

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting Taplow House Hotel Monday 15th October 2018 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Nigel Smales
Roger Worthington
Rupert Sellers
Charlie Greeves

Robert Hanbury
Louise Symons
Jonathan Specktor
Jacqueline Turner

Apologies:

Al Hill
Robert Harrap
Andrew Findlay

1) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September meeting were agreed and signed

2) GAGE PROPERTIES

Michael Christian explained that he was a long term local resident and was acting on behalf of Gage Properties. Jonathan Hacker, director of Gage Properties identified the company as a relatively small privately held London based company carrying out high quality developments. Claire Gayle of Pegasus Planning Consultants covered the heritage aspects of development on the site. Michael presented an outline of the proposed development. This would be two sets of four houses with extensive greening of the site including the demolition of Driftwood Cottage. A full application is expected in November. Development of the leisure moorings would follow as a phase two. They have retained Napier Clarke as architects. A draft layout was circulated that had formed part of their pre-application consultation with SBDC, together with examples of Napier Clarke work. A Q&A session raised the following points:

- a) Importance of liaising with Berkeley Homes as adjacent site owners to ensure the optimum public access to the river bank.
- b) Query as to whether vehicle / trailer access down to the boats would be provided or just a footway.
- c) The moorings would operate strictly as a leisure business with no intention for a slipway or facilities
- d) Useful to liaise with Bob Dulson of the Maidenhead Civic Society
- e) Most specific queries as to materials etc. need to await the full application but the intention is that the buildings would echo the boathouses on the existing site.
- f) On submission of the full application, Gage will mount a public exhibition of the development in the Boathouse.

Eva thanked them for their presentation and looked forward to seeing the full application, when doubtless many queries would arise.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

As at 11th October balances are: Current £5566.14, Premium £1042.30, Cash £0.

A cheque was signed (£18) for the wreath on Remembrance Day.

Robert raised the matter that many Standing Orders are still being paid as £5, not the current £7. He would email these members with follow up if needed by magazine deliverers in November.

4) NEWSLETTER

Release date will be delayed to allow coverage of the opening of the Taplow footbridge on November 2nd. Somewhat complicated by absence of Andrew Findlay just after the opening but Nigel was confident we would still deliver magazines by 16th November –(three weeks notice for the AGM). To support further recruitment, especially around Mill Lane, an additional 50 copies would be printed – a total of 300.

5) **PLANNING UPDATES**

The application at Buffins for a kerb lowering that had led to concerns for the future of the estate layout has been withdrawn. However this is likely to be because they don't actually need planning permission, just a BCC licence. Cannot discover a list of licence applications on the BCC web.

An application at Rectory Farm for a swimming pool changing room has been rejected on GB grounds as overdevelopment. (We did not object).

The Cranford House application has been approved with requirements for habitat checks, opened up exit splays and a Considerate Contractor clause in light of neighbour's concerns.

The Care Home application on the Roots site has been refused on both GB grounds and inadequate flooding management proposals.

The restoration works planned for the Brunel Bridge amazingly did not include any vegetation removals! This is now agreed after intervention by MMPA.

NEW

Roux at Skindles has applied for approval for weddings and functions.

Kingsdown in Marsh Lane has applied for a swimming pool and changing facilities. Seems like a very large development for a long narrow plot but it was not thought we should comment.

Burnham has inaugurated a Neighbourhood Plan.

The consultation by BCC over possible closures of Household Refuse sites was discussed in terms of extra travel (rubbish miles). We would write object and suggest cooperation with RBWM to minimise travel.

6) **VGP**

The bunting and stakes had been lent to the vicarage for an event but have not yet been seen afterwards. Roger would check the barn and Nigel with Jane Cresswell. Andrew will be asked what progress was being made on the new tables.

A replacement for Miv as Al's number two is needed.

7) **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Charlie confirmed that this would take place. Date is Easter Monday, April 22nd. As Easter is late, turnout should be good. Use Eventbrite ticketing again.

8) **WAR MEMORIAL**

Work has now started. The missing inscription has been found with help from the vicar of Chalfont St Peter. The old stone will be cut out and replaced rather than being re-carved.

We should look forward to some way of creating remembrance for service deaths after WWI.

9) **AGM**

Nigel confirmed that the speaker arrangement was all in good shape. He would entertain the speakers to dinner and potentially put up the main speaker overnight as he had some distance to come. He also raised the question for future debate as to whether we should consider paying for speakers as is the normal rule.

10) **AOB**

Services devolution. Roger advised that the possibility of the Parish taking on some services from BCC was being reviewed. Principally hedge cutting, footpath maintenance etc. Previously this has always been rejected on both political grounds (responsibility is with BCC) and on practical grounds of management overhead. However the Parish Clerk now has useful experience of managing such services so it becomes a matter of cost / benefit and initial set up effort. Taking on the work would involve increasing the precept and the committee were asked for their views on likely acceptability of this in the parish. General view was that it would be acceptable if a real improvement was seen.

Speedwatch. After an appeal to members, six people attended a training course run by TPC.

ANTAS. Eva reported on the closure of the organisation has having outlived its usefulness as the structure and scale of planning authorities has changed. A more useful future focus might be a Bucks-wide association of civic groups.

Chiltern Rangers. Eva reported on this organisation. It is a spin off from Wycombe Council to manage woodlands and green spaces operating as an independent body. Has had considerable success in raising money from the lottery and S106 sources and is expanding to cover many environmental efforts and volunteer sourced work. Might just be helpful as we progress ideas for the Berry Hill quarry restoration. **Eva** invited the committee and partners to a post AGM drink at Upper Bumbles

Meeting closed at 10:15pm. Next HTS Committee Meeting: November 19th

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