

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting Larkspur Mill Lane Monday 20th February 2023 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Jacqueline Turner
Rupert Sellers
Mike Turner
Robert Harrap

Roger Worthington
Robert Hanbury
Charlie Greeves
Cat Howard

Apologies:

Jonathan Specktor
Andrew Findlay

1) ATTENDANCE

As above. It was realised that Graham Valentine had not been added to the committee email list so had not been aware of the meeting. Roger would update the list. Sue Thornton was welcomed as an observer with interests in community work.

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Robert Harrap had been omitted from the list of attendees. This was corrected and the minutes of the January 2023 minutes were then agreed and signed

3) MATTERS ARISING

Nothing not covered in the agenda.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike confirmed balances as: £8700.81 and £484.63. He advised that Barclays had started a round of money laundering checks and we have to supply information on both the society structure and responsible individuals. Some detailed responses were identified and both Eva and Roger agreed to provide further personal information. Roger would provide signed copies of committee and AGM meetings.

5) REVIEW

This will be kept as a permanent agenda item. Andrew is away and Mike has been occupied with resolving Barclays related issues.

6) NEWSLETTER

Rupert Sellers announced that Joy Marshall had died. As a long standing member and contributor to Taplow life there should be an obituary in the next issue.

Roger advised that it is still likely that he will be out of action at the critical time.

Further suggestions for articles included: Report on the "Carols on the Green", Opening of the Elizabeth Line, a profile of the committee, requests for any Coronation celebration pics / stories for the autumn edition.

7) PLANNING

A number of actions from Cliveden Stud were of concern. Two applications were in for creation of residential units, contrary to the covenants restricting use to equine and agricultural workers. Another application claims that as the main house was not built in accordance with its planning approvals the covenant restrictions should not apply. This has been appealed but is clearly of great concern.

Another appeal relates to Downlands Barn. This received permission to convert to residential. A second application then applied to knock it down and rebuild elsewhere on the site with other developments. This was rejected but has been appealed. There are strong local views that the original approval was

wrong as it has only ever been used for equine purposes.

The section of River Road opposite Gaiety Row is in trouble with heavy lorries damaging it. Concern is that it may collapse into the Thames. Residents are amicably looking for solutions.

8) TIDY up TAPLOW

Jacqueline said that things were organised for Sunday 26th March 11:00 – 13:00. Arrangements and equipment were looking good. She was sending a risk report to TPC clerk. Roger would book the Village Hall. Earlier contact with the Rotary Club suggests that we may have some extra visitors.

9) MISSING FOOTBRIDGE

Good news was that Steven Broadbent had responded to Eva's letter (attached) with assurances that funding would be in place and that delays had occurred due to other Environmental Agency work taking priority.

10) CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

11) CELTIC CROSS

Roger advised that TPC had offered £1,000. He is applying to the Community Board for the balance.

12) AOB

Sue Thornton confirmed her interest and was duly co-opted to the committee and welcomed by all.

Next meeting: Monday 20th March 8pm Larkspur.

SIGNED:.....

Dear Ms. Lipman,

Thank you for your letter.

I have asked the service to provide you with a formal response, which will follow in due course. At this juncture I thought it prudent to answer two salient points in succinct form.

Firstly, the timescale for replacing the bridge section has been changed from the original plan because the Environment Agency refused permission/access for the works as intended due to a conflict with other works that they were undertaking within the area. This was a frustrating development.

Secondly, whilst costs for the replacement have risen – in no small part due to inflationary pressures – capital funds have been specifically allocated to the Berryhill footbridge. This is the case in the current financial year and, as part of the overall council budget proposals that will be debated (and hopefully approved) on Wednesday this week, these funds remain in the capital programme. This is shown in the screen snippet I have pasted below from the public agenda pack for the full council meeting:

Expenditure

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's
Highways & Technical Services	Car Parks			
	Car Parks	935	300	
	Car Parks Total	935	300	
	Rights of Way			
	Berryhill Footbridge Repair	334		
	Improvements to Rights Way	135	200	
	Rights of Way Total	469	200	
	Strategic Highway Maintenance			
	Bridge Maintenance	1,020	1,020	
	Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction	2,000	2,000	

Whilst subject to Environment Agency consent, it is the intention to complete the works in the coming financial year. Naturally I would like to see this important crossing re-opened as soon as possible so the Rights of Way network across the river can be returned to use. I hope these comment reassure you of the plans for this bridge.

Kind regards,

Steven

Steven Broadbent

Cabinet Member for Transport

Councillor for Ridgeway East

Buckinghamshire Council