

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE PLATFORM

Present

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

Open forum

No issues were raised.

PC/22/21 Apologies for absence

There were none.

PC/23/21 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 12th January

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

PC/24/21 Matters Arising from the previous minutes

24.1 Cllr. Sandy clarified that the Pride of Bucks Awards were really intended for individuals which is why organisations hadn’t been given any awards.

24.2 Cllr. Sandy noted that the owners of Queen Anne’s House were in the process of carefully restoring their wall. He added that he had encouraged the Local Area Technician from Bucks Council to send a strongly worded letter to the owner of the property with the fallen wall at Stockwells.

24.3 Cllr. Worthington felt that objecting to the Hollands Farm development was now a lost cause. Nevertheless he was asked to raise another objection.

24.4 The Clerk confirmed that a link to the Bucks Council’s ‘Fix my Street’ app was now on the parish council website’s front page.

PC/25/21 To consider plans for the Gravel Site

The Clerk reported that she had not yet received a response from Summerleaze to her request to attend one of the parish council’s meetings. Cllr. Sandy agreed to write to them setting out the parish council’s suggestions that the area be planted with trees and to have paths wide enough to allow cycling and horse-riding. He would mention the ambitions of Bucks Council to plant half a million trees in five years and the benefits to the environment and wildlife. It was noted there might be a need for a ground condition survey.

PC/26/21 To consider improving shared use of our local environment

26.1 Cycling in the parish – the Chairman explained that, as a result of the parish council

putting up no cycling signs along the footpaths, residents had enquired whether the council could do more to encourage cycling (particularly for families) in the parish. It was noted that cycling along the Jubilee river and around Dorney Lake were the only local spaces available for this. Following debate **it was agreed** that the main area of opportunity for more cycle paths was in the gravel site area.

26.2 The bridge at Mill Lane :-

26.2.1 the Chairman noted that there were often large gatherings at the bridge leading to some antisocial behaviour including jumping off the bridge, having BBQs, loud music and litter.

26.2.2 Debbie Larkan said she represented Berkeley Homes (BH). She said residents had complained of the safety issues, the damage to wildlife, the erosion of the riverbanks, abusive behaviour, trespass and the maintenance issues. She had understood through her dealings with the local police that Bucks Council - who owned the bridge - would be putting forward some design ideas for the bridge which BH might consider funding but nothing had yet been forthcoming. In terms of design of any safety features, one of the residents had suggested raising the height of the side barriers. Perspex sides had been suggested but residents were not in favour of these. Concern was expressed by councillors that raised sides might well be vandalised or make the situation more dangerous for those determined to jump off the bridge.

26.2.3 Ms. Larkan added that whilst Bucks Council should be maintaining the bridge, in fact BH had had to do so recently and hoped to recover the costs from Bucks Council. She asked if the parish council would support their claim to do so. The Chairman said that in principle the parish council would be willing to support BH in persuading Bucks Council to fulfil its maintenance commitments but that all parties should be discouraged from thinking (as had been raised in recent correspondence between BH and the local police) that the parish council would fund any maintenance costs itself.

PC/27/21 To approve the works arising from the Tree survey

The Clerk reported that she had obtained three quotes for the works outlined in the recent tree survey. The best quote had been that of R. Watts and Sons. Mr Wayland-Smith said he and his team at THRGA were willing to undertake most of the work in the OPG area at no cost to the parish council. They were comfortable with the safety issues as one of their volunteers was a qualified tree surgeon. The Clerk noted that this would reduce the costs to the parish council by a third. **It was agreed** that R. Watts and Sons be instructed to proceed with the works other than those agreed to be undertaken by THRGA.

PC/28/21 To consider the draft Burnham & Taplow Parking Scheme

This was agreed to be deferred until the Bucks Council traffic manager could attend.

PC/29/21 To consider speeding issues in the Village

Cllr. Silver was concerned about the speed limit in Rectory Road and High Street being 30 mph given the narrowness, reduced visibility and the proximity to the school. She felt that lowering the speed limit would make the roads safer. The Chairman queried whether reducing the speed limit would make much difference. It was noted that the village roads

were regularly used as a rat run and various traffic calming measures such as chicanes were discussed. Cllr. Norton expressed concern that traffic problems would only get worse especially if the Bourne End development proceeded. Cllr. Price suggested the parish council undertake its own review of speeding along Rectory Road. The Clerk was asked to let Cllr. Silver have the speed camera to help facilitate this. The Clerk was asked to ensure this item remained on the agenda and to try and obtain a quote for the costs of introducing a 20mph limit.

PC/30/21 To consider Bucks Council's consultation on Parish Charters

The Clerk felt that whilst this was useful in showing a commitment on the part of Bucks Council to working with parish councils nevertheless at officer level there was very little detail and the actual commitments were watered down and offered little more than what already happened which wasn't enough. Cllr. Worthington noted that there was in fact no mechanism for councillors to contact Bucks Council. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Worthington should work with the Clerk to respond accordingly.

PC/31/21 To consider and agree issues relating to the following ongoing items:-

31.1 environmental initiatives – apart from what had been discussed above there were no new initiatives to debate.

31.2 to review rules for reopening the Village Hall – no progress as still in lockdown.

31.3 highways issues – the Clerk had been assured road sweeping would soon take place along Rectory Road, Berry Hill and Approach Road. There had also been a commitment that Bucks Council would look at clearing local drains.

PC/32/21 Planning

32.1 The following decisions had been made:

PL/20/4417/TP	Redwood Mill Lane tree work	APPROVED
PL/20/4309/KA	Riverway Ellington tree work	APPROVED
PL/20/4277/CONDA	Shell garage condition	APPROVED
PL/20/4221/KA	Taplow Quays tree work	APPROVED
PL/20/4195/FA	Thatched Cottage Berry Hill extensions	WITHDRAWN
PL/20/3633/CONDA	Maidenhead Railway bridge repairs	APPROVED
PL/20/3446/VRC	The Chestnuts, River Road	APPROVED
PL/20/2691/FA	Newlands Ellington Road loft	APPROVED
PL/20/2460/CONDA	Dunloe Lodge conditions	APPROVED
PL/20/0753/CONDA	Mill Lane remediations	APPROVED
PL/20/0659/FA	Hitcham Lodge accommodation	APPROVED

32.2 The following had decisions pending:

PL/20/0970/FA	Wee Cottage extension	
PL/20/3519/FA	Challen's Chick Farm, Marsh Lane - Erection of new dwelling. This had been referred to Planning Committee	
PL/20/4271/FA	Old Stocks Ellington Rd extension	
PL/20/4068/PAHAS	Green Springs Marsh Lane.	
PL/20/3960/FA	Larchwood House Heathfield Road rebuild.	

32.3 The following were new applications for which no objections were to be made:-

PL/21/0329/NMA	River Close Ellington garage size
PL/21/0269/TP	Elmbank tree work
PL/21/0321/KA	Elmbank tree work
PL/21/0151/TP	Cedar Chase tree work
PL/21/0105/EU	Meca Riding Centre occupancy restriction
PL/21/0019/SA	Two Bridges River Road extension
PL/21/0003/TP	Amerden Priory tree work
PL/20/4416/TP	Redwood Mill Lane tree work
PL/20/4189/VRC	Shell garage condition

32.4 the following new applications were discussed and agreed:-

32.4.1 21/00188/FULL Application on the Thames Riviera Hotel across the bridge from Taplow (on the RBWM site). Cllr. Worthington noted that an enormous amount of paperwork supported this application and he was concerned about unintended consequences if approval was given as some of the supporting documents referred to change of use. He would raise this with the planning officers.

32.4.2 PL/20/4390/FA 3 Glen Island House car port; this would obstruct the neighbours' views.

32.4.3 PL/20/4364/FA Cornerways River Road new house; this was overdevelopment in a conservation area already in Flood Zone 3 with insufficient parking space.

32.4.4 PL/20/4463/FA 5 Ellington - new house; again the amount of supporting paperwork with misleading information was concerning and he would raise with the planning officers.

Cllr. Norton enquired whether Cllr. Worthington felt that Bucks Council were approving more applications than in the past. Cllr. Worthington had not noticed that but he was aware that in allowing some minor application or not enforcing infringements in the past this had led to 'creep' and the establishment of new rights for example at Challen's Chick farm, Little Karoo and Cliveden Stud.

32.5 Update on progress of neighbourhood plan –there was no update on this.

PC/33/21 Finance

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

33.2 **It was agreed** to instruct Clarkes Gardening to cut down - to below 15feet in height - the trees on the Green bordering the school fence.

PC/34/21 Any other business and items for the next meeting on 9th March

34.1 The Chairman noted that a strong response – saying that the wall would not be reinstated following a motor vehicle incident - had been received from the Wellbank Residents Association to the parish council's enquiry about their damaged wall. He said he would respond directly.

34.2 The Clerk confirmed she had written to the new owners of Elibank Court to enquire about their intentions relating to re-instating the wall. Cllr. Walsh said she had also spoken to them and they had confirmed to her they would be doing so.

34.3 Paul Kelly said that Hag Hill residents had recently tried to reduce their speed limit but had been met with horrendous fees just to undertake a survey. Even with matched funding, the administrative fees alone were prohibitive.

34.4 Paul Kelly agreed that the Parish Charter was a loosely worded document but should be seen as a work in progress.

34.5 Greig Early raised the issue of the desirability of e-scooters. Paul Kelly commented that the ones deployed by Slough in Hay Mill and Lynch Hill had proved a nightmare and were abandoned everywhere. They were then collected by a diesel van so any environmental benefits were not obvious so far.

34.6 Paul Kelly mentioned two initiatives in Burnham that were open to Taplow residents. There was a food share scheme and a free meal service for the elderly isolated or vulnerable. The Clerk would include reference to these in the next newsletter and pass on any enquiries.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.