

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting – VGP wrap-up Larkspur House, Mill Lane Monday 24th June 2025 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present:

Mike Turner
Jacqueline Turner
Rupert Sellers
Andrew Findlay
Jane Curry

Apologies:

Charlie Greeves
Cat Howard
Roger Worthington

This was a limited, single-item agenda meeting to wrap up the Village Green Party (VGP).

1) Village Green Party (VGP) 2025

- a) Attendance
 - i) Pre-sales = 268; On the night = 68; Total = 336 (317 last year).
 - ii) We got a few out-of-towners that had seen the posters.
- b) Income:
 - i) Pre-sales = £1854; On the night = £609 (card) + £185 (cash). Grand total £2648.
- c) Meat & vegetarian / vegan alternative
 - i) AF ordered meat from A&B Butchers (now Tom Hixson Butchers). 55-60Kg top bit ordered (53Kg last year). On Wednesday we were told it was 44Kg! Butchers agreed to get a whole hind quarter and cut down to a top-and-rump. Got 58.6Kg at £12.30/Kg, total £720.78. Excellent selection of meat available for attendees. How consistent is the carving??? 4.5Kg meat left over so not much left for seconds. 38 second-helpings sold at £3.
 - ii) Make sure ticket desk knows that seconds are announced – M&J didn't hear the announcement.
 - iii) Thanks to Phil at Taplow Court for help getting the meat on the spit.
 - iv) Got 80 beef burgers for £127.20 – about right.
 - v) Got 150 cumberland sausages for £64.56 – about right.
 - vi) Grand total for meat - £912.54 (£265.91 more than last year). Invoice paid 25/6/2025.
 - vii) Meat costs last year were £441.95 for beef top bit, £110 for burgers and £94.68 for sausages – grand total £646.63.
 - viii) Portabello mushrooms sprinkled with cheese as veggie option; vegan option is without cheese. 48 mushrooms last year – keep the same this year. Mushrooms rather small.
- d) New oil drum barbecues worked very well, even without having air holes drilled in them. Don't keep charcoal year-to-year. Ready to cook 45 minutes after starting barbecues.
- e) Free water very well received. Had ~ 100 x 330 or 500ml.
- f) Rubbish bins intelligently used by almost everyone. . Also check removal timescale (TuT bags still around after a week)
- g) First Aid was covered but there was a feeling that no-one quite knew who was responsible or where to go if there was an issue.
- h) CH managed the rota for the day and the clear-up team. Some last-minute drop-outs but this was coped with. CH feels we do not need to particularly over-subscribe on the rota as this was a very unusual year. Toby (carver) got stuck carving – should have a few more carvers on stand-by.
- i) Band – they say they did 1986 so next year will be the 40th! Paid £750 for band & caller (£650 in 2024). If they ever decide to give up, JC & AF have lots of contacts for folk bands and callers.

- j) Raffle – Lucie from TVAP was thrilled with the success of the raffle.
- k) Dave McNulty did the electrics.
- l) Fire monitor – Nicki & Paul Jeffries provided hosepipe. Nigel Smales was fire monitor.
- m) Profit likely to be similar last year ~ £455 (££526 in 2024).
- n) 9-year boy old sketching the barbecue – can we get it in the newsletter?

2) Village Green Party (VGP) 2026 – suggestions for next year

- a) Emphasise the 40th – check this is correct. Post Meeting Update (PMU): JC has been through the newsletter archive, finding no mention of a party in 1984 or 1985 but the following in Spring 1986:

MISCELLANY

MIDSUMMER REVELRY - Society's Pic-Nic

On Saturday 21st June the Society is organising a Pic-Nic on the Taplow Village Green in aid of the Hitcham Church Appeal. We gather together from 6.30pm and the revels end at 10pm. We expect you to buy a ticket for £1 a head. You will be regaled by the Hitcham Players and there's also Barn Dancing to a caller. @There will be a bar and we hope to roast part of an ox and you can buy a slice or two.

You are asked, as a Member of the Society, to deliver to Eckart Schmitz-Peiffer a bottle(s) of something to go on our Tombola stand; please do this well in advance and ring Eckart on Maidenhead 30361 to arrange a convenient time to hand it (them?) over.

Tickets will be on sale at the Green and we hope that the event will benefit the Appeal substantially and that you will all have a good time.

- b) Up sausages from 150 to 175. Reduce burgers from 80 to 75.
 - c) Ensure wirecutters available all day and soft galvanised garden wire.
 - d) Buy 2 pairs of gauntlets as part of the cooking kit for ox handling / lifting.
 - e) Muslin cloth to cover remains of meat to prevent flies – online or John Lewis – Jacqueline will source. PMU: Jacqueline has purchased 5 meters.
 - f) Ensure all organisers know how to contact first aider. Does Taplow football club or cricket club have a first aider?
 - g) Ensure knives sharpened before event – Mike can do. See if Timsons or the cobbler in Burnham can do this.
 - h) Ask village for more volunteer carvers
 - i) Ensure tickets say “non-refundable”
 - j) Portion control: beef portions a bit small early on. Alternative meat is one burger or two sausages. Veggie / vegan is 1 mushroom optionally with one slice of mozzarella – or 2 mushrooms if small.
 - k) Order 6 x bags of ice from Majestic in advance for Igloo cooler (same quantity as 2025) and refrigerate drinks / meats early on the day.
 - l) Let band and charity partner know that they get free food (officially, as not made clear previously) and ensure they do actually get food tokens.
- 3) Payments – has AF been paid for newsletter printing? – no – AF to submit invoice. PMU: AF paid 25/6.
 - 4) Has AF been paid for posters printing? – no – AF to submit invoice. PMU: AF paid 25/6.
 - 5) Mike to initiate paying butchers – Post Meeting Update (PMU): Paid on 25/6/2025.
 - 6) Huge thanks to everyone for their efforts.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm. Next meeting 15th September, 7:30 Larkspur House.

SIGNED:.....