

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th October 2008 in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.45pm

PRESENT: Cllrs K.Lawson (Chairman), K.St Pier, B. Evans, A. Hill, D.Howson, D.Lloyd, and S.Stott.

In attendance: Mrs C.McFarlane (Clerk), and 11 members of the public.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr J. Sheridan, East Herts District Cllrs L.Haysey and M.McMullen.

Mr Rob Sage, Water Resources Manager for Three Valleys Water attended the meeting to give a presentation on the proposed borehole on land adjacent to Hertford Rd, Tewin. He explained that they are looking for a replacement for the Fulling Mill pumping station and showed the historical monitoring of the River Mimram Catchment Area. There are currently two sites undergoing trial borehole investigations.

The trial borehole has not commenced yet but if it does there will be 6 weeks of drilling from 8am until 6pm which will make the noise of a diesel engine similar to a tractor. The rig height will be 10metres but it is only temporary. Test pumping will be done on a 24 hourly basis and the site is manned. There will be a generator on site and lighting to enable the testing and monitoring to be done. A pipe to take the discharge will be run from the borehole across Hertford Road and Archers Green Road into the River Mimram at the Mill. The roads will be closed temporarily for a day in order to bury these pipes into the road.

Mr Sage has advised that if the trial borehole has any impact on the River Mimram it will result in the borehole and pumping station not going ahead.

If the test is successful the eventual result would be a green box measuring 6mx3m covering the borehole which could be screened. There would be no noise from the site because the pumps are sunk 40metres below ground.

Cllr Hill declared a personal interest as the borehole would be on land which he currently owns.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

Ten parishioners attended to express their strong objections to a proposal for three 'affordable' houses to be built on a corner of Site 8, the 'chicken field', adjacent to Godfries Close and subsequently to include the whole of Site 8 in the consideration of future housing land for Tewin.. They raised the following concerns:-

- whether any further affordable housing was necessary in the village as Seven Acres will be providing 7 affordable units,
- this would be the 'thin end of the wedge',
- the Parish Plan recently stated that the vast majority of the villagers did not want any new building in the village,
- the village boundaries have only just been redrawn in 2007 and to consider a planning request to redraw the village boundaries in 2008 makes a mockery of the process and the boundary,

51. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held 1st September 2008 were amended, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

52. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising that are not covered under other Agenda items.

53. FINANCE

Accounts for Payment - In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the schedule of payments amounting to £2504.76 was approved by the Council.

Precept – The second instalment of the precept for £8350 has been received and is held on the Business Premium account.

Budget Review/Estimate to Year End – At the year end income less expenditure is expected to result in a deficit of £4561 which exceeds the budget by £274. This will be met by funds in the current and business premium accounts and a possible £40 withdrawal from National Savings Account.

The Parish Council agreed to hold back £500 of the £2000 Contingency Fund (no payments made as yet) so a withdrawal from the National Savings Account would not be necessary and an adequate buffer can be kept in the current account.

Donation to Royal British Legion – The Parish Council agreed to make a donation of £50 towards the Remembrance wreath and thanked Cllr K St Pier for volunteering to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council.

Donation to Friends of Tewin – The Parish Council confirmed a donation of £50 for delivering the planning newsletter and the Parish Plan.

54. PLANNING

Cllr A.Hill declared a personal interest in the next item as he is a neighbour.

3/08/1027/FP/MC - Lady Walk, Queen Hoo Lane, Tewin - Various alterations and extensions - TPC No Obj

3/08/1475/FP/SD - 27 Burnham Green Road, Datchworth - Two storey front & rear extensions, loft room with rear facing dormer – TPC wish to support the decision of the Datchworth Parish Council.

3/08/1375/FP/HS - 22 Firs Walk, Tewin - Two storey rear extension, single storey side extension (existing conservatory to be demolished) - TPC No Obj

Planning Responses

3/08/01339/FP/SD - 4 Grass Warren, Tewin, Herts, AL6 0JJ - Single storey rear extension - TPC objects to this proposal because of the resulting enclosure of the neighbour's garden at 3 Grass Warren arising from the angle of the applicant's garden in relation to the neighbour's and the loss of light to 3 Grass Warren - WITHDRAWN.

3/08/0858/FP/LH – 41a Upper Green Road, Tewin – Two new 4 bed detached houses – TPC Obj on the basis of dangerous vehicle and pedestrian access, excessive traffic from the site, inadequate parking and turning points for each house, sharing a driveway with commercial traffic, over development of the plot, concerns that the contaminated garage site will be abandoned and become a dangerous eyesore- WITHDRAWN

3/08/1148/FP/SD - Little Coppice, 10 Cowpers Way, Tewin, Herts AL6 0NX - Proposal: Two storey front & single storey side extension and rebuild of existing conservatory - TPC No Obj – EHC Granted

3/08/1245/FP/HS - Builders Yard Rear of 78 Upper Green Road, Tewin - Proposal: Demolition of existing Dutch Barn and propose erection of detached dwelling- TPC NO Obj but concerns over gravel driveway causing noise disturbance to neighbours and entrance on to already busy main road as well as new entrance for 41a Upper Green Road – EHC Granted .

3/08/1411/FP/LH - 54 Upper Green, Tewin - Two storey side & single storey rear extension with new garage to rear – TPC No Obj – EHC Granted

Enforcement Issues – Nothing to report

Removal of BT Phone Box – The Parish Council has ascertained that the phone box will incur approx £75~£100pa electricity costs to run but the disconnection charge for the phone box is £365 plus vat. As expected the maintenance of the phone box would also be down to the new owner
The Parish Council has asked the parishioners/associations/committees whether they still wish to keep the phone box and Cllr Hill agreed to see if he could find a sponsor for the phone box.
The Parish Council agreed in principle to keep the box, but only if these issues could be resolved.
The deadline for adoption has been moved to 1st November 2008.

Affordable Housing Development on Site 8

Clarification of Affordable Housing Need within Tewin - Sally Smallwood, Housing Development Manager, EHC advised that information on housing needs is taken from the Housing Register and the Housing Need Survey 2004. However the need identified is not separated into parishes; but areas as defined in the Local Plan Policy HSG5 where Tewin is within the Ward of Hertford Rural South wherein there is a need identified for a total of 21 affordable units. The Parish Council agreed to send a letter of objection to EHC advising them of their strong objection to build affordable housing outside the Category 1 village boundary this proposal and to advise the Parish of this in the Parish News.

The Council also agreed that the Clerk investigate the planning implications of Rural Exception sites.
The Parish Council will consider the wider proposals for Site 8 at a future meeting.

A-Boards – The Parish Council has taken advice from Herts County Council, East Herts Council and the Open Spaces Society and agreed to advise Mr J Burton that the Parish Council will not be taking any action about the A Boards outside the Plume of Feathers and Tewin Stores, which are both on Village Green leased from HCC.

Grass Cutting - Cllr A.Hill agreed to report back at the next meeting about increasing the number of grass cuts on the village green outside the Plume of Feathers.

55. POLICY ON CO-OPTION

The Parish Council agreed to defer this item and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

56. CLERK'S WORK PROPOSAL

In accordance with the Clerk's employment contract permission must be sought for any other employment. Tewin Stores had asked the Clerk to be their book keeper for 2 hours per week however due to the additional workload involved with the Pavilion Refurbishment it is with regret that the Clerk has decided she is unable to accept this position.

57. RISK ASSESSMENT

Additional Notice Board At Upper Green – The Sports Clubs have requested a notice board for their use at Upper Green. The Parish Council agreed in principle providing Herts County Council had no objections. The Clerk agreed to get a quote for the notice board and to see if any of the village groups would be willing to make a donation towards its cost and put it into the budget for the next year.

War Memorial Restoration – Cllr K St Pier and the Clerk met with Mike Kersey on site and agreed with his conclusion that following the intensive cleaning the church wardens have been doing the Memorial looks very much better and does not need any further restoration at present.

Playground Weekly Inspections – No incidents to report. The wobbly gate post has been reported to SMP and they will repair it.

Playground RoSPA report – This report showed that all the equipment has a very low risk assessment and no remedial work needs to be done.

58 PAVILION & UPPER GREEN

Handover Meeting– Cllr B.Evans and the Clerk met with Ted Kavanagh from Tewin Cricket Club, Andy Cork from Stevenage Youth Football Club and Derek Hill from Datchworth Veterans Football Club. The Pavilion had been cleaned and Ted Kavanagh agreed to remove a pallet and gazebo frame from the back of the Pavilion. He also agreed that TPC could have the (old) dishwasher PAT tested and pass the invoice to TCC. Ted Kavanagh showed both football clubs where the water meter is located and Andy Cork agreed to research insurance to cover any liabilities re the water supply and liaise with the Cricket Club.

Pavilion Cleaner - Cllr D.Howson reported that the Cricket Club have had a very successful season and have moved up a league. They have also had an increasing number of young parishioners attending their Wednesday evening practice sessions. The Council agreed to congratulate the Cricket Club on their achievements. The Council also agreed to ascertain whether the Clubs would be willing to pay for a cleaner once a week at the Pavilion.

Playground Nets - The Council agreed to look into whether it would be possible to arrange to keep the nets up throughout the year.

59. PAVILION REFURBISHMENT

Extensive research has been undertaken into wooden and modular buildings companies. Onsite visits have been made to five sports clubhouses (Datchworth, Knebworth, Enfield Invicta, and Letchworth x2) in order to ascertain what makes up a successful clubhouse. An appointment has been made to meet a recommended build consultant in Bishops Stortford. Both Herts County Council and East Herts Council have been consulted informally about the proposal and no objections have been raised as yet particularly as it is for the benefit of the community. EHC has advised that there is no scope under the Seven Acres Section 106 agreement to allocate some funds towards the project. Funding is being investigated and we have ascertained that projects involving and encouraging youth into sport are looked upon very favourably.

60. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

Flashing Sign & Footpath – No response has been received as yet from Oliver Heald MP about whether the costs of a feasibility study for these projects could be waived.

Dangerous Modification to Property Boundaries adjacent to Orchard Road – The owner of 48 Orchard Road has been notified by Herts Highways that there is an encroachment and no response has been received to date.

61. CORRESPONDENCE

School Lane - Mr. John Austin wrote with a complaint about the dangerous state of the wooden steps on the verge outside 8 School Lane. The Council agreed to ascertain whether HCC or Riversmead were responsible.

Council Tax - EHC has written to the Parish Council advising that the Government has made it clear that it does not wish to see Council Tax increases much higher than the level of inflation.

Register of Electors - The Clerk has requested a paper copy of the Register of Electors.

The Standards Committee – They have requested nominations for 2 vacant Parish seats on the Committee. The Parish Council had no nominations.

Road Closure - On Monday 13th October 2008 Upper Green/Orchard Road will be temporarily closed from its junction with Tewin Hill up to its junction with Desborough Drive in order to repair existing telephone works

Tewin Society – A donation has been requested to finance the production of 1000 copies of “The History of Tewin by the People of Tewin” as the cost of editing, graphic design and printing will be £9000. The Clerk was asked to ascertain when the money was needed and whether the Parish Council could make a loan.

62. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Tewin Charities Trustees – Nothing to report.

Tewin Memorial Hall – Nothing to report.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) – An overhanging holly bush on FP26 was reported and the Parish Council decided to take no action at this time.

Transport – Nothing to report.

Tewin Society – Nothing to report

Tewin Website – Nothing to report.

Locality Policing – We have a new PCSO Karen Broad. During the last month there has been a burglary on Orchard Road during the morning.

Tewin Stores – Nothing further to report

63. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 11.30pm.

APPENDIX 1 – HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS September 08

Fault line: 01438 737321

District Team: 01992 526900

Assistant District Manager: Raj Goutham

Assistant Engineer: Ian Bishop

Three Valleys Water 0845-7823333 (fault/leak reporting)

Ref:	WORK IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING TO BE DONE AND REPORTED TO THE PARISH ENGINEER.	ACTION
1	Flooding at junction of Margery Lane with Churchfield Rd.	Ditch to be made bigger
2	Grass Warren – Broken birdsmouth fence – reported to EHC H/W own but not a priority as not dangerous	H/W noted
3	Bridge Reflectors in Churchfield Road – White lining & chevrons to be repainted & reflective discs/paint on bridge	H/W Noted
4	Kerbing – Two loose kerb stones on drive opposite Tewin Stores	H/W noted
5	Line Markings – Most done some missed such as School Lane	
6	Flooding - outside 12/14 Hertford Road.	
7	Plume of Feathers – Ownership of road around the green	Proved to be H/W.
8	Signs – i) Village Hall/Scout Hut Sign ii) Tewin Please Drive Carefully	H/W has put on their list.

Please be aware that Highways have a very limited budget and have to prioritise all work.