

**HITCHAM & TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting**  
**Held at the Taplow Village Centre**  
**on Friday 30th October 2009 at 8.00 p.m.**

**President welcome & opening remarks**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Hitcham and Taplow Society's AGM. We are going into our 50th year. It is quite something to be able to say that.

I am pleased to see so many of you here tonight, both old friends and new faces.

As you will see from both the chairman and treasurer's reports we have had an interesting and successful year and our finances are in good shape. I will leave your very able Chairman to tell you about it.

The Government, in spite of their fine words, have been busily eroding local democracy by imposing policies from the top down which affect your local authorities' abilities to have a say in what happens in their areas. This in turn affects their abilities to react favourably to Parish Councils, amenity groups, and individuals. Nevertheless it is vital to be vigilant as to what is proposed because we will all notice fundamental changes happening in the rural areas of the SE in the next 20 years. The Green Belt is under threat as never before in our lifetimes. Our Conservation Areas could be under threat of infill as a matter of policy. It is calculated that for every new unit of housing £38,000 is needed to pay for the infrastructure. i.e. roads, hospitals, schools, sewers, services etc.,. Heaven knows where this is going to come from! It is fairly certain therefore that, even had there been no credit crunch, our infrastructure would deteriorate.

If you would be interested to be kept informed of some of the larger or more intrusive proposed developments, could you please give us your email addresses. Please only do so if you are happy to be contacted occasionally. Although your society responds to the relevant authorities we rely on our members to write individual letters and emails on topics concerning which we will try to give you basic information, normally by email. Individual responses do matter and can even strengthen local authorities' abilities to react in our favour. Individual letters and emails have more influence than a round robin signed by multiple supporters. Numbers count.

We will be trying to keep our website up to date with village events and news. Do use it and let us know what you think.

I will now hand over to Euan to Chair the meeting.

Eva Lipman

President

**1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

??? members attended. Apologies were received from John and Brenda Kennedy, Neil & Gill Blundell, Karl Lawrence, George & Sally Sandy, Brenda Burns

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2008 AGM**

The minutes of the 49th AGM were approved & signed

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Euan Felton gave the following report.

### **Heritage Day**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Taplow held a Heritage day exhibition at the Village Centre. The impetus for the event was the desire by a group of more recent and younger residents to investigate and record some of the social history of Taplow while the older generation were still around.

Leading up to the day there was a Heritage week in which children from St Nicolas school participated in visits and talks about the village, its buildings, its history and its present and former people. The children then produced two murals which were displayed at the Heritage Day exhibition on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

On the day itself the exhibits encompassed history, buildings, people and achievements of many of Taplow's former residents and visitors, from the King of Siam to the Beatles and included Taplow's military, media, literary and political connections. Taplow local artists, ranging from professional to amateur mounted an exhibition of their works. The whole programme was an outstanding success and it is hoped to repeat and augment it in the future.

### **Mill Lane development**

In 2006 Taplow Paper Mill closed and the site including the closed Skindles hotel and a large area of undeveloped land was sold to developers. The site is all in the Green Belt and the floodplain. Locally almost everyone agrees that some sensitive redevelopment is desirable but, unsurprisingly, the developers came up with a scheme for an excessive over-development of the area. A 150 bed hotel, 6 storey blocks of flats etc. The scheme was slated by most of the statutory consultees and the Planning Officer's report recommended refusal in robust terms. Just before the date of the Planning Committee the Application was withdrawn. We wait to see what will happen next. One good thing to come out of the exercise is that clear guidelines now exist as to the scale and nature of development that is unacceptable, which therefore provides guidance to future applicants on what might realistically be achieved on the site.

### **Green Belt and the Local Development Framework**

The Local Development framework process grinds on at snails pace and a Core Strategy consultation document was put out in the spring of this year. Most of the document appeared to be reasonable but there are two areas of concern for us. Taplow is located entirely in the Green Belt and the bulk of its existing development lies in two Conservation Areas, the remainder forms a very narrow neck of predominantly undeveloped land between Slough and Maidenhead. Exactly what Green Belts are in existence to protect.

The first concern is that because the strategic planning process demands the identification of sufficient land for more housing over and above the agreed District rate per annum, Council's are being forced to identify very large areas of Green Belt on which housing might be built sometime in the next 20 or so years. The implications for

the erosion of the Green Belt and also the failure to address the need for more infrastructure in support of the additional dwellings is very worrying.

The second concern is of more local interest and is related to the proposal in the South Bucks Core Strategy to permit infilling in all villages, including Conservation Areas, in the District. We feel very strongly that this is a severe threat to the preservation of the character of our Conservation Areas and the very reason that they have been designated.

### **Approaching 50 years**

The Hitcham and Taplow Society will be 50 years old next year and is still well supported by our 200 members. We will be publishing a special edition of our Spring Newsletter to celebrate its achievements over the years and to look to the future for another 50 years. The summer Village Green Party has been held for the last 27 years and was once again a great success.

We look forward to next year.

Euan Felton

Chairman

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Peter Mole apologized for being unable to provide printed copies for technical reasons. Current balance for Sept ???

Major expenses 2 newsletters plus VGP (cost covered by ticket sales & SBDC grant) Finances are healthy & copy bank statements were offered for all to inspect. Also discussed possible increase in subscription which had previously been discussed during Committee meeting & the question of should contingency funds be accrued for planning appeal? This was not recommended by Treasurer but for members consideration. Accounts & report will be distributed via email or through doors.

### **5. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

It was unanimously resolved that the minimum annual subscription for the forthcoming year should remain at £5 per household (£4.50 per household for agreed block membership) and £50 per corporation, due on 1 October 2009

### **6. ELECTIONS**

President

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint Eva Lipman as President for the forthcoming year. Tony Hickman, Bernard Trevellian, Fred Russell also proposed as Vice Presidents unanimously.

Chairman

It was proposed by Eva Lipman & seconded by Jill Harden & unanimously resolved to re-appoint Euan Felton as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Vice Chairman

Euan Felton proposed & seconded by Eva Lipman to re-appoint Karl Lawrence as Vice Chairman & unanimously resolved for the forthcoming year.

Treasurer

Euan Felton proposed & seconded by Fred Russell Peter Mole as Treasurer for the forthcoming year. Unanimously agreed.

Auditor

## Secretary

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint Neil Blundell as Secretary for the forthcoming year. Peter Mole proposed & **Janine ???** seconded.

## Executive Committee

Nicky Fragnatoli stepped down. Sarah Brodie stepped down. Warren Palmer stepped down.

## Proposed

It was proposed by Euan Felton & seconded by Eva Lipman & unanimously agreed to re-appoint the following as Committee for coming year.

Jeremy Vanstone, Heather Fenn, Andy McKenzie, Barrie Peroni, Louise Symons, Esther Willmore, Mathew Travers, Jill Harden.

New Committee members were sought & requests to Chairman, President or Secretary.

## AOB

Tony Hickman was invited to speak & covered the following:-

Following on from the hard work of the organisers and the immense success of the Heritage Day, is there scope within our area to develop the idea of informal interest groups, under the umbrella of The Hitcham and Taplow Society, to broaden interaction generally and particularly for newcomers?

The committee of the Society would remain responsible for the Village Green Party, planning matters and the twice yearly Newsletter. Below that would be a number of interest groups, free to develop their activities as the participants wish and bringing forward information and articles for the Newsletter. The activities I have suggested are the ones that spring to mind but there may be others. The leader for each group, ideally, would become or be a member of the HTS committee.

## HTS Art Group -Leader: ?

Activities - an annual exhibition, painting and drawing sessions

## HTS Literary Group - Leader: ?

Activities – Readings

## Hitcham and Taplow History Group - Leader: ?

Activities - development and understanding of Taplow and Hitcham history and people, articles for the Newsletter.

## HTS Gardening Group - Leader?

Activities - informal visits to member's gardens, summer fruit and flower show, plant swaps, specialist talks.

## HTS Music Group - Leader:?



Activities - collecting details of local music events for a Newsletter events diary, recitals, discussions.

Natural History Group - Leader?

Activities - collecting details of local flora and fauna, articles for the Newsletter, discussions.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the above groups, please let me know, preferably by email to [hickman124@aol.com](mailto:hickman124@aol.com) with the subject as HTS followed by the group, and I will endeavour to put the groups together. Non members of the Society who are interested would be invited to join.

Tony Hickman Allington Cottage Hill Farm Road Taplow 01628 605728

Interested parties to email Tony direct by email. This proposal is to encourage more interaction of Taplow Residents.

Barry Peroni prompted encouragement for Heritage group. Alain Grellier was very interested in Art Group as was Muriel King & Fred Russell who thought it was an excellent idea & volunteered for Art group Leader – any interested parties should email Fred.

David Thomas requested any Music group should be engaged through the Church & Gillian Dibden to ensure continuity.

David Thomas Request a date for walk around the village – Euan committed to discuss this at the next Committee meeting for detail.

Esther Willmore asked how interested parties communicate? This should be done through Tony Hickman via email.

Eva asked for interested parties in various groups

Literature Group – Esther Willmore, Alain Grellier, Esther will lead & check if idea would fly.

History Group – agreed that the Committee would approach Heritage Day organizers.

Garden group – Susan Silver, Muriel King

Music group – perhaps Gillian Dibden?

Natural History – no one

Muriel King – question for Chairman - is there anyone responsible for newsletter as copies had not yet been received. Euan confirmed a slight delay in printing but copies were on the way & apologies for slight delay.

Thanks to Taplow House Hotel have been most generous with provision of FOC meeting room facilities. A vote of thanks – Euan.

President vote of thanks to Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Committee.

Nigel Smales noted that he was working on business case for a Ball at St Nicolas School – Taplow community Ball will possibly be held 22 May. Eva requested small article for next news letter.

## 7. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

After refreshments following the meeting a presentation from Nigel Smales on Taplow History was given & very well received.

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Eva Lipman