

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2021 AT 7.30 P.M. AT TAPLOW VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, TAPLOW.

Present

Cllr. Jamie Barnard (Chairman) Cllr. George Sandy
Cllr. Claire Price Cllr. Roger Worthington
Cllr. Karen Walsh Cllr. Spencer Norton
Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan Cllr. Zoe Hatch
Cllr. Rachel Horton-Kitchlew
Mrs. Holder and Ms. Ruth Senior (Clerk) and no members of the public.

Open forum

No members of the public were present.

PC/72/21 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Louise Symons and Cllr. Val Pridmore.

PC/73/21 To confirm the minutes of the Meetings held on 18th May

These were **approved** with no amendments required and signed by the Chairman.

PC/74/21 Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

There were none.

PC/75/21 To consider Playgroup’s proposals for new fencing

The Chairman reported that Playgroup had asked for this matter to be deferred to the July meeting.

PC/76/21 To consider setting up an Environment Working Group

76.1 Cllr. Hatch noted that the Council had an ongoing item on the agenda relating to environmental issues and felt it would be a good idea to have a working group to assess environmental priorities – such as rewilding; to engage with the community – such as scouts and other environment groups, and seek funding for initiatives, for example from the Community Board for whom environmental projects were now a pre-approved funding source. The Chairman and Cllr. Price expressed interest in new initiatives and the extra capacity for delivering them represented by Cllrs. Hatch and Horton-Kitchlew.

76.2 Following debate a number of concerns were raised by Councillors about whether there was the need for a separate working group with its emphasis solely on Green Party issues; the potential for it to spiral out of the Council’s control, and the usefulness of the wider expertise available on the Council. Cllr. Hatch said she hoped everyone agreed that environmental issues were outside of party politics, she felt a working group would be able to engage with the community and there was ample precedent amongst other Councils for such a group.

76.3 Cllr. Sandy felt that the Parish Council only had a limited remit as to what it could do and that a working group would bring nothing new to the table that the Council could not

already achieve in full Council. Cllr. Walsh was concerned to represent all parishioners and, although supportive of environmental issues, she saw no reason to single this issue out from other parish issues. Cllr. Hatch asked for a steer as to how she could approach the community with her 'councillor' hat on. The Clerk confirmed that all Councillors could engage with residents as Councillors. They should just make it clear that they were not representing the Council as a whole and they could not commit the Council to anything. Cllr. Norton added that the main thing the Council could do to protect the environment was to protect the Green Belt.

76.4 The Chairman said he was pleased to see the passion shown by Cllrs. Hatch and Horton-Kitchlew but he accepted that it was necessary to be cautious about forming working groups which could easily slip into representing the Council. He said they were free to form their own working group outside of the Council and that he was open to discussing this again and putting this on an agenda in the future.

76.5 Cllr. Hatch asked for it to be minuted that she and Cllr. Horton-Kitchlew would investigate setting up a working group outside of the Council to connect with the community and develop a strategy to bring to the Council perhaps involving a parish wide consultation. She confirmed that it was not her intention to work in opposition to the Council and that she hoped in future the Council would be able to show leadership on environmental issues which were the most important issues for everyone given the climate emergency.

PC/77/21 To consider the following pending items of business carried forward:-

77.1 parking issues around Taplow station – nothing to report.

77.2 next steps regarding the barn roof - quotes had been received to strip and re-tile the north elevation of the barn roof or to add snow guards to just catch falling tiles. Given the post pandemic environment; there being no current ideas for the use of the barn and the costs of renovation **it was agreed** to contract to provide snow guards with the provider of the cheaper of the quotes (and liaise with the owners of the other half of the barn) to ensure the safety of the school children.

77.3 environmental initiatives – Cllr. Horton-Kitchlew suggested that the part of the Green nearest the Barn could be rewilded and a different regime for strimming the grass would make a difference to future growth. Cllr. Hatch said she intended to go to the Community Board for funding. The Chairman suggested that the school could be approached to see if any part of the school field could be rewilded.

77.4 to review re-opening the Village Hall – although the lifting of government restrictions was imminent **it was agreed** that no further casual bookings should take place before the next meeting without the approval of the Hall Management working group.

77.5 to consider the draft Burnham & Taplow Parking Scheme – nothing to report.

PC/78/21 Planning

78.1 The following were recent planning decisions:-

PL/21/1701/KA Broomcroft River Road tree work	APPROVED
PL/21/1760/KA Cedar Chase tree works	APPROVED
PL/21/1659/KA The Rest Ellington tree work	APPROVED
PL/21/1646/KA Ellington Lodge tree work	APPROVED

PL/21/1564/KA Elmbank Hill Farm Road	APPROVED
PL/21/1178/FA Lamont House replacement of outhouses	APPROVED
PL/21/1065/TP Cedar Chase tree work	REFUSED
PL/21/0462/HBSA Taplow Court platform lift.	WITHDRAWN
PL/20/3960/FA Larchwood House Heathfield Road rebuild	WITHDRAWN

78.2 The following had 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/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/21/0930/CONDA Odds Farm condition
 PL/21/1170/FA Lamont House River Road replacement dwelling
 PL/21/1656/HB Elibank Court wall repair
 PL/21/1655/FA Elibank Court wall repair
 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/21/1796/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

78.3 The following were new applications for which no objections would be made:-

PL/21/1932/CONDA	Hitchambury Farm cond 14
PL/21/2132/TP	Jubilee Mill tree work

78.4 PL/21/1785/FA Victoria Cottage High Street - reconstruct rear extension
 Concern was expressed regarding the “adjustments to the front hedge” which presumably meant its removal to allow an additional car onto the property. The Council were well aware of the narrow nature of the High Street and concerns for parking but it could be seen from the supplied photos that the front elevation of the property was very materially enhanced by the hedging in its Conservation Area setting and its removal would be a loss to the visual amenity of it.

78.5 Update on progress of neighbourhood plan

Cllr. Worthington reported that the working group consisted of him and Mr. Smales at the moment owing to illness and work commitments of the other members. Their current focus was on influencing the Bucks draft Local Plan.

PC/79/21 Finance -To agree/ratify expenditure in the cashbook

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

PC/80/21 Any other business/ agenda items for the next meeting on 6th July at 7.30pm

Janet Appleton had asked Cllr. Hatch to raise the issue of the overhanging trees on the corner of Rectory Road and Berry Hill. Cllr. Price advised that she had already raised this with the new owners who had not moved in yet. They had been very obliging and had promised to have work done to cut back the vegetation soon.

PC/81/21 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 the item below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw

PC/82/21 To ratify the terms of appointment of the new Clerk and RFO

82.1 The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to the new Clerk, Ruth Senior. The terms of her contract of employment were ratified. **It was agreed** that the new Clerk could join the SLCC with a view to receiving further training and invest in the latest edition of the Local Council Administration textbook.

82.2 The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Price, Worthington and Norton for their efforts in the recruitment process and thanked the retiring Clerk, Mrs. Holder, for her dedicated service over the last nine and a half years.

82.3 Mrs. Holder responded by saying how much she had enjoyed working for the Council and how impressed she had been with the recent councillors she had worked with over the last few years especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Worthington - who worked so hard behind the scenes - and Cllr. Sandy who had recruited her all those years ago and had kept her on her toes ever since.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.