

HITCHAM AND TAPLOW SOCIETY

Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting

Held at the Village Centre

Friday 7th December 2018 at 8pm

1. **Welcome by Eva Lipman**

First of all I would like to welcome you all to this our 59th AGM and thank you all for coming. I will be combining my President's report with the Chairman's Report because since we lost Karl Lawrence we have been soldiering on without a chairman.

During the year unfortunately John Kennedy who was your President for 3 years before myself passed away. He served our community in multiple capacities over many years including on the Parish Council and SBDC which he chaired for a year. He was a personal friend and his passing will leave a big gap.

Could I please have a minute's silence.

2. **Attendance and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from George and Sally Sandy, Robert Harrap, Brenda Hickman, Dick Nutt and Susan Leeson. Attendance was 31 members but we later welcomed others from RBWM to watch the film.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the 2017 AGM**

The minutes were unanimously approved following proposal by Nigel Smales and seconding by Max Lipman and duly signed by Eva.

4. **President's address**

Combined with Presidents address

5. **Chairman's report**

We have had a very interesting year during which the population of Taplow has had a big boost from the developments in Institute road and Mill Lane. We would like to welcome those new residents and hope that they enjoy being part of our community.

Andrew Findlay who has long been an active supporter has at long last come on the committee. I am pleased to say that Jacqueline Turner from Taplow Riverside has joined your Committee and become an invaluable member. We have also been joined by Jonathan Spector from Ellington Gardens. As you know we aim to have committee members from all parts of our patch.

Miv Wayland Smith has stood down from the committee after 10 years during which he has made an invaluable contribution notably in supporting Alistair Hill in the organisation of our VGP. Unfortunately Alastair has also stood down from committee due to pressure of other commitments, but although he no longer wishes to serve on the Committee itself, he has volunteered to continue to organise the VGP. We are extremely grateful to him for all he has done and for offering to continue his key role in the VGP.

One of our Vice Presidents Prof Bernard Trevallion is leaving after 10 years. He together with his wife Mary and their daughter Anna are moving to Dorset to be near their family

and so we are losing their expertise. We wish them well and thank them. Zoe Hatch has also stood down due to other commitments. We have her to thank for bringing us more into the 21st century with our electronic ticketing, which has been a success, as well as helping get us up and running with our Facebook page.

I have chaired most of the committee meetings and I have to tell you that you have a very hard working committee for which we should all be very grateful.

I have a number of special thanks. Firstly I would like to thank your excellent Secretary Roger Worthington. Roger takes upon himself many tasks over and above the roll of a mere Secretary. He is our planning expert and is ever ready to take many duties upon himself. I hate to think where your committee would be without him.

Bob Hanbury is our treasurer which role he fulfils quietly and well and without fuss. Thank you Bob.

I would also like to thank Jim Rousou from Mill Lane for auditing our accounts.

We have two important events a year which help to bring the village together and those are the VGP for which, as I mentioned before, we have to thank Alistair as the organiser in chief par excellence and the Easter Egg Hunt organised by Charlie Greeves in the lovely grounds of her home. These events are highly valued by our members and residents and give our village a unique community spirit bringing all the generations together.

I also have to thank Andrew Findlay for his work in putting our Newsletter to bed and being our backstop technical expert.

This brings me to Nigel Smales. Nigel has put in a great deal of very hard work in many areas but especially in the production of our wonderful newsletter twice a year. I think you will all agree that it is of an extremely high standard as well as being interesting and informative. It takes a lot of time, effort, and thought to put it together. For our latest newsletter he researched and included a short biography of every individual whose name is on our War Memorials.

You may have noticed the restoration of our two war memorials which were originally erected after WW1. We started thinking about how to accomplish this a long time ago and much thought and fund raising has gone into the actual doing of it. Your Society played a big part, particularly Nigel Smales, together with the Parish Council in making it happen. I am so pleased that it was done in time for the Centenary of the Armistice on 11/11/1918 when there was a parade of many local organisations to the Taplow Memorial Cross and a very moving ceremony took place at its foot.

We are grateful to Taplow House Hotel for allowing us to have our committee meetings in their excellent conference facility and would like to thank them formally.

I am quite sure you have all read our excellent newsletter and so I will not enumerate all the various planning applications, lost, withdrawn, pending, or won or events of the past year but will touch on only a few of the major ones.

Our esteemed Secretary of State has in his wisdom pronounced to the effect that we will become a unitary authority based on the county of Buckinghamshire. We fought very

hard to be united with Chiltern and District together with Wycombe but lost. We can only hope that those in the north of our new authority take more notice of us in the south than did the old BCC.

That brings me neatly onto the dreaded cycle path, dodging the pedestrians with whom it will be shared. We fought BCC long and hard to keep the existing right turn from the A4 Bath Road up into Berry Hill and I am glad to report that we are keeping it. They are scheduled to start building in the spring of 2019.

We all heaved a sigh of relief at the recent rejection of the Cliveden Stud applications but I fear we have probably not seen the last of these. Time will tell.

We have a one long awaited and planned for graceful addition to Taplow namely our lovely new footbridge designed and built by Martin Knight and his team. We have many people to thank for this idea having come to fruition amongst whom are Heather Fenn, George Sandy, your society, the Parish Council and the Maidenhead Civic Society and of course Berkeley Homes who paid for it. This wonderful unique bridge is now officially open during daylight hours and will give pleasure to future generations on both sides of the river. One instance of harmony between communities sadly often lacking in the world.

A further plus is that once again our small village of Taplow has managed to insert itself onto the world stage with Megan Markle staying with us the night before the big event. More on this after refreshments! One result of Megan staying at Cliveden is that some of our potholes have magically disappeared.

6. Treasurer's report

Robert Hanbury presented the years accounts. He advised that they had been audited by Jim Rousou and some adjustments made to the presentation. An unusual item this year had been the fund raising appeal for the restoration of Taplow War memorial. The fund had been oversubscribed by an amount that happened to be exactly equal to the cost of cleaning the Hitcham memorial, which was duly carried out. Membership was up to some 220 and bank balances were sufficient for the first step of any legal advice that the society might require in support of some planning objection.

The accounts were proposed for acceptance by Tony Harding, seconded by Andrew Findlay and unanimously approved.

Questions from the audience were whether further donations might be needed. The general view was that immediate ongoing maintenance would be very modest for some years but that a better focus would be on raising moneys for a WW2 memorial of some sort, especially as a 75 anniversary was coming up in 2020. The Society would pursue this in 2019. A copy of the accounts is attached to these minutes.

7. Elections

Eva Lipman was proposed as President by Nigel Smales, seconded by Katie Norton and duly elected unanimously.

Fred Russell was proposed as a vice-president by Max Lipman, seconded by John Hanford and duly elected unanimously.

Robert Hanbury as treasurer, Jim Rousou as honorary auditor, Roger Worthington as secretary and the following as executive committee members were all elected

unanimously following proposal by Spencer Norton and seconding by Martin Maund.

8. AOB

Tony Harding advised that the Lee memorial bench was being well used, although also frequented by druggies at certain times.

The formal meeting closed at 8:30pm

Following refreshments the film “Operation Royal Wedding” was presented by Wayne Wedgbury (RBWM Event Manager). Afterwards he and Julie White (RBWM Visitor Manager) took questions. Wayne and Julie were thanked by Nigel Smales for this enthralling behind the scenes look to strong audience applause.

Signed.....

HTS Year End Report 2017-2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	1,998.00	1,530.10
Village Green Party surplus	611.77	983.39
Easter Egg Hunt	180.32	200.68
Other Income	18.40	
Bank Interest	2.54	
Total Income	2,811.03	2,714.17
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Newsletter & Flyer	733.00	610.00
War Memorial Donation	250.00	
Insurance	204.00	259.92
Wreath	18.00	15.00
Village Hall Hire	33.75	27.00
Web Site	103.00	
Tripod Projector	162.00	
Sundry	96.64	
Total Expenditure	1,600.39	911.92
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	1,210.64	1,802.25
War Memorial Fund	510.00	
Balance Brough Forward	4,897.80	
<u>Balance Carried Forward</u>	<u>6,618.44</u>	
Represented By:		
Current Account	5,576.14	
Premium Account	1,042.30	
<u>Total Bank Balances</u>	<u>6,618.44</u>	