

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting Taplow House Hotel Monday 22nd May 2017 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Bob Hanbury
Al Hill
Nigel Smales

Rupert Sellers
Charlie Greeves
Robert Harrap
Roger Worthington

Apologies:

Zoe Hatch
Tony Hickman
Miv Wayland-Smith
Louise Symons
Fred Russell

- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed.

- **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance of current account: £3224.65. Newsletter payment cheque not yet cleared. The £200 Easter Egg Hunt moneys had been successfully transferred from Eventbrite. Roger handed over £45 in subscriptions and £20 cash for VGP tickets. It was noted that in fact our public liability cover does include the Easter Egg Hunt. Charlie would check with Sheila.

- **NEWSLETTER**

The committee congratulated Nigel on a very successful issue. A number of readers had made very positive comments. Copy deadline for the autumn issue is 30th September. Articles already lined up on Heathrow, the Mill Lane footbridge and the Lincoln Lee bench.

- **PLANNING**

Only two local applications. House replacement for Green Tiles , River Road (a tired 1960s being replaced with a modern looking equivalent) and an extension at Wee Cottage, High Street. Neither seen as contentious.

- **REPORTS**

Neighbourhood Plan

To date 125 replies have been received (14%). Answers and comments have been compiled and a report will be loaded on the Parish website tomorrow. Roger summarised the main findings. A summary of findings is attached.

Heathrow expansion and UK air policy

Nigel reported on the Society response he had written. Used work from Iver parish, discussions with Spencer and Jackie Norton using their extensive Heathrow experiences and the submission to Taplow Parish Council written by Roger. Although there are two separate consultations, the Society response covers both topics and will be sent as a single paper to both consultations. Will be copied to TPC and Dominic Grieve.

- **VILLAGE GREEN PARTY**

Al reported all on schedule. Discussion on providing vegetarian / vegan foods. Charlie would check on what was best to offer and work with Al. Roger advised he was still chasing StJA for confirmation of cover. Robert Harrap would check if Cliff was potentially available if we had to

revert to local support and Roger would check on first aid kits held by the Parish Council. The request from the school PTA for permission to run a raffle in support of replacing equipment lost in the flood was considered. As we have already committed to supporting Taplow United Football Club it was decided that it not be correct to support a competing one, although it is a very worthy cause.

90 tickets have been presold - £467 gross, £388net. Zoe was congratulated on the success of this initiative.

- **TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Roger is still awaiting response from Barclays on his authorisation as an on-line signature.

From Zoe in absence:

As soon as we have online outgoing payments I can set up online subscriptions and we can go full steam ahead on recruitment campaign.

Steady stream of website visitors and FB growth. No negative comments online so far. Monitoring continues. Full review of stats to come after 6 months as agreed. About 250/300 visits per month from 'real people' not 'bots'. Also working on a flier to hand out at VGP.

- **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

Following an enquiry on SBDC grants, it appears that they require provision in our constitution for disposal of assets in the event the society is wound up. Roger would look into this and propose any amendments for the AGM.

- **PUBLICITY / RECRUITMENT**

With the imminent improvements to subscription facilities we are in good shape for a recruitment drive. Broad intention is to produce an inclusion for the autumn newsletter, at which time both Mill Lane and Institute Road will be populated. Decisions on this will need to be made before the next scheduled (September) meeting. Roger, Nigel and Zoe would develop material and consult the committee by email.

- **AOB**

No items raised

Meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Next HTS Committee Meeting: 18th September

Overview of responses to the Taplow Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire May 2017

This note is an overview of the responses made to the questionnaire. The detailed report is available on the Parish Council website.

Housing

There is a majority view that Taplow has undergone very significant growth in recent times and that time is needed to absorb these changes. Lack of infrastructure and amenities are a concern. All the suggested areas for developments are presently in the Green Belt (other than around Tesco).

Heritage

The larger Victorian and Edwardian house are a strong identifier of Taplow and are in need of good protection as they are not of standard listed building status. Individual clusters of houses and street scenes are valued, together with the walks and open views across the parish. Several unique features are also identified such as the bridge boathouse and the Village Hall murals. There is concern that Conservation Areas may be in need of strengthening.

Footpaths

There is support for creating new paths and publicising the ones we do have. The strong concerns over poor maintenance are temporised with cautions over making Taplow look urban.

Leisure facilities

Most people believe that local facilities are sufficient, particularly with the close availability of services in Maidenhead. Strongest support for local facilities is for tennis courts, a sports hall and a playground.

St Nicolas School

Suggestions to move the school, provide a school bus and encourage access from the rear.

The Hall, the Green and Old Priory gardens

These are valued, with the Old Priory gardens rather less used.

Bus services

Little used but many views on improvements, including routes past the station, Marsh Lane and to the north.

Cycling

Nearly half of respondents cycle. Strong views on the dangers and difficulties. A range of suggestions for improvements and new routes. These include the A4, a Thames bridge and off road provisions

Driving

Road improvements are against new roads other than a new Thames crossing but strong on better maintenance. Concerns for the A4 including the Berry Hill junction and management around the station. Very strong concerns for speeding, more or less right across the parish. Requests for more roundabouts, yellow lines, diversion of heavy lorries and better policing.

Business development

General view that there is enough. Belief in more home based and private employment, together with broadband improvement. Desire for a village shop. Specific mention of the preservation of the Hermitage and Boathouse as businesses.

Respondents

Almost all are home owners with an average residency of 19 years. Only a fifth have resident children. A majority do not favour increasing the precept for more service provision but there are suggestions as to what the council could do. They centre on things best managed locally such as path maintenance and driving voluntary supports. Should be more involved in planning decisions and managing service delivery.

My Words

As might be expected, a broad range of topics.

Impact of recent high growth, need to protect trees and wildlife, untidy environment, need for more powers devolved to parish, Green Belt support, general traffic concerns for narrow lanes.