

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting Upper Bumbles Monday 16th September 2019 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Robert Hanbury
Andrew Findlay
Jacqueline Turner
Rupert Sellers

Roger Worthington
Nigel Smales
Jonathan Specktor
Louise Symons
Robert Harrap

Apologies:

Charlie Greeves

1) ATTENDANCE

As above

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the May meeting were agreed and signed.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances are £6235.92 and £483.02. Robert Hanbury questioned the need / purpose of the agreed additional date field for the database. Nigel was insistent that it was needed to manage cash collections. Robert agreed to implement. Nigel stated that he was no longer prepared to do any cash collection chasing. He also proposed that the HTS constitution should be amended to make it clear that, whatever date they pay them, members' subs are for the year between one AGM and the next. Jacqueline agreed to take the Buffins collection / distribution from Nigel and Jonathan agreed to take Ellington Road from Roger's patch.

4) NEWSLETTER

Target for copy is the end of September. There are some scheduling problems as Nigel is away for part of October and Andrew is in Bulgaria. Looking at a worst case of 11th November for delivery. Has to be before 15th November for 3 weeks notice for the AGM. Changes and events relating to the draft Local Plan are unknown so may need revision till the last moment, Roger will supply Nigel with base material on this area. It is intended that the cover will be a picture of all past covers to celebrate our 60th.

5) PLANNING.

Weir car park

Following earlier concerns about potential loss of the weir car park, Nigel, Eva and myself met with the Environment Agency. The situation arises from the EA's intention to install a gantry across the weir for better maintenance access. This will involve a footing in the car park and it is not clear how much space is required. The present application for fencing does not involve loss of the car park. When they are ready (a year or more?) to do this it will be the subject of a formal planning application with the opportunity to object at that stage if needed.

Hermitage

The change of use application for 10 flats in the existing building only contains a traffic statement. Intention is obviously to get this approved before a full application for development of the site. Roger worked closely with Martin Maund on developing an objection, using Peter Edwards as a planning lawyer. The EA has objected on flood zone grounds, there are some questions as to the validity of the application as the top floor is excluded from the change of use. The traffic figure are also questioned.

Stonecrop 3 Saxon Gardens

The application to demolish the existing house and replace was approved by officers but went to committee due to the large number of objections received, although these were primarily based around

the new access onto Rectory Road (already approved). Committee rejected the application on Green Belt grounds and increased size. The applicant is coming back with revised building plans.

Trees on the Green

St Nicolas School has applied to cut down trees bordering the school on the edge of the Green. This is to replace the school fence that is buried in the trees. The trees are actually on the Green so are in the care of the Parish Council. TPC has objected over visual loss and damage within the Conservation Area. As they own the trees they can probably refuse to cut them anyway. HTS should object to seek a better solution.

Sheds on a field at the top of Hill Farm Road.

These sheds were erected over a year ago. They have been advised that planning permission is required but have not applied. The matter has gone to SBDC Enforcement.

Local Plan

HTS committee worked closely with EDRA and TPC to submit objections to the Plan during the consultation period. The objections were formally submitted in the name of TPC as the authorising body for the Neighbourhood Plan for Taplow. HTS submitted an objection that formally associated us with the full TPC submission.

The Plan is very shallow, saying little beyond NPPF requirements except for the Green Belt removals (consulted on), the housing numbers and the Green Belt removals (not consulted on). The Plan is very late against the original schedule (started in 2014) as the government made major changes to the NPPF that invalidated most of the work done to that date. The current Local Plan is considered out of date which makes it much easier for developers to force through their applications. This is of particular concern to SBDC as Slough Unitary wants to make a major housing development around Stoke Poges. The Evidence Base for the Plan contains an Infrastructure Development Plan (IDSP) showing works that need doing to support the Plan. In particular it includes a widening of the A4 at the Slough end and the two eastbound lanes and banning of right turns at Berry Hill. This in particular was withdrawn during the Cycleway consultations. Mark Shaw advised us that all IDSP items would have separate consultations before approval but is keeping this one in “to allow for an assessment of developing cycling patterns”. As the cycleway as actually now constructed is significantly narrower than required by national standards, any real growth must be pretty unlikely.

A parallel consultation to the Local Plan covered the proposed introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL). We did not respond to this.

Unitary Council for Bucks

The intention is to introduce Community Boards, broadly similar to the existing LAFs but with broader remit. There is a consultation on how many boards there should be, who should sit on them and what powers they might have. HTS will respond by end September.

6) VGP

Rupert confirmed he had spoken to the band with the date and would confirm the caller with them also.

7) WW2 WAR MEMORIAL

We have a quotation from Adrian Powell for £1680 to add the WW2 names to the Taplow memorial and we also have approval from the church council. It was agreed that that HTS would fund this directly if needed. As TPC had earlier opposed the proposal Roger would approach TPC again to seek support, although their consent is not formally required. Members would then be circulated for approval.

8) FRED RUSSELL AT 90

A card was signed from committee members that Eva would present to Fred. Eva explained that a presentation book had been developed containing all Fred's articles, editorials and front covers from his time as editor of 29 issues of the newsletter. She would present this to Fred on behalf of the Society in appreciation of his contributions over many years. It was agreed that HTS would contribute £100 towards the cost of 6 copies of the book @£32, with the remainder supplied by those committee members who knew Fred. Plus a personal copy for Eva. Thanks were expressed to Andrew for his rapid and skilled production of the book content.

9) AGM SPEAKER

No speaker has yet been found. It was suggested that Taplow Court might consider a talk. Roger would look at RTA and EA fisheries as possibilities and Andrew suggested something around the engineering history of the Brunel Bridge. Any progress should be circulated quickly.

10) AOB

Lincoln Lee bench in the OPG

Robert Hanbury raised the question of its maintenance. He had oiled it himself recently. Louise thought this had stabilised it but it was agreed that it should oiled annually by HTS.

Meeting closed at 10:00pm. Next HTS Meeting: 21st October 8pm Upper Bumbles

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