

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd March 2014 in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs K. St Pier (Chairman), A. Hill (Vice Chairman), B.Evans, D. Howson, K. Lawson, D. Lloyd, N. Moore (left the meeting at 9pm) and J. Sheridan.

In attendance: Mrs C.McFarlane (Clerk), East Herts District Cllr M. McMullen, Herts County Councillor Ken Crofton (from 8pm until 10pm) and four parishioners

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from East Herts District Councillor Linda Haysey.

124. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 3rd February 2014, copies of which have been previously circulated to Councillors, were amended and agreed as a true record by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

125. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

Mrs G Bonwick raised the following issues:

- a.** The hole appearing on Lower Green. The Parish Council advised that they are waiting for the broken pipe connecting the road gully network to be exposed and then Highways will be asked to repair it. Refer Paragraph 128 Highways
- b.** The plans for the muddy ditch arising on Lower Green due to vehicles overrunning the road onto the Green especially as the construction of the new house will worsen matters. The Parish Council advised of plans for a footpath are being progressed with Highways. Refer Paragraph 128 Highways.
- c.** The Ash tree in Cannons Meadow is diseased and pieces are falling off. The Parish Council were not aware of a problem with this tree and agreed to report it to East Herts Council.
- d.** 30mph Warning Sign on Hertford Road has not been replaced yet. The Parish Council advised the parishioners to contact Herts County Councillor Ken Crofton directly.

Mrs B Toms enquired what was happening to the dying fir trees on the Taylor Wimpey site adjacent to the tennis courts as she thought they were subject to a planning condition. The Parish Council advised that Taylor Wimpey has made an application to East Herts Council Arboricultural Officer for removal of the trees and replacement with shrubs and hedges and that no decision has been made as yet. Refer Paragraph 126 Planning sub section Seven Acres development update

She also enquired about the removal of fir trees on the boundary of land to the rear of Seven acres and the tennis courts. The Parish Council advised that Mr Loughrey plans to build a two meter high brick wall. Mrs Toms asked that it be checked he was building in the correct position because of an historic boundary dispute. The Parish Council agreed to look at the site.

126. PLANNING

Planning Applications Received

3/14/0134/FP - 6, The Hazels, Tewin - Single storey side extension – TPC No Comment.

3/14/0166/FP – Muspatts Farm, Tewin - Remove two existing Velux window units and replace them with a new dormer window – TPC No Comment

3/14/0196/FO - Rear of 2, Hertford Road, Tewin - Modification of condition 5 (vehicle turning space) - 3/13/0747/FP – TPC No Comment.

3/14/0227/FP - Tall Timbers, Tewin Close, Tewin - Single storey rear and front extensions, internal and external alterations included – TPC No Comment

3/14/0233/FP - Tall Timbers, Tewin Close, Tewin - Proposed extension & conversion of existing garage to form 1 bedroom annexe – TPC No Comment.

3/14/0239/FP - 11, Bishops Road, Tewin - Erection of two storey side and rear extension, with associated demolition – TPC No objection but still wish to support the neighbour in her concerns about surface water runoff being illegally piped onto her land.

3/14/0261/FP - Robins, Tewin Close, Tewin - Garage conversion to habitable room, insertion of additional fenestration to existing dwelling- TPC No Comment.

3/13/1655/FP – Kingsbridge, Hertford Road, Tewin – Change of use of former farm shop and land associated with Tewin Fish Farm to ancillary residential accommodation and an extended residential curtilage to Kingsbridge (retrospective) – TPC No Comment.

Certificates of Lawfulness

3/14/0276/CL - Gallaway, Tewin Close, Tewin - Proposed single storey Artists studio/gym.

3/14/0293/CL - 42, Firs Walk, Tewin - Single storey rear and flank extension and extension to existing rear facing dormer to existing detached chalet bungalow.

Planning Decisions

3/13/2096/CL – Land Rear of Sevenacres - The application for a certificate of lawfulness for existing agricultural use of the building. The applicant has provided sufficient corroboratory evidence to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the primary use of the buildings has been for agricultural purposes since they were constructed. The use of the buildings for agricultural purposes is therefore lawful in accordance with Section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Enforcement Issues – EHC Enforcement will be visiting the Sevenacres site this week.

Seven Acres Development Update

Flooding: – Surface water runoff continues to cause flooding on the site as well as running into the back garden of 43 Upper Green Road. Taylor Wimpey has installed a pump but this has broken and water has loosened the roots of a tree in the garden so that it is now leaning.

On 18th February Cllr Keith St Pier and the Clerk met with East Herts District Councillor Linda Haysey and Andrew Stevenson, East Herts Council, Community Safety and Health Services, Environment and Engineering, about the flooding at Sevenacres and on Upper Green road.

Andrew Stevenson confirmed that he has been in communication with Taylor Wimpey about the flooding and is awaiting a response. He was reminded about the sewage flooding on the site and he advised that the owner should contact Thames Water about ensuring that it would not happen again.

With regard to Upper Green Road he hopes to have a survey crew to complete an onsite check of how the various gulleys are connected, and possibly unblock them, so that they could be surveyed.

East Herts District Councillor Linda Haysey confirmed that the Enforcement team will visit the site and that Riversmead are now involved.

Trees: - Taylor Wimpey has submitted an application to East Herts Council to remove the trees bordering the tennis courts and replace them with shrub and hedging and for the removal of a Scots pine. Malcolm Amey, East Herts Council Arboriculturalist has visited the site and is aware of the value of the screening the trees provide. The Parish Council agreed to write to East Herts Planning and Building Director Kevin Steptoe expressing their objection to the application.

Riversmead Development Update

The access road has been patched, the new road has been installed and the footings are being prepared for the bungalows.

127. FINANCE

Accounts for Payment - In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the schedule of payments amounting to £2370.27 from the Current Account were approved by the Parish Council.

Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit – This will take place on 14th March 2014 at 2.30pm.

128. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

Highways Section 106 Funded Footpaths

a. First Phase (From Godfries Close up to Upper Green) – Highways are finalising details with East Herts Council Arboriculturalist and will then carry out a public consultation with the Parish Council and local residents thereafter.

b. Second Phase (New kerbing and a footpath along the northern edge of Lower Green) – This proposal has been forwarded to the Senior Engineer Martin Sears and he has agreed to look into it.

Blocked Gulley & Ditches – On 11th February 2014 an email was sent to Damian Higgins, Highways Locality Manager, Herts County Councillor Ken Crofton and Vince Gilbert, Head of Highways raising various questions about the inadequate assessment criteria applied to blocked gulleys and whether they impede traffic flow as detailed in the Defect Management Approach Inspection Manual. The overall result of which is hazardous traffic conditions as illustrated in Tewin.

The Parish Council also suggested that the criteria for assessing a knocked down or leaning unlit sign is inadequate as it is whether it is causing an obstruction rather than whether they are essential to warn of a hazard; or they are a legal requirement ; or they were paid for by external funding.

The Parish Council has not received a response yet and will raise the questions at the Highways Locality Meeting on 1st April 2014.

Hazardous Footway outside 10 School Lane

On 18th February 2014 Raj Goutam, District Service Agent confirmed that Highways are aware of the problem and will be looking to do further investigations and follow this up with a design to do remedial works. This will only be done in the next financial year as Highways are fully committed on their current CAT 2 budgets for this year.

Godfries Close Access Road- The Senior Technical Surveyor from Riversmead will be visiting the site on the 4th March 2014.

Highways Locality Meeting – This is to be held on 1st April 2014 from 7pm until 9pm at East Herts District Chamber.

129. PAVILION AND UPPER GREEN

Pavilion Storage Cupboard – Cllr K St Pier proposed to accept a quote for £1,780 to construct, plaster and decorate a new storage cupboard in the main room of the Pavilion, re locate existing heater, replace another heater, re locate the break glass box and install a large shelf in the existing store room. Cllr Kristina Lawson seconded the proposal and the vote was carried with seven votes for the proposal and one abstention.

Playground Inspection – Nothing to report.

130. BROADBAND

Herts County Council has submitted a bid for funding from the central government “Rural Communities Broadband Fund (“RCBF”) to upgrade the Bulls Green exchange, which covers Datchworth and Tewin Wood.

The Parish Council provided a letter of support for the bid and sent a flyer to every household in Tewin Wood asking them to register their interest on the Connected Counties website and also to ask local businesses to provide details of the negative impact of current low broadband speeds on their business and how fibre optic broadband would improve their business. All responses were forwarded with the bid.

The flyers have resulted in registrations tripling to over 35%, and they are still continuing to rise.

131. RISK ASSESSMENT

Tree Works – These have not been completed yet and Cllr A.Hill agreed to contact Ashley Trees about the completion of the works.

132. GRASS CUTTING

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the three year grass cutting quote supplied by Kirkham Contracting.

133. RIGHTS OF WAY

Back Lane – A quote is awaited for the works to the BOAT beyond The Old Hay Barn.

Back Lane – Tom Goldsmith advised that Mr T Kavanagh agreed to fill the holes as soon as conditions were suitable and then to meet Tom Goldsmith again in the summer. Since then Mr Williams has put a temporary layer of type 1 down.

Upper Green – Some residents were concerned about the hedges and overhanging branches being trimmed back along the line of the track at the top of Upper Green.

Godfries Close - Complaints have been received about the number of large potholes in the access road behind 14-44 Upper Green Road. Riversmead Housing Association has been contacted and agreed to carry out an inspection on Tuesday 4th March 2014.

Hole on Lower Green – A small hole is opening up on the south side of Lower Green. It has been cordoned off as the Parish Council are waiting for the broken pipe connecting the road gully network to be exposed again so that it can be reported to Highways for repair. The Parish Council agreed to improve the barriers and write to Herts County Councillor Ken Crofton as well as John Hunt, Herts County Council Rural Estates Manager.

134. CORRESPONDENCE

District Plan Public consultation – The draft East Herts District Plan has been received. A public presentation by East Herts Council has been arranged for Monday 7th April 2014 at 7pm at Tewin Memorial Hall with plans available for viewing from 6pm.

The deadline for responses to the public consultation is 5pm on Thursday 22nd May 2014.

A newsletter and a fact sheet will be delivered to every household from East Herts Council.

East Herts Draft District Local Plan Meeting – This meeting for Councillors only is on Tuesday 4th March 2014 at Datchworth Village Hall at 8pm.

Land to the Rear of Upper Green – A parishioner asked if a tree preservation order could be put on the land. The Parish Council confirmed that the land is already covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

Taylor Wimpey Conifers – A parishioner enquired about the fir trees on the Taylor Wimpey site, the brick wall at the rear of the tennis courts and the speed of traffic along the track. The Parish Council agreed to respond as per Parishioners Comments above and agreed to notify Mr Loughrey who has a right of way across the track.

Dog Fouling – Complaints of dog fouling in Grass Warren and Cannons Meadow have been received. New signs have been put on the paths and a sign placed on the litter bin saying that dog waste can be put in there. Leaflets have also been received and delivery will be arranged in due course.

134. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Transport – The Passenger Transport Unit confirmed that they will be completing an inspection this week of the road between Harwood Close and Godfries Close to ascertain whether it is safe to extend the “Hail and Ride” system along that stretch for the 388 bus.

Website – Next meeting on 4th March 2014

Policing – Nothing to report.

Memorial Hall – Nothing to report

135. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 14th April 2014 at Tewin Memorial Hall followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.45pm.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS February 2014

Fault line: 0300 123 40 47

Affinity Water 0845-7823333 (fault/leak reporting)

Ref:	PROBLEM.	DATE RAISED	COMMENTS
1	Reinstatement of Kerbing along northern edge of Lower Green	2013	Highways/Section 106
2	Bridge Reflectors in Churchfield Road (nr B1000) – White lining & chevrons to be repainted & reflective discs/paint on bridge	2012	Reported on highway fault website
3	Line Markings – Missing on School Lane	2012	Reported on Highway fault website
4	Hertford Road – Standing water near the shop as gullies blocked	2013	Reported on Highway fault website
5	Hertford Road – Lousehole Bottom gulley blocked	2013	Reported on Highway fault website
6	Upper Green/Upper Green Road/Orchard Road – Gullies blocked	2013	Reported on Highway fault website
7	Signs - Hollybushes- Directional Tewin sign missing - Hertford Road - 30mph Repeater missing - Lower Green – Directions on finger post missing	2013	Reported on Highway fault website