arrangements on the river bed and to the office; again no objections raised.

65.2 He added that Egg Homes's application to change their office to residential use had been granted. Berkeley Homes had withdrawn their application to build a boathouse.

65.3 He said progress on the Neighbourhood Plan had been slow over the Summer but he hoped things would pick up now. Melissa Sparks of SBDC had had a meeting regarding affordable housing and had noted the very poor take up of affordable housing in Institute Road. This was relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan as they needed to refer to demand for affordable housing.

### **PC/66/17 Finance**

66.1 Expenditure shown in the cashbook circulated prior to the meeting was **approved** for payment.

66.2 Cllr. Price noted that the £90,000 currently in the Close Bros account would soon come up for renewal from the 6 month contract it was in. Debate was needed as to what the monies might be required for and how to reinvest it bearing in mind Close Bros had said they would not accept less than £90,000. **It was agreed** to reinvest the money with Close Bros for the next 6 months and to put the matter on the next finance agenda in January for further debate.

### **PC/67/17 Any other business**

67.1 Cllr. Price asked for the November meeting to be put back to a 7.30pm start – this was agreed.

67.2 The Chairman said he had met with the vicar who had requested that, as in future the Church fete would combine with the school fete, the fete could be held on the village Green. The Clerk was asked to put this on the next agenda.

67.3 The Chairman reported that the Cricket Club had agreed with Taplow Court to place a mirror on their land to ease access issues. The Cricket Club had requested that the Parish Council contribute to the cost of the mirror. The Clerk was asked to put this on the next agenda.

67.4 The Chairman reported that the owners of Ellibank Court were proposing to replace the fallen wall with railings instead and were pursuing the matter with the Conservation Officer.

67.5 Cllr. Le Touze enquired whether residents were able to use a footpath that went across some woodland near the cricket club. The Chairman said he would pursue this with the club to clarify ownership.

67.6 Nigel Smales noted that Martin Knight's bridge was due to be installed in mid October although it would not be open for use until next year. He added that Mr. Knight was due to speak at the HTS AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

67.7 Cllr. Sandy recommended that steps be taken to update the Chairmen's list on the Perkins Room wall.

67.8 The Chairman agreed to represent the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service on 12<sup>th</sup> November at 10.15am and lay a wreath which the Clerk was obtaining.

*The meeting ended at 9.20pm.*