

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M. VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

Present

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

Open forum

Ms. Janet Appleton advised that, as a member of the Parish Parochial Council, she had been nominated as someone who could represent the Church at Parish Council meetings and would be attending going forward in that capacity. The Chairman welcomed Ms. Appleton in that capacity and said he thought such attendance was a good idea.

PC/90/20 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Val Pridmore.

PC/91/20 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 8th September

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

PC/92/20 Matters Arising from the previous minutes

92.1 Assets of community value – the Clerk reported that nominations of the four public houses identified had been made, but that Buckinghamshire Council (BC) had advised that more information should be forthcoming (such as events held there) to evidence their benefit to the community. Such information was not easily forthcoming or even appropriate given the nature of public houses. The Clerk was asked to submit what information she had and to focus on the Oak and Saw and the Royal Standard withdrawing the nominations of the other two public houses.

92.2 Forest school for Playgroup – Ms. Jenny Reece, the Chair of the Playgroup, outlined the success of the Forest School provision on Monday mornings at the Old Priory Gardens (OPG) during Playgroup sessions which the Parish Council had permitted earlier in the year. They were now keen to offer, after half term, a Friday morning session too. In answer to questions she said that they had up to 16 children per session with a minimum of 4 trained supervisors. They undertook all appropriate risk assessments and both the Playgroup and the Forest School had public liability insurance cover. She said that even with Government funding the provision of the Forest School resulted in a loss of £2.25 per child. Ms. Claire Ashton-Tait added that a founding principle of the volunteers working at the OPG was it should increase the love of nature in others and she fully believed that this initiative did that. **It was agreed** that extending the scheme to Friday mornings should go ahead.

92.3 Further community Forest School provision – the Forest School Co-ordinator had applied for permission to offer after school clubs for families on Monday and Friday afternoons and also bi-weekly offering a range of activities including for example Pewter casting which she said she was qualified to offer. Following debate - over a number of issues including the commercial use of the OPG, how it would affect other users especially dog walkers, how many people would be using what was in fact a small space, how it would bring people from outside the village into the area, how toilet arrangements worked and how much to charge for such use - **it was agreed** that the matter be deferred until the next meeting when further information should be forthcoming. Cllr. Sandy argued that the issue should be dealt with in private session but this motion was not seconded.

92.4 Cllr. Sandy advised that he had attempted to arrange a meeting with Summerlease but they had asked to postpone any such meeting until they had restored the land at the old gravel pit to the standards required by the original planning permission.

92.5 The Clerk reminded the Chairman of the need to finalise the wording for the plaques to be put on the paintings. The Chairman reported that all the work was now completed in the Perkins Room apart from buying a new clock.

92.6 The Chairman noted that work was outstanding on developing new rules for users of the Hall.

92.7 Ms. Claire Ashton-Tait acknowledged the need for the OPG signs to be erected shortly and would be in touch with the person who had offered to make them free of charge.

92.8 The Clerk reported that there had been no progress from BC to re-set the kerb stones alongside the Green. Cllr. Sandy agreed to follow this up. Ms. Ashton-Tait advised that the nearby damaged pavement caused by her contractors was due to be fixed at 9am on 11th October if BC could supervise the work.

92.9 Cllr. Worthington confirmed he had submitted the Pride of Bucks nomination for SGI.

PC/93/20 To review the Council's tree policy

The Clerk reported that the Council's policy was to have trees on the Village Green and in the OPG inspected every five years - the last survey taking place in 2017. Having regard to precedents identified in recent court cases and what was currently known about the location and state of the trees, **it was agreed** that inspections should take place every 3 years with one due before the end of this year.

PC/94/20 To consider the charges made by Bucks Council to dispose of waste

Cllr. Norton reported that refuse sites were now charging for the disposal of what they deemed to be non- household waste at a rate of £3 per item. In his case, to dispose of three planks of wood cost £9. He felt this might encourage many to abuse the domestic waste systems or increase fly tipping. Cllr. Sandy had written to the cabinet member for the environment asking for details of the contractors and budgets used to deal with waste and fly tipping but had heard nothing. The Clerk was asked to write to her contact at BC too.

PC/95/20 To review the state of hedges in the Parish and consider action

95.1 Cllr. Norton was concerned about how overgrown hedges in the Parish had become especially along Hitcham Lane. Cllr. Sandy added that Rectory Road and High Street had problems too. The Clerk explained that responsibility for writing to hedge owners and enforcing against them lay with BC but they were happy for the Parish Council to write initial letters which often resolved the problem. The Clerk was asked to add a piece on the website and newsletter inviting residents to report overgrown hedges and to send letters to offending hedge owners accordingly. The Clerk asked for any referrals to include details of the owners/land.

95.2 Ms. Appleton was concerned about the overgrowth along the rail embankment. Cllr. Sandy said he knew BC had recently written to Network Rail about this.

PC/96/20 To consider applying to the Community Board for funding – including for more defibrillators and training

It was agreed that this issue should be deferred until next year's budget given no obvious demand for more defibrillators having been received by the Council.

PC/97/20 To consider and agree issues relating to the following ongoing items:-

97.1 parking issues around Taplow station – no update.

97.2 next steps re the barn – the Clerk reported that the request to have the freehold of the long lease transferred to the Parish Council had been rejected.

97.3 environmental initiatives – an application for funding for electric chargers in the car park was pending.

97.4 to review rules for, and update on, reopening the Village Hall – reviewed with no amendments suggested.

97.5 to agree the next steps to improve the Village Hall – Cllr. Price noted that the budget for improvements had effectively been spent for this year and so replacing the doors was an issue for next year. Cllr. Sandy felt that sound proofing should also be a priority and it was agreed that enquiries should be made as to the costs of this.

PC/98/20 Planning

98.1 The following decisions have been made:

PL/20/3000/AEA	5 Ellington Gardens	REFUSED
PL/20/2999/AEA	5 Ellington Gardens	REFUSED
PL/20/1957/FA	1 Stockwells extension	REFUSED
PL/20/0746/FA	Challens Chicks new house	WITHDRAWN
PL/20/2490/KA	The Old Rectory tree work	APPROVED
PL/20/2461/KA	The Red House tree work	APPROVED

98.2 The following have decisions pending:

PL/19/0027/FA	8 Houses on the Old Boathouse site
PL/20/1173/HB	Taplow House Hotel roof work
PL/20/0970/FA	Wee Cottage extension
PL/20/0659/FA	Housekeeper accommodation Hitcham Lodge
PL/20/2824/KA	7 Cedar Chase tree work
PL/20/2599/CONDA	Mill Lane office changes
PL/20/2460/CONDA	Dunloe Lodge changes

PL/20/2453/FA East Bank River Road changes
PL/20/2127/FA Harefield River Road extension
PL/20/1921/VRC Taplow House Hotel conditions
PL/20/1922/HB Taplow House Hotel listed building changes
PL/20/1815/FA River Bank House River Road new garage
PL/20/2246/FA Sea Cadets HQ replace

98.3 Consultation on Housing targets – Cllr. Sandy alerted the Council to this consultation with very few days left to respond. The declared intent was to dramatically raise targeted house numbers. Using algorithms to project. Could raise South Bucks area numbers very significantly, necessitating revised Local Plan. Needs to be implemented before the big changes from the White Paper. Appears to be a recipe for several year's chaos with new Local Plans every two years.

98.4 To consider government proposals to revise planning law – Cllr. Worthington was still working on this.

98.5 Update on progress of neighbourhood plan (NP) – Cllr. Worthington said The coming changes from the above consultations make it difficult to have any view as to housing growth for Taplow. Currently protected by the Green Belt allocations from the (out of date) 2011 Local Plan. The White Paper also appears at this stage to reduce the scope of an NP.

PC/99/20 Finance

99.1 Expenditure in the cashbook circulated to Councillors before the meeting **was approved.**

99.2 The costs of cutting back the car park hedge along the boundary with School House **were approved.**

PC/100/20 Any other business and items for the meeting on 10th November

100.1 The Chairman noted that a further complaint had been received about the parking on Rectory Road near Hill House. Cllr. Price believed the situation had worsened with up to 7 cars regularly being parked there and it was noted the situation would be even worse when the new gate came into use. As a result, turning into the road from Berry Hill was becoming more dangerous. The Clerk confirmed she had experienced a near accident there recently. Cllr. Sandy did not think the parking created any danger to careful drivers and that there had been no accidents there. He said BC were not minded to take any remedial action and he did not wish to see yellow lines in a conservation area.

100.2 The Chairman noted that the dog bins, especially the new one by Footpath 9, were always overflowing and asked the Clerk to ask BC for more collections.

100.3 The Chairman referred to the recent School Catchment consultation for St Nicolas school and, following debate, it was felt that the Council did not need to debate it further or raise any objections.

100.4 Cllr. Worthington noted that given the effect Covid-19 had had on traffic Mrs. Hatch had agreed not to proceed with air pollution monitoring and the monies given for this purpose would be returned to the Parish Council.

100.5 The Chairman raised the issue of the car park flooding. Cllr. Sandy said this was not water coming from Parish Council land and that the Council should do nothing. Cllr. O' Riordan noted that wherever the water was coming from wasn't relevant and it was in

fact a problem for the Council and users of the car park particularly during icy weather. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with a drainage contractor and the Chairman to consider the matter further.

100.6 Cllr. Worthington reported that work to add the WW2 names to the war memorial would not be completed in time for Remembrance Day this year given the stone mason being incapacitated but would be done during the course of next year as he recovered.

100.7 Cllr. Worthington noted that the fire alarm box was proving unreliable during weekly testing and felt a new one might be needed. The Clerk was asked to put this on the next agenda.

100.8 The Clerk reported that the artist who had agreed to restore the damaged part of the Reading Room mural was now unavailable and any recommendations of another artist were invited.

100.9 The Clerk would acquire a wreath for the service on 8th November and leave it in the office for the Chairman to pick up.

100.10 The Chairman reported that the kissing gate on Boundary Road at the entrance to Footpath 10 was not closing as the mounting post needed to be refitted properly. The Clerk was asked to contact Summerleaze again about this.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.