

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting Larkspur Mill Lane Monday 17th April 2023 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

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

Roger Worthington
Robert Hanbury
Charlie Greeves
Andrew Findlay
Graham Valentine

Apologies:

Jonathan Specktor
Cat Howard

1) ATTENDANCE

As above

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The March 2023 minutes were agreed and signed

3) MATTERS ARISING

Nothing not covered in the agenda.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike confirmed balances at 31st March as: £8817.82 and £485.23. Authorisations and signatures with Barclays are all agreed.

5) REVIEW

A Paypal account has been successfully established but linking to Barclays is yet to be tested. The next step is to investigate adding a mobile credit card module.

An application called PeoplesFunding has been suggested by Andrew as a cheaper alternative to Eventbrite for the VGP ticketing. Mike is evaluating. Due to tight timing we may stick with Eventbrite for this year.

A Membership application (MemberMojo) is being assessed. We have a FREE demo at the moment but the trial will expire early May. It was agreed to invest £75 for one year to allow us to continue with the trial without a time buffer.

Mike was thanked for the efforts and progress he has been making.

6) NEWSLETTER

The proposed front page was circulated and approved (Sunset at Cliveden).

The revised mission statement was agreed to be:

“Protecting and enhancing Hitcham, Taplow and the surrounding countryside for the local community”

It was agreed to leave the chairman post as vacant and drop the identity of the Newsletter editor.

Sue agreed to be added to the list of distributors to cover Cliveden Gages and Orkney Court.

Andrew has started on Newsletter layout. Will send to Gpex as soon as available but not clear when we will actually have the copies for distribution.

Andrew is printing A5 VGP flyers for insertion in the NL and A3 display posters. QR code will link to the web site for ticketing. Rupert and Andrew will agree wording details.

Roger is hopeful that Andrew has enough material for 16 pages. (Mike could write more on the Jubilee Weir activity if needed). Roger thanked the committee for a high level of response to produce articles.

7) PLANNING

A quiet month. There are several appeals against planning decisions in progress, all on Green Belt grounds, thought to be coming more frequent. Activity on a field adjacent to Little Karoo Farm was concerning.

8) TIDY up TAPLOW

Jacqueline reported on a successful TuT. despite rainy conditions. Turnout was from a wide geographic area and of all ages. A log of email contacts means we can re-invite next year and grow the attendance. Sack volume is not as high as it has been but this is a sign of success in keeping Taplow tidy, not a failure of collection.

9) VGP PLANNING

Ticket prices were confirmed as: Members £6, non-members £8, on the day £10 for all. Second meat servings £3.

A separate and clearly identified vegan barbeque will be bought.

The wrist bands will be discontinued.

Mike will be running the ticket desk at the event but Robert and Roger can fill him in on operational details if needed.

There were some worries last year about getting the fire really hot early enough. Requires focus from the start and ensuring the early wood burnt is of good enough state.

It was agreed to offer the raffle to the Burnham Care and Share charity. Roger would write to them.

10) AOB

Nothing raised.

Meeting closed 21:20 Next meeting: Monday 15th May 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