

Hitcham and Taplow Society

Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting

Taplow Village Hall
Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 8pm

Welcome

Eva welcomed everyone to the meeting in the warmer spring weather.

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

19 members were present, plus 2 guests.

Apologies were received from: Caroline Gillies, Sue Thornton, Susan Leeson, Robert Harrap and Jonathan Spektor.

No proxies were received.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed.

Proposed by Jacqueline Turner, seconded by Andrew Findlay.

President's Address

Eva apologised for the lack of a formal report due to Max's illness over the last year. She went on to thank Roger Worthington as acting chairman and newsletter contributor, Mike Turner as Treasurer & membership guru and Rupert Sellers for coordinating the Village Green Party (the next one is Saturday June 21st). She also thanked Mike & Jacqueline Turner for their "Tidy up Taplow" efforts and for hosting committee meetings, Cat Howard for taking on editorship of the magazine and Andrew Findlay for the magazine layout and production - all articles will be gratefully received. Thanks also to Taplow Court for supplying wood for the Village Green Party and for providing cups for the AGM. Eva gave special thanks to Robert Hanbury, a past Treasurer and Vice President, who has now stepped down from the committee, as has Graham Valentine.

Chairman's Report

Delivered by Roger Worthington. See copy attached.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Delivered by Mike Turner – see copy attached.

Ann King asked why there was no Village Hall hire in these accounts; Mike replied that it was an artefact of moving the accounting dates and that next year's accounts would effectively have two such fees.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Twydale seconded by Nigel Smales, and they were approved.

Elections

Roger Worthington suggested that each of the nominations be voted for en-bloc as there no other contenders; proposed by Andrew Findlay, seconded by Jacqueline Turner. The volunteers were elected unopposed.

- President – Eva Lipman
- Chairman - Roger Worthington
- Secretary – Jane Curry
- Treasurer – Mike Turner
- Committee – Andrew Findlay, Charlotte Greeves, Robert Harrap, Cat Howard, Rupert Sellers, Jonathan Specktor, Sue Thornton and Jacqueline Turner.

AOB

Roger spoke of the process for constructing a document to respond to the Taplow New Town suggestion. It will be using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology but will be thoroughly checked by humans.

Andrew Findlay asked what is the government's input on the Taplow New Town suggestion. Roger replied that there is a formal taskforce under Sir Michael Lyons. The taskforce has been asked to make recommendations to government on the location and delivery of new towns and will deliver a final shortlist of site recommendations this summer. Roger said there had been over 100 suggestions for new towns but he had no idea how long the shortlist might be.

Nigel Smales asked what the criteria are for new towns – Roger replied that there are formal Terms of Reference published on the government website.

Peter Mole – asked about the author of the document responding to the Taplow New Town suggestion - not much known but Roger is involved in the process.

Alan Peery raised a suggestion that we should not respond to new town concerns simply by responding to bullet point terms of reference as other responses might do. Roger replied that they

were focusing on the geology & geography of Taplow which make a strong argument against a new town.

Early May is the target for the Taplow response to be submitted.

Jessie Cooper thanked Roger for his efforts.

Paul Smith asked whether the government's change in attitude to grey belt has an effect on the new town suggestion and also if being in a conservation area makes it easier to get planning permission? Roger suggested that the conservation area made very little difference to planning.

Nigel Smales pointed out that Taplow has already increased its population by 50% by using brownfield sites

Close

Formal business closed around 08:45.

Refreshments

Thank you to Charlie, Jacqueline and SGI for organising the refreshments.

Talk

“Finding Nemon:

The Extraordinary Life of Oscar Nemon, the Outsider Who Sculpted the Famous” by Lady Aurelia Young who has published a book on the life of her father.

Eva Lipman thanked Aurelia for her fascinating talk and a hearty round of applause ensued.