

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting Larkspur Mill Lane Monday 16th January 2023 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Jacqueline Turner
Rupert Sellers
Mike Turner

Roger Worthington
Robert Hanbury
Charlie Greeves
Andrew Findlay

Apologies:

Jonathan Specktor
Cat Howard

1) ATTENDANCE

As above.

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 2022 minutes were agreed and signed

3) MATTERS ARISING

Nothing not covered in the agenda.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike confirmed balances as: £8683.81 and £484.63. Roger confirmed that Paul Holt had been paid directly by him and he would now claim this £50. Robert and Mike had met to organise handover. Applications to Barclays are ongoing for mandate changes. Expected to leave Roger, Eva, Rupert, Robert, Myra and Mike as authorised but this would then be culled down somewhat.

5) REVIEW

Some packages had been identified – Pandle by Andrew and Freeagent by Rupert but no detailed evaluations as yet. Community Package costing around £14pm are around which should not be too expensive. There are free open source packages. Mike has an accounting package that he thinks should be suitable. He also has a Barclays app but suspects this might not work. Automation of email maintenance is high on the list and an update for Wordpress is due. (Note that Andrew will not be at the February meeting.

6) NEWSLETTER

Roger advised that it is likely that he will have an ankle operation shortly which will take him out of action for some weeks, with a serious threat to the production of a spring newsletter. Suggestions for articles included: Ukraine, National Trust, The EA Jubilee Gantry, Coronation, Pub opening?

7) PLANNING

It was noted that Elibank House had applied to build a basement which might impact springwater flows. An extension application at Acacias in Ellington Road might exacerbate parking problems. A further application had come from Old Stocks Ellington Road where there have been ongoing concerns over neighbour privacy.

8) MISSING FOOTBRIDGE

There is concern that the Jubilee footbridge might not make it into BUA budgets due to financial pressures. A draft letter to the BUA was circulated with a suggestion that signatures from TPC and Cliveden Ward councillors should be solicited. (Attached).

9) EASTER EGG HUNT

After discussion it was decided not to take this any further.

10) CELTIC CROSS

Funding the required £2700 required was discussed. It was agreed that HTS could contribute at least the remaining Lincoln Lee monies (£484.63). Roger would solicit TPC and possibly the Community Board.

11) AOB

No items raised.

Next meeting: Monday 20th February 8pm Larkspur.

SIGNED:.....

Draft letter re Jubilee Footbridge funding

Who to?? BUA cc Maidenhead Advertiser?

We write to raise our concerns over the delays in the restoration of the footbridge across the Jubilee River at Taplow that collapsed in summer 2021. The Parish Council, ourselves and other local bodies were advised that a new bridge would be installed by end of 2022 and these assurances continued into autumn 2022 before we were abruptly advised that there was no money to fund the construction.

The missing footpath is of great importance to walkers in the area, providing means of circular walks as well as longer distance hikes. The bridge was built in the first place by the Environment Agency as their construction of the Jubilee River would otherwise have broken this public footpath.

We are aware that council finances are under great pressures currently for many understandable reasons but believe that early restoration of the bridge would be a public good, contributing greatly to health and wellbeing.

We urge that funding for the restoration is included in 2023/24 budgets. We comment that you might well approach the Environment Agency, as it should be expected that the bridge would have lasted considerably in excess of its short 20 year life.

Eva Lipman President HTS

Target signatures:

Joy Morrissey	MP Beaconsfield Constituency
Jamie Barnard	Chairman Taplow Parish Council
George Sandy	Cliveden Ward Councillor
Kirsten Ashman	Cliveden Ward Councillor
Paul Kelly	Cliveden Ward Councillor
Martin Knight	Bridge Architects
Dawn Davies	Ramblers Association
??	Maidenhead Ramblers ??