



Taynton Parish Council

Taynton Parish Council Meeting

May Hill Village Hall Wednesday 1st March 2023 19.30hrs

Present: Cllrs D Sillince, Jo Burston and K Marsh

In Attendance: 2 members of the public.

Public Forum – Members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence at a meeting in respect of the business on the agenda by invitation of the chair.

The Chairman welcomed the public and invited members to raise matters of interest.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Jo Badham

2. Co-opt of David Radford

Co-option of New Councillor. Proposer Cllr Sillince, seconder Cllr Smerdon. David Radford was unopposed and approved as Councillor.

3. To Approve Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January

One amendment 'Huntley' spelt incorrect. Minutes approved. Proposer Cllr Burston, seconded Cllr Marsh.

4. Members of the Council are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business set out below.

Non received.

5. Request for dispensations, Declarations of Interest, Gifts and/or Hospitality

Non received.

Chairman requested a change to the agenda to allow the May Hill Society to present a proposal for funding for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

All Councillors agreed.

6. District Councillor Report October 2022 – Feb 2023

District Councillor Julia Gooch October 2022 – Feb 2023

Since my report in September, I have attended a briefing from Kevin Stannard the deputy surveyor from Forest of Dean, Forestry England (FE) about the condition of Cannop Ponds.

FE are considering decommissioning the ponds which are reservoirs regulated by the 1975 reservoir act. instead of carrying out the repairs which they say are needed. It would cost the same amount for the repairs as decommissioning. Cannop ponds is an attractive well visited and important feature of our district and quite understandably the public are fighting to protect it.

In October I attended a webinar from LLG (Lawyers in local Government) on debate not hate – debating and disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of democracy but abuse and

intimidation crosses the line into dangerous territory. Anyone regardless of their background or political affiliation, should feel safe to become a councillor.

In November I attended virtual training organised by FoDDC presented by Unseen 'An introduction to Modern Slavery' - forced to work, controlled, restricted freedom, commodified.

The Global scale of Modern Slavery is estimated at more than 65million people. The national scale of modern slavery is estimated at over 12,000 reported annual cases. Modern Slavery in Gloucestershire is on the increase & is something we should all be aware of.

Unseen and Modern Slavery Exploitation Helpline 08000 121 700 or download the Unseen app. In December I completed Local Government Association e-learning modules in Facilitation and Conflict Resolution & Handling Intimidation

In January I attended an informative virtual planning training regarding conditions attached to planning decisions. It is my view that training is an essential part of a councillors role as there are legislative procedures and protocols which must be followed

My attendance record at meetings is 100%

I have Chaired 6 full council meetings. At the October meeting council agreed to recruit an interim CEO as Peter Williams will be retiring at the end of March 2023. Andrew Grant has been appointed and takes up his new post in April.

I was delighted that council agreed to pledge allegiance to King Charles 111 and to plant an English Oak Tree in celebration of the coronation. The coronation oak is to be planted within the grounds of the district's new hospital.

I supported motions regarding river pollution, fracking and Cannop ponds.

I was unable to support a motion to increase the bureaucracy around motor sports as I felt as did the majority that it would lead to unauthorised events being held in unsafe environments.

At the December meeting I voted against raising the number of Councillors who sit on the planning committee as the constitution was amended to take account of the reduction in district councillors made as a result of the boundary changes in 2018 (48 down to 38)

I also voted against the proposal preventing members from participating in questions/debate/vote on planning applications in their ward as we should be able to fully represent our electorate in all decision making. There are at least two significant major planning applications that cross two wards that will see four councillors excluded from the questions, debate and decision making leaving the planning committee just quorate (7members) to make a decision which affects those I represent.

I have attended five planning meetings (Development Management) where I spoke and supported the concerns of local residents on an application at Birches Lane.

I spoke in favour of a tree protection order at Newent, the 80-100 year old willow tree is a prominent feature at the entrance to the towns Co-op car park and probably formed part of the landscaping scheme when the supermarket was granted planning consent in the late 90s. The tree provides a screen between the newer & older buildings & offers shade during intense periods of heat.

7. To receive Councillor's report

8. Correspondence

- 8.1** Folly Lane Closure - It was reported that Gigaclear had laid main cables to Ganders Green and had installed a distribution cable at the Glasshouse and will be laying cables in Folly Lane.
- 8.2** Health and Well-being Presentation - There were no comments.
- 8.3** RJ Cook Trust Fund - Information had been passed to Caroline Pascoe who is looking to install a toilet in May Hill Chapel.
- 8.4** Tree Inspection - Any land containing trees that come under PC responsibility need to be identified. Any risk assessment and possible remediation would need to be undertaken by a qualified person. **Action: Parish Clerk to contact Land Registry to establish ownership of all common land and any land managed by the PC.**
- 8.5** Road Closure Signs - DS expressed concern that road closure signs were being left in place too long after work had been completed causing confusion to traffic. Severn Trent seem to be culpable in most cases. **Action: Parish Clerk to write to Highways expressing concern and seeking to limit the time before removal of signs.(and to ensure signs are not left in place when the road is open)**
- 8.6** Gift of Land on May Hill – The Council decided to decline interest in managing the parcel of land offered. **Action Jo Burston to relay this decision to the May Hill Society.**

9. Finance Reports

9.1 Financial Report

Spends January 2023 £204.47 Clerk wages

£20.00 Room Hire

£28.85 Payroll

£100 Grant for Mia (Needs to be credited from charity Acc)

Spends February

£737.87 Clerk wages and tax refund

£85.00 GAPTC Membership

Proposed spends for March

£2567 Clerk Wages

£98.63 Website

£59.84 Society of Council Clerks (Split 3 ways).

Invoice for posts?

9.2 To receive bank reconciliation 00529701

	Balance Open	Closing Balance	Money in	Money Out
January	£13,218.79	£12,965.47		£253.32
February	£12,965.47	£12,142.60		£822.87

9.4 Jo Burston and David Radford to be mandated to authorise bank payments and to act as trustees of the charities under PC management. **Action: ongoing**

10. To receive and comment on Planning Applications

PO230/32/LBC Monks Spout Cottage. Nigel Jackson informed the meeting that this was a resubmission of the application taking into consideration comments made by the planning officer on the original application. The PC had no objections to the proposal and would formalise this to the District Council in due course.

P2061/21/FUL Land at Moat Farm. The PC noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment had now been submitted. The PC noted that only 2 weeks were allowed for comments and determined that the district should be approached for an extension. Several members had adverse comments on the EIA particularly in relation to traffic management plan for both the main build and the substation. Also, it was considered that there were inaccuracies in respect of visual impact because ground topography had been ignored and that the proposed mitigations would be ineffectual for parish residents in the proximity.

Action: Parish Clerk to request extension of review period

PO0015/23/DISCON Barn 1 East of Green Croft Farm. The PC had no comments on this application. It was noted that work on the barn conversion had commenced.

P0870/22/FUL Barn 2 Conversion at Green Croft Farm. The PC noted that full permission had been granted for the conversion but that no consideration had been given to their comments on the suitability of the building and its envelope for proper conversion. **Action: David Sillince to write to the Planning officer registering dissatisfaction with this outcome.**

PO1660/22/FUL All Saints Cottage. Concerns regarding the proposed use of tarmac for the access as this will be over the public right of way. It is considered that this would be a significant urbanisation of the area when other more appropriate surfacing materials are available. Also consider that the rear glazed walkway looks contrived and is an inappropriate and unnecessary addition.

P1621/22/FUL Taynton Court Farm, Kents Green Conversion of Farm Building. **The PC had no adverse comments.**

11. Sign at Hown Hall

The request to place a sign on Hown Hall Green for the pop-up catering at the Village Hall was accepted by the PC but the responsibility for putting up and taking down the sign would not be undertaken by the PC. There were also reservations about using the phone box for storing the sign.

12. Coronation Event

David Sillince advised that there would be a Coronation Picnic at Taynton and Tibberton Village Hall on Sunday 7th May to which all residents of the village were invited.

David McDougal declared his intention to decorate Hown Hall Green and Glasshouse Green for the coronation in the fashion of the Jubilee celebration. The PC concurred.

13. Glasshouse Green

13.1 The ongoing improvements to the Green were discussed. 12 oak posts had been changed and it was suggested that there was a need for 5 more new posts to replace remaining posts in poor condition. The PC appreciated David McDougal's personal effort in achieving this and approved the procurement of the post materials.

13.2 Nigel Jackson informed the meeting that he and a number of other residents in the vicinity of the Green (the "Glasshousians") had views on the treatment of the green and were prepared to undertake grass cutting and bramble control to maintain a tidy appearance. This proposal was accepted by the PC. Decisions relating to wild flowers would be left to The Glasshousians who had experience of such in this area.

13.3 Nigel Jackson said that they were ambivalent about putting a seat on the Green but would prefer money to be spent on a notice board (currently estimated at £379) and were looking

for a contribution from the PC. The meeting considered that all commitments for “new” work on the Green should be put in abeyance until the question of land ownership is resolved.

- 13.4** Nigel Jackson also raised the issue of the Green edges being eroded by heavy vehicles turning into the Gatling and, in addition that the scalping used to surface the parking bays was in need of attention. The PC felt that this work would fall under the Highways and agreed to write to them on the subject. **Action: Parish Clerk to write to Highways Department**

14. Residual Items

14.1 The missing traffic signs on Hown Hall Green have still not been replaced by Highways despite pictures of the original signs being submitted to them. The PC decided to contact Highways Dept on this. **Action: Parish Clerk to write to Highways.**

14.2 David McDougal Presented an invoice for oak post materials. **Action clerk to pay.**

14.3 The PC seeks clarification of any duties to be undertaken by the councillors prior to the elections in May. **Action: Parish Clerk**

Meeting closed @ 21.10hrs

Signed.....

Date.....

**Chairman Cllr David Sillince
TBA**