

# TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 AT 8.00 P.M. AT TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, TAPLOW.

### Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman)    Cllr. Roger Worthington  
Cllr. Karen Walsh                      Cllr. Spencer Norton  
Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan                Cllr. Zoe Hatch  
Cllr. Rachel Horton- Kitchlew      Cllr. Louise Symons  
Mrs. Holder (Clerk) and six members of the public.

### Open forum

Mrs. Shuff-Wentzl read out a statement in response to issues raised concerning Little Karoo Farm during the March Meeting of the Parish Council. She said she and her fiancé (now her husband) had purchased the farm in 2018. Contrary to assertions made during the March meeting she confirmed that access permission to the field had been obtained from Bucks Council’s highways department before the field was purchased. There had been more than one change in direction of plans for the field but it was now being run as a farm. There were storage issues and temporary shelters had been erected. No enforcement notice had ever been issued against them as they regularly worked with the planning authority to resolve issues. In fact, contractors were due to start work in early June to resolve storage issues. A temporary hut on wheels had been put in the field for the sole purpose of the use for their builders to construct the field shelters starting on the 3rd June. This was not a chalet bungalow as suggested in the minutes. The confusion over the acreage of the field could easily be resolved by reference to the title deeds which say that the land is 13.4 acres. They had never trespassed on neighbouring land but they could see confusion may have occurred owing to the boundary not following the fence line. If they wished to venture into other business directions they assured the Council they would seek proper planning permission. No animals were slaughtered on site but this took place in Henley. They had a licence to market from the farm. She ended by saying that she wished to reassure the Council that it was their intention to make the site more attractive but she asked for time to do so whilst they were establishing their business. So far, all sales were to local buyers and they had felt well supported by villagers.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Shuff-Wentzl for attending and for the transparency shown which helped resolve misunderstandings. He added that the Council would always support the lawful use of land in the Parish. Any future concerns would be raised directly with her and she would be invited to future meetings.

PCSO O’Connell commented that up to 40 youths were in the habit of jumping off the Jubilee River footbridge in the warmer weather. This was not in itself a criminal offence and signage was up to say this was at their own risk. She had just heard that the bridge was closed for repairs and she believed strongly that this was an opportunity to call for a permanent redesign to discourage youths from using it to jump into the river. She noted that she had already been working with Berkeley Homes, the Community Safety Team and Bucks Council to try and resolve issues there. She reported that subject to the two issues noted below, crime statistics over the last year of lockdown showed a decrease in

all crime. Reports of travellers holding pony and trap races were of growing concern. There had been an increase in crime related to thefts of catalytic converters in the area.

**PC/55/21 Declaration of acceptance of office signed by each elected Councillor**

This was duly completed.

**PC/56/21 To elect a Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman**

Cllr. Worthington nominated and Cllr. Walsh seconded Cllr. Jamie Barnard as Chairman who accepted the nomination. **Agreed** - all in favour.

**PC/57/21 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. George Sandy and Cllr. Val Pridmore.

**PC/58/21 To co-opt a new councillor**

Cllr. Worthington nominated and Cllr. Norton seconded Claire Price as a new Councillor who accepted the nomination. **Agreed** - all in favour.

**PC/59/21 To elect a Vice-Chairman**

The Chairman nominated and Cllr. Worthington seconded Cllr. Price as Vice Chairman who accepted the nomination. **Agreed** - all in favour.

**PC/60/21 To elect members to the Finance Committee**

**It was agreed** that all Councillors should be eligible to be members of the Finance Committee.

**PC/61/21 To elect members to the following bodies:-**

61.1 SBALC – Cllr. Worthington and Cllr. Symons.

61.2 Old Priory Gardens Working Group – Cllrs. Symons, Barnard and Horton-Kitchlew.

61.3 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Cllrs. Worthington, Sandy, Norton and Barnard elected along with Mr. Knight, Mr. Maund and Mr. Smales.

61.4 Hall Management Working Group – Cllrs. Sandy, Pridmore, Walsh and Worthington.

**PC/62/21 To review constitutional documents**

These were reviewed with no amendments required.

**PC/63/21 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April and Matters Arising**

These were **approved**. No matters arising raised.

**PC/64/21 To agree meeting dates for 2022**

The Clerk had circulated proposed dates in advance of the meeting. These were **approved** with one amendment to the January date for 2022 moved to 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**PC/65/21 To consider Playgroup's proposals for new fencing**

The Playgroup Treasurer, Charissa Morgan, explained that the fencing put in last year had been a temporary measure and they now had more funding for a permanent solution with the intention of enlarging the area they could use and to avoid the heavy lifting currently undertaken by staff to move the fencing each day. **It was agreed** that the best solution was to move the bins to the side of the sheds and screen them from visibility in

some way and to reduce their number to just the mini skip and one recycle bin. The Clerk was asked to discuss what would work with Bucks Council. A post would need to be installed at the two access points and a way found to open and hold back the gates in a way that didn't damage the Hall or impact on the neighbour's property. Charissa said she would resubmit plans in due course. She noted that ideally the wood used would be stained in a colour to match the Perkins Room doors. The Chairman asked if there was any progress on the original plan of replacing the sheds. Charissa said they were still waiting to get the necessary grants to go ahead.

**PC/66/21 To consider the following pending items of business carried forward:-**

- 66.1 parking issues around Taplow station – no progress.
- 66.2 next steps regarding the barn roof – still awaiting a second quote.
- 66.3 environmental initiatives – it was noted that Summerleaze had not responded to our request to meet them to discuss planting more trees in the old quarry site. The Clerk was asked to approach Summerleaze to check if they would allow us to have access - perhaps with the Woodland Trust - to undertake a feasibility study of what could be done with the site.
- 66.4 to review re-opening the Village Hall – current rules still to apply.
- 66.5 to consider the draft Burnham & Taplow Parking Scheme – no progress.
- 66.6 to consider speeding issues in Taplow Village – this to be removed from the agenda.
- 66.7 to consider more litter bins in the Station Road area – the request from a resident for the Council to install a litter bin at the junction of Station and Boundary Roads **was approved.**

**PC/67/21 Planning**

Cllr. Worthington reported that:-

**67.1 The following decisions have been made:**

PL/20/4463/FA	5 Ellington - new house	APPROVED
PL/21/0599/FA	Chestnuts River Road home office over garage	APPROVED
PL/21/0611/VRC	Hitcham Lodge condition on greenhouse	APPROVED
PL/21/0638/FA	Hitcham Lodge extension	APPROVED
PL/21/0861/TP	Old Priory Gardens tree work	APPROVED
PL/21/1267/KA	Briarbank Ellington Rd tree work	APPROVED
PL/21/1101/TP	The Thatched Cottage tree work	APPROVED
PL/21/0889/KA	The Thatched Cottage tree work	APPROVED
PL/21/0815/SA	Two Bridges River Road extension	APPROVED
PL/20/3242/VRC	Dunloe Lodge conditions	APPROVED
PL/21/0628/FA	Elibank Court extension, dormer windows	APPROVED

**67.2 The following have decisions pending:**

PL/20/0970/FA	Wee Cottage extension
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
PL/21/0105/EU	Meca Riding Centre occupancy restriction
PL/20/4364/FA	Cornerways River Road new house
PL/21/0752/HB	Hill House - basement work
PL/21/0703/ADJ	Out of Area (RBWM) redevelop Magnet Centre ~439 houses

PL/21/1178/FA Lamont House replacement of outhouses  
PL/21/1065/TP Cedar Chase tree work  
PL/21/0930/CONDA Odds Farm condition  
PL/21/1170/FA Lamont House River Road replacement dwelling  
PL/21/0462/HBSA Taplow Court platform lift.

**67.3 The following are new applications for which no objections will be made**

PL/21/1760/KA Cedar Chase tree works  
PL/21/1656/HB Elibank Court wall repair  
PL/21/1655/FA Elibank Court wall repair  
PL/21/1659/KA The Rest Ellington tree work  
PL/21/1646/KA Ellington Lodge tree work  
PL/21/1381/TP Cedar Chase tree work  
PL/21/1759/FA Autumn House Rectory Road extension  
PL/21/1758/TP Taplow Cricket Club tree work  
PL/21/1701/KA Broomcroft River Road tree work  
PL/21/1796/FA Arcalaur Bath Road change of use  
PL/21/1717/FA Bridge Cottage Bath Road change of use  
PL/21/1778/FA Summercroft River Road change garage  
PL/21/1743/FA 1 Arch Cottage Amerden Lane extension

**PC/68/21 Finance**

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

68.2 **It was agreed** to reinvest at Close Bros the deposit monies of £75,000 for a period of 9 months at a rate of 0.3%.

68.3 **It was agreed** to approve the Accounts and Annual Return for 20/21 previously circulated by the Clerk.

**PC/69/21 Any other business/ agenda items for the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Cllr. Walsh noted that she had received complaints from residents about the vegetation overhanging from the Green onto Rectory Road as this reduced visibility particularly at the corner on the junction with the road up to the school. Cllr. Hatch was concerned about excessively cutting back vegetation on the edge of the Green and the impact this would have on pollinators such as bees. The Clerk was asked to instruct the contractors to cut back vegetation by the minimum amount necessary to ensure good visibility at the road junction. Cllr. Hatch also suggested Councillors may like to consider planting more wildflowers at a later date.

**PC/70/21 S.1.(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**It was agreed** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 71 below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw

**PC/71/21 To consider next steps to appoint a new Clerk and RFO**

**It was agreed** that Cllrs. Norton, Price and Worthington should be appointed to interview candidates and circulate their recommendations with a view to Councillors being able, by majority, to make any necessary and urgent decisions about any appointment/s prior to the next meeting.

*The meeting ended at 9.05pm.*