

HITCHAM AND TAPLOW SOCIETY

Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting Held at the Village Centre Friday 6th December 2019 at 8pm

1. **Welcome by Eva Lipman**

I would like to welcome you all to this our 60th AGM. Nice to see so many new faces as well as old familiar ones. A warm welcome to you all.

2. **Attendance and apologies for absence**

Apology received from Rupert Sellers. Attendance was 31

3. **Approval of the minutes of the 2018 AGM**

Proposed by Nigel Smales, second by Max Lipman and carried unanimously.

4. **President's address (Eva Lipman)**

This year is a milestone for your Society. It is our Diamond Jubilee. We have survived for 60 years and in this time we have evolved but never lost sight of our aim to ensure that Taplow continues to be good place in which to live. We realise we need to change with the times and to be all inclusive, welcome new residents, and stay a-political, and try to bring our community together.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the work and dedication, to not only our current members, but to those who have served your society and the community in the past. You can see a list of past Executive Officers on page 1 of your newsletter but of course our committee members should not be forgotten. I am sure that you have all read Nigel's excellent editorial which says it all.

5. **Chairman's report (Eva Lipman)**

What a year we have had. It is difficult to know where to start.

On the plus side two prominent members of our community, Fred Russell and Joy Marshall celebrated their 90th birthdays this year and Taplow owes them a great debt. Joy Marshall was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and we presented Fred Russell with a book with extracts from the 29 Newsletters which he edited. I have a copy here if anyone would like to come up and look at it during our coffee break.

To continue the positive note Taplow now has a beautiful new footbridge over the Thames connecting us to Bolter's Lock Island, designed and built by Martin Knight, and paid for by Berkeley Homes. This would not have been possible were it not for your society and many others championing it and succeeding in getting it included in the supplementary planning document it would not have happened. We are delighted that its official name is now Taplow Bridge.

Your society put on another excellent Village Green Party. This was once again enjoyed by all ages from great grandparents to babes in arms. It was yet again a great success and

could not have been laid on without a great deal of time and effort by our myriad helpers both beforehand and on the day as well as the clearing up on the day after. We have to thank Rupert Sellers and Al Hill for co-ordinating and supervising it this year.

Unfortunately some of our trestles and hundred year old tables were beyond repair but Andrew Findley stepped up to the mark and made us some brilliant new ones which we hope will last for the next hundred years or so. Thank you so much Andrew. The Society has decided that we would make them available to the community for free.

We had another successful Easter Egg hunt once again organised and put on by Charlie and Toby Greeves in their and Sheila's beautiful garden.

Once again Nigel Smales has done an excellent job editing and putting together two first class newsletters this year. He has done a wonderful job. I do not think you all realise the enormous amount of work this entails, from twisting peoples' arms to produce articles, to writing some himself, to taking and procuring photographs etc. thank you Nigel. Andrew Findlay has also played an important part in the production of your newsletters. He lays them out and deals with the printing side of things. Many thanks to you too Andrew.

We maintain our website which is full of local information and the comments we make on planning applications and hope that you find our occasional emails of interest.

For many years now we have held our committee meetings courtesy of Taplow House Hotel. This has come to an end with their plans to upgrade their facilities entailing loss of their committee room. We offer them a very sincere thank you for their support.

Now to a few of the negatives

We have had our fair share of disruption over the past year in the construction of the new cycleway along the A4 which you cannot fail to have noticed. We have managed to prevent the no right turn into Berry Hill from the Bath Road but although the idea has been shelved for the time being it has not gone away completely. The ludicrous suggestion from Transport for Bucks was that we could use the right turn up Station Road instead. (I have sent them photos of the floods there under the low railway bridge).

Heathrow Expansion is on the cards and we are keen to do our best to make sure that we do not suffer from increased noise levels and keep them as low as possible. We are being NIMBYish here.

As you know we comment on Local Authority documents and most of the burden of doing so has fallen upon Roger Worthington and Nigel Smales. It has been particularly onerous this year because of the proposed change to a Unitary Authority cutting out the District Level. We do not yet know all the details but both we and your Parish Council have been commenting. We are of course singing from the same hymn sheet.

We are very concerned that localism will be paid lip service and that the proposed Local Plan which will govern our Authority's decisions for many years to come is weighted in favour of developers. Be assured we are doing our level best to find ways of ameliorating

what could be a bad situation. Your Society played a major role in writing the Taplow submissions to the consultation on this plan. The submission was a combined effort of Taplow Parish Council, ourselves and the Ellington and District Residents Association.

We have commented on planning applications throughout the year. We try not to make all our comments negative so if we particularly support an application we will say so. Hopefully it makes a difference. We see that SBDC has approved the development of the pub on Mill Lane when the BH sales office goes but are disappointed that they have been dithering for so long over the fate of the Old Boathouse site and the rapidly shrinking “marina” next door.

Our Treasurer Robert Hanbury has done a great job in producing figures and keeping track of our membership – no small task. Thank you Bob. And not only thank you for that but for maintaining and oiling the Lincoln Memorial Bench in Old Priory Gardens.

Our Honorary Auditor Jim Rousseau has verified that all is accurate, ship shape and Bristol fashion and I would like to thank him too.

Unfortunately Louise Symons is standing down after many years on the committee. She will be remaining on the Parish Council and taking on new Charity responsibilities. We would all like to thank her for her contributions to your society. Thank you very much Louise.

I have left to last my heartfelt thanks to your indefatigable and efficient Secretary Roger Worthington without whom the Committee could not possibly run as smoothly and function as well as it does. He takes an enormous amount of work upon himself for which I, and I am sure all of us, are very grateful. Thank you Roger.

6. Treasurer’s report (Robert Hanbury)

The figures published on the rear of the agenda notice were reviewed. Advice from our internal auditor has improved the presentation and ordering of the information to good effect. The Village Green Party, with its large sums involved and cash payments on the day, is presented separately.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by George Sandy, seconded by Nigel Smales and carried unanimously.

7. Elections

Re-election of Eva Lipman was proposed by Nigel Smales, seconded by John Twydle and carried unanimously.

A block re-election of Roger Worthington as secretary, Robert Hanbury as treasurer, Andrew Findlay, Charlotte Greeves, Robert Harrap, Rupert Sellers, Nigel Smales, Jonathan Specktor and Jacqueline Turner as executive committee members was proposed by George Sandy, seconded by Max Lipman and carried unanimously.

8. Motion for debate

” HTS will proceed with the addition of World War II casualty names to the Village War Memorial”

Roger Worthington presented the work that has been done to develop an accurate list of names and to secure approval for the work from Taplow Parish Council and St Nicolas Parish Church Council. A quotation for the work of £1920 has been received from Adrian

Powell, who did the restoration work last year. To fit the names into the available space we can only use initials and surname rather than full names and rank but this was seen as an acceptable compromise.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. **AOB**

No items were raised. Eva thanked Jacqueline and Mike Turner for managing the refreshments, together with Charlie (cakes) and SGI for providing crockery.

Following the break, Mark Bradshaw, General Manager of the National Trust at Cliveden, gave a most excellent talk on work at Cliveden. The striking feature was the amount of restoration work that has been carried out, including the work on the south terrace, and the scale of the work still remaining. The success of the work is giving rise to problems in accommodating the ever growing numbers of visitors.

He was thanked for the presentation by Nigel Smales to audience applause.

Signed.....