

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting on ZOOM Monday 15th February 2021 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Robert Hanbury
Jacqueline Turner
Robert Harrap

Roger Worthington
Nigel Smales
Andrew Findlay
Jonathan Specktor

Apologies:

1) ATTENDANCE

As above

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 2020 minutes were agreed and signed

3) MATTERS ARISING

Due to the prolonged gap down to the pandemic most matters had resolved. The following points were noted.

Society members devoted much effort to representations on the draft SBDC/CDC Local Plan. This was withdrawn by the new Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority created in May 2020.

The Village Green Party and the Easter Egg Hunt and the Tidy Up Taplow litter day were all cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions.

The proposed monitoring of pollution on the A4 was postponed due to the low traffic densities during the pandemic.

Mike Sanderson was paid £100 in recognition of the loss associated with the cancelling of the VGP.

4) Ratification of email based decision to appoint Roger as Acting Chairman

On 14th December 2020 a motion by Eva Lipman to appoint Roger Worthington as Acting Chairman was approved by email consensus at the time. The meeting gave formal approval to this. For convenience Eva continued to chair the meeting to allow Roger to take the minutes.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances are £8388.64 and £484.12. There is only a small list of outstanding subscriptions due.

6) NEWSLETTER

Contents will include obituaries for Dick Nutt and Pamela Bentley and GP Mr Daly.

A note on the origins of the name Rutland Road on the Mill Lane site

Article on the Taplow Conservation Areas

A proposal to interview all the Taplow related councillors standing in the May elections to our Unitary Authority. Questions would be focussed on Taplow specific concerns. Committee members asked to mull over this. Queries were raised as to whether any meaningful replies could be expected.

Copy deadline is end March. Issue to be 16 pages.

7) PLANNING.

Applications

Challen's Chick Farm. The refused application for a quail barn was allowed on appeal. The current application for a permanent house to replace the temporary caravan was refused as not having established exceptional circumstance.

The Old Boat House (Mill Lane) has finally received approval although the condition that the Old Boat House itself must be preserved and raised above flood level will cause problems.

Little Karoo Farm. The original unlawful buildings have been removed but permission has now been given for field shelters and a shed. A dispute over the true size of the site has gone to a formal complaint procedure.

5 Ellington Gardens approval lapsed after three years and an extension refused. There is now a new application for a larger house on a slightly reduced plot size. Local residents are verging on approval for this with some concern for Flood Risk implications for other properties in the immediate area (aka The Hermitage).

Cornerways River Road is an application to build a one bedroomed house in the back yard of this house, already divided into 5 flats. Roger is drafting an objection.

Thames Riviera Hotel has applied to update some railings and windows. Seems very good but is accompanied by an extensive irrelevant flood risk report that is full of justifications relating to change of use. Suspect that this is the real purpose of the application in preparation for another conversion application.

Consultations

Burnham Beeches A Supplementary Planning Document concerning Burnham Beeches protection. This will require development in Taplow to pass additional criteria and pay fees towards Beeches conservation.

Hollands Farm Bourne End A development here for 476 houses in the Local Plan has consulted on a Development Brief. Serious concern for the traffic generated that will spill into Taplow

Three Government consultations

Planning for the Future A total recast of English planning moving to a zoning system and removing much public involvement in planning processes. Has received extensive criticism including government members

Housing numbers A proposed lift in required numbers driven by algorithms. Proposal modified after extensive criticism

Permitted Development Rights Proposal to allow almost all high street premises to get automatic right to convert to residential. Short term knee jerk that would cause irreparable longer term damage.

8) WW2 MEMORIAL

Adrian had had to postpone his work on the memorial for medical reasons but he expects to pick this up in the spring. Roger will write to him to establish a schedule and liaise with the church (and Nigel for photos).

9) VGP? TIDY UP TAPLOW?

The ongoing pandemic makes planning very difficult.

VGP. It was decided to keep the date in mind and to consider nearer the time (early May) whether anything might be possible and viable. Suggestions include an event with no dancing and different music emphasis or a free event funded by the Society.

Tidy Up Taplow. The normal scheduling is too early for a conventional approach with tea and biscuits at the hall. Roger will explore whether an exhortation to members to do their own thing but with offers of litter pickers and black bags and disposal at the Hall Car Park might be feasible.

10) SOCIETY POSTS

Roger pointed out that the committee is getting short of resource to fulfil its needed jobs. In the absence of a chairman for some three years he has agreed to be acting chairman when needed. He is also having to carry on as secretary and is also the planning responsible person. There is also a pending need to

resource the Newsletter production as Nigel has indicated that he wishes to step down as editor. This is critical as the newsletter has been of a very high standard in recent years. It is our principal offering and is in large part responsible for the growth in membership. If existing members do not feel capable of taking on some of the roles then can we all look outside for new blood?
Jacqueline has offered to work with Roger on planning applications which will be most helpful and Jonathan on supporting the web site, which has been languishing for some time.

11) AOB

The Marlow and Maidenhead Passenger Association has advised that TfL are looking to install gatelines at Taplow **station** which would prevent pedestrians using the footbridge when Station Road floods. Has been an accepted usage since 1872. HTS will write in protest (Roger).

Meeting closed at 9.45pm. Next committee meeting: March 15th 8pm ZOOM

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