

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th October 2015 in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs K.St Pier (Chairman), A Hill (Vice Chairman), B.Evans, K. Lawson, D.Howson, N.Moore and J. Sheridan.

In attendance: Mrs C.McFarlane (Clerk).

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs D. Lloyd, East Herts District Cllr M.McMullen and East Herts Councillor Linda Haysey .

NO PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

56. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 7th September 2015, copies of which have been previously circulated to Councillors. The Parish Council confirmed the minutes as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

57. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

58. PLANNING

Planning Applications Received

3/15/1832/ADV - 57 Upper Green Plume of Feathers - 2 No free standing car park signs (non illuminated) - *TPC No Comment*

3/15/1928/HH- 29 Orchard Road, Tewin - Proposed car port - *TPC No Comment*

Certificates of Lawfulness - None

Planning Decisions

3/15/1386/FUL & 3/15/1387/LBC - **57 Upper Green (Plume of Feathers)**, Tewin - Erection of single storey dining and toilet extension. Alterations to the external patio area. Internal refurbishment - *TPC No Comment - EHC Granted*

3/15/1391/FUL - **57 Upper Green (Plume of Feathers)**, Tewin - Erection of external children's play equipment - *TPC No Comment - EHC Granted.*

3/15/1548/HH - **1 West Riding, Tewin Wood** - Single storey extension - *TPC No Comment- EHC Granted*

3/15/1563/FUL - **16 Harwood Close**, Tewin - New detached dwelling - *TPC Objects as the dwelling is not compatible with the surrounding area, does not complement the existing development pattern and does not respect the character or visual quality of the surrounding area. There are also numerous parking issues and implications. The proposal does not respect the amenity of neighbours and is detrimental to the amenities of neighbours particularly in relation to on-street car parking, being overlooked, loss of outlook and construction traffic. TPC would ask Planning to ensure that there is sufficient distance between the edge of the path and the flank wall of number 16 to accommodate the proposed development together with the required clearance on each side (which we notice is not specified on the plans). TPC note comments about the increased difficulty of access for emergency vehicles and the suggestion of obtaining the comments of a fire officer. TPC note the low quality of the application, with a number of mistakes, omissions and lack of detail - EHC Refused*

3/15/1639/ADV - **The Rose And Crown**, Tewin - 1no set of painted letters, 4no flood lights - *TPC queries the need for yet more signing and lighting on the Rose & Crown which is in the Conservation Area. TPC are happy with the style of the proposed new sign however its position is not very accessible for future maintenance purposes. TPC are concerned that the four 30W LED floodlights on the front facade will be too bright, and that they will cause a nuisance to neighbours and passing cars if not adjusted properly as has already happened on their car park sign.*

It is not clear whether the floodlights are meant to be pointing downwards and inwards or outwards but if the latter then it would create an area of illumination that is out of keeping with the Conservation area. The front illumination of the building by the existing ground based floodlights seem adequate for a building in the Conservation Area and no indication is given as to whether these would be removed or retained if the new floodlights are permitted.TPC are concerned that if the resulting illumination is wrong for the Conservation Area, there will be no way to get it remedied. All the lettering and lighting on the outside of a pub is effectively an advert for the pub, and should therefore be covered by BH15 (b) "shall preferably be non-illuminated. Where illumination is proposed as necessary it should be discreet in size and of a minimum level"- EHC Granted

Appeals

3/15/0396/FUL - **West of 64 Orchard Road, Tewin** - Erection of a new agricultural building on agricultural land. - *TPC No Comment - EHC Refused by reason of its site and siting in an isolated position which is unnecessarily intrusive and detrimental to the openness of the rural landscape and the appearance of the surrounding green belt.*

Other

Riversmead Development Update - The manhole cover is rocking and the tarmac has sunk so the Parish Council agreed to contact Riversmead.

Rivergate Homes - TPC raised concerns with EHC about reinstating conservation grade kerbing instead of the concrete kerbing on the boundary of the property, lack of hedge and front fence and the gravel spilling onto the road. Planning and Enforcement visited the site and advised that it is not expedient to take any action. The Parish Council agreed to write to Kevin Steptoe, Head of Development Control about their overall concerns about lack of consultation about amendments to planning decisions throughout the Parish.

EHAPTC Meeting - Cllr K St Pier attended the meeting on 15th September and circulated a report.

Village Hierarchy Study 2015 - The Planning Policy Team have removed 1 point as Tewin does not have a Saturday bus service and 3 points for the scout hut as it is not a community facility and has already been included under the Memorial Hall. The score for Tewin is now at 41.

59. FINANCE

Accounts for Payment - In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the schedule of payments approved by the Parish Council from the Current Account since 7th September 2015 amounted to £1,186.81.

VAT Reclaim - This has been submitted.

Precept - On 25th September 2015 the second half of the precept amounting to £14,250 was paid to Tewin Parish Council by East Herts Council.

Income versus Expenditure - Income is over budget due to New Homes Bonus of £12,073 received, a £3,017 donation from Tewin Cricket Club towards a new shed and a bench, a PPP grant of £1,000 received and a £300 donation from Tewin Tennis Club for screening.

Expenditure will be over budget at the yearend due to:

- a) the £6,056 cost of new tennis court fencing and screening which was financed by the remaining £2,224 of the £6,000 Taylor Wimpey donation (£3,776 spent on disabled car park spaces) and £3,314 from the NHB.
- b) The £2,500 cost of a new shed to the rear of the Pavilion.
- c) The £1,875 cost of two new benches and 3 new litter bins financed by the New Homes Bonus.
- d) The £941 cost of Lower Green cobbling works which were committed to in the previous financial year from the General R&M budget

There is no major expenditure that has been committed to although quotes are currently being obtained for remedial works on the kerbing on Lower Green.

Since August 2012 we have received £26,692 in New Homes Bonus of which £4,430 was spent on drainage works, £3,314 on tennis court fencing and £2,000 on new benches & bins. The remaining New Homes Bonus is £16,948.

60. HIGHWAYS

New District Service Agent - James Vine has replaced Raj Goutham as DSA agent for the Tewin area.

Footpath Works - These works have commenced and the footpath from Upper Green down to 43 Upper Green Road has been completed.

Lower Green Kerbing - Three quotes for replacing the kerbing along the northern edge of Lower Green have been requested and the Parish Council agreed to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

61. NEW BUS SERVICE

Several letters of complaint have been received about the new bus service with problems being, no service displayed on the bus, unclear which bus stand the bus will be at Welwyn Garden City, lack of room for people and their shopping resulting in standing room only and recently the 11.35 bus not turning up at all. The Parish Council agreed to forward the letters and various issues to Herts County Council.

62. PAVILION AND UPPER GREEN

Playground - No incidents to report.

Annual Playground Inspection - The remedial works at the playground gate have been completed and various exposed fixing pins have been removed from the matting.

Tennis Court Fencing - Steelway Fencesecure have completed the touch up works. The screening has been put up on one side of the tennis courts but the Tennis Club are reviewing the colour of the other screening.

Replacement Bench - The Parish Council agreed to purchase a replacement bench for May Pond Green at a cost of approx £520 plus vat.

Pavilion Extension Proposal – Tewin Cricket Club provided some outline drawings for a proposed extension to the Pavilion. The Parish Council were receptive to the proposal but had some reservations about the roof design and asked if it was possible to make it more symmetrical with the kitchen extension. The Parish Council anticipated seeing some plans rather than just the exterior picture.

63. LOWER GREEN & SURROUNDING AREAS

Litter Bin in Grass Warren - East Herts Council Operations Department have confirmed everything is in place to empty the new litter bin to be installed in Grass Warren. Kirkham Contracting has been advised and will install the new litter bin.

Parking on Lower Green - The Parish Council agreed to write to Tewin Cowper School and ask them to remind new parents about the travel plan and the perils of letting children out of the car onto the road.

64. RISK ASSESSMENT

Roger Clarke has agreed to refurbish the electricity meter cupboard door.

65. CORRESPONDENCE

Tewin Cowper School Parent's Association - They have advised that they have arranged for parking at the Bowls Club and the church for the circus event on school grounds on 11th October. They will also have Marshalls stationed on Lower Green.

Crime figures for Tewin comprise of 3 outbuilding burglaries and 1 vehicle broken into.

Tewin Hill Pothole - The Parish Council agreed to report a pothole.

Tewin Hill Tree - The Parish Council agreed to advise Malcolm Amey , Tree Officer of a potentially dangerous oak on Tewin Hill.

Queen Hoo Trees - The Parish Council agreed to verify the boundaries of the common land on Queen Hoo Lane with a view to reducing the size of two large beech trees. They agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Hertfordshire Town and Parish Councils Conference is on 5th November 2015

Plotlands - A concern has been raised about the state of disrepair of plotlands however the Parish Council agreed that there was little practical that could be done.

66. NO REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Allotments Association - There is a significant amount of neglected plots at the moment and the Allotment Association has sent letters to all the relevant allotment holders.

67. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be the at 7.45pm on Monday 2nd November 2015 at Tewin Memorial Hall. As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS September 2015

Ref:	PROBLEM.	DATE RAISED	COMMENTS
1	Reinstatement of Kerbing along northern edge of Lower Green	2013	Highways
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	Line Markings - Missing at junction opposite Rose & Crown	2015	Reported to Highways
5	Signs - Hollybushes - Directional Tewin sign missing - Lower Green - Directional finger post missing	2013	Reported on Highway fault website

