

HITCHAM & TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting Held at the Village Centre on Friday 31 October 2008 at 8.00 p.m.

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

67 members attended. Apologies were received from John and Brenda Kennedy, Peter Lane, John and Ann Hanford, Esther Wilmore and George Sandy.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2006 AGM

The minutes of the 48th AGM were approved.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Euan Felton gave the following report.

“It has been a pleasantly quiet year in Taplow, a mild winter, a rainy summer, but not so much that we were flooded, although it was a near thing at one point, and a very agreeable beginning to Autumn. Perhaps this is because 2008 is the centenary of the publication of *Wind in the Willows*. Kenneth Grahame lived locally in Cookham and the Thames River banks of Taplow are believed to have provided some of his inspiration.

In reality it has been quiet on the Planning front because our Core Strategy for the new Local Development Framework stalled last year as it has been decided by South Bucks to wait for the publication of the South East Plan before continuing the process and likewise the County Minerals and Waste plan has also been postponed. So we only have a Statement of Community Involvement in place, but with nothing to be involved in.

All this is of some concern because as the expired but mostly saved Local Plan gets older, and nothing is expected for some time to replace it, we feel very exposed to development pressure without an up to date plan in place.

On a brighter note again we held our annual ox roast on the village green and had another successful event. We broke even on costs and the Thames Valley Adventure Playground were able to raise £630 in the raffle. A splendid result. This was our 23rd year and we will continue to hold this very successful event for as long as people want to come.

Back on planning we have opposed a gravel development which is very close to houses in and around the village. The Application was rejected last year but a re-application has been made on the grounds of changed circumstances and it is being considered next week at Aylesbury.

Two years ago the Taplow Paper Mill at the end of Mill Lane near Maidenhead bridge was closed and sold and the new owners have been

developing a masterplan for the 19 Ha area which includes the former mill site. It is all in the Green Belt and the majority is in a Conservation Area and it will be one of the biggest planning applications we have encountered, with a hotel, a tennis club with 12 outside courts and 2 indoor courts plus clubhouse, up to 500 houses and flats and live work units and offices.

We believe that the proposal as it stands is a considerable over-development given that it is in the Green Belt and Conservation Area and will be asking the planners to make these designations the starting point in considering the application when it is submitted. Coupled with the fact that it is not a single site from a land use point of view, but a collection of sites ranging from large and never previously developed greenfield to redundant industrial. The only thing the individual sites have in common is that they are in the same ownership. We are expecting an application by the end of the year.

Lastly a matter which has been a concern is conflict between Permitted Development rights and Conservation Area Policies. A Certificate of Lawfulness may be granted under Permitted Development rights to carry out development which removes a Conservation Area feature identified as important by a Conservation Area Character Appraisal. This has just happened in Taplow and we have asked the planners whether there is anything which can be done to prevent it happening again.”

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Peter Mole distributed the profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2008. The Executive Committee had learnt that the Society did not need an auditor but it was felt appropriate to have the accounts scrutinised by a suitably qualified independent person. A possible scrutineer with relevant experience had been identified but not yet formally appointed. Accordingly the accounts were approved subject to subsequent scrutiny.

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 2008.

6. **ELECTIONS**

President

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint Eva Lipman as President for the forthcoming year.

Vice Presidents

A minutes silence was held in memory of Derek Walker. It was then unanimously resolved to re-appoint Tony Hickman and Bernard Trevallion as Vice Presidents for the forthcoming year. It was unanimously resolved to

appoint Fred Russell as a new Vice President and it was confirmed that Fred Russell had agreed to accept the post.

Chairman

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint Euan Felton as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Vice Chairman

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint Karl Lawrence as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Treasurer

It was unanimously resolved to appoint Peter Mole as Treasurer for the forthcoming year.

Auditor

No resolution was proposed for the reasons explained by Peter Mole.

Secretary

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint Neil Blundell as Secretary for the forthcoming year.

Executive Committee

It was unanimously resolved to re-appoint the following as Committee members for the forthcoming year: Jeremy Vanstone, Heather Fenn, Andy McKenzie, Barrie Peroni, Louise Symons, Esther Willmore, Mathew Travers, Sarah Brodie, Jill Harden.

It was also unanimously resolved to appoint Nicky Thomas (proposed by Heather Lindsay and seconded by Gill Holloway) and Warren Palmer (proposed by Euan Felton and seconded by Gill Holloway) as new members of the Committee.

7. **CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

After the meeting Guy Wakefield from Hunter Page Consulting, gave a presentation about the proposed development of the St Regis site.

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Eva Lipman