

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st October 2007 in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.45pm

PRESENT: Cllrs K.Lawson (Chairman), K.St Pier, B. Evans, A.Hill, M.Howe, D.Lloyd and S.Stott (arrived during item 59).

In attendance: Mrs C.McFarlane (Clerk)

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr D.Howson, S.Stott and East Herts Cllr M.McMullen.

55. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held 3rd September 2007 were amended, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

56. MATTERS ARISING

Millennium Orchard – The Clerk confirmed that Michael Clark is responsible for maintaining the orchard and he looks at it regularly.

Three Wind Turbines at Benington – The recent exhibition opposing the turbines was reported to have been very successful and there may be another one soon.

Flashing Speed Sign – Cllr A.Hill and B.Evans agreed to contact Bramfield and Datchworth Parish Councils respectively about the possibility of sharing the cost of a sign.

Muspatts – Some concern had been raised from parishioners about noise believed to be coming from the new Barn at Muspatts. Councillors agreed to monitor this.

Helicopter Noise – No response has been received yet to letter sent to Chief Helicopter pilot of Panshangar Aerodrome asking pilots to vary their flight patterns over Tewin.

57. FINANCE

Accounts for Payment - In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the schedule of payments amounting to £4,045.91 was approved by the Council.

Deposits totalling £10,600 were received comprising £7,850 second half of the precept, £2,250 from Tewin Cricket Club towards grass cutting and £500 donation from Friends of Tewin.

The British Telecom bill includes a quarterly charge of £4.50 for paying by cheque. The Council agreed to put a proposal on the next agenda that the bill be paid by Direct Debit in order to avoid this £18 annual charge.

Financial Regulations – Cllr K.Lawson had reviewed these against the latest model from SLCC and made some small amendments to reflect the requirement for the Council to review the effectiveness of its internal control.

The Council agreed that advice from other Parish Councils should be sought about how they are handling this in practice.

Cllr K St Pier proposed the changes be accepted and Cllr A.Hill seconded the proposal. The vote was carried unanimously.

Standing Orders – Cllr K Lawson had reviewed these against the latest model from SLCC and made some small amendments to reflect the adoption of the new Code of Conduct and Section 12(2).

The Parish Council decided that clarification is needed on prejudicial interests and in particular whether (under Section 12(2)) a Councillor with a prejudicial interest must leave the room when the Council discusses and votes on the issue, after making representations or asking questions on the topic at the start of the meeting.

Budget Review – The Parish Council acknowledged that the estimated shortfall at the year end would be approximately £1800. This deficit will be met from reserves and was approved on 5.3.07 by the Council to a maximum of £3,000.

The Council agreed that the objectives of the Council for the next year should be discussed at the next meeting. The budget for the next year will include a Contingency Fund and to show details of any committed expenditure from reserves.

Parish Plan Income & Expenditure Statement – The Parish Council acknowledged receipt of this and confirmed that £1,000 of reserves currently remains allocated for the Parish Plan.

Review of Clerk's Hours, Rate and Contract – The Chairman has asked the Clerk to put together a proposal for the next meeting detailing the financial implications.

59.PLANNING

Planning Applications Received

3/07/1665/FP/HS – 8 West Riding, Tewin – Single storey timber framed conservatory – TPC No Obj

3/07/1908/FP/SD – Yew Tree Lodge, West Riding, Tewin – Alterations to first floor en-suite and extension to ground floor porch – TPC No Obj

3/07/1786/FP/JS – 29 Upper Green Rd, Tewin – Loft Conversion with dormer windows – Cllr D.Lloyd proposed that the Council object to the proposal as it was out of character with the neighbouring properties and detrimental to the street scene. Cllr S.Stott seconded the proposal and the vote was carried with 6 votes for and 1 abstention.

3/07/1921/FP/NB – 120 Bramfield Rd, Datchworth – Remodelling of external north and east elevations. Change internal layout including hall, stairs, landing and ground floor WC and bathroom above – TPC No Obj but note two extensions to the existing footprint and cannot ascertain whether there has been an increase in the front gable roof height or the main roof height.

3/07/1915/FP/SD – 10 Cowpers Way, Tewin – Double storey side extension – TPC Obj due to cumulative nature of extensions and overshadowing of neighbouring property

3/07/1812/FP/NB – 33 Firs Walk, Tewin – Loft Conversion and porch extension – TPC No Obj

Planning Decisions Received from EHC

3/07/1665/FP/HS – 8 West Riding, Tewin – Single storey timber framed conservatory – TPC No Obj – EHC Granted

3/07/1659/FP/HS – 22 Firs Walk, Tewin – Two storey side and rear extensions, raising of main ridge, first floor front extension, new porch and extension to rear conservatory – TPC NO Obj although expressed concern at height of roof – EHC Refused

3/07/1587/FP/JS – 126 Bramfield Rd, Tewin – Single storey link extension – TPC Obj due to cumulative effect of the proposed extension – EHC Refused

3/07/1531/FP- The Old Police House, 13 School Lane, Tewin – First floor side extension, pitched roof to existing flat roof – TPC No obj – EHC Refused

3/07/1568/FP – Orchard House 47 Upper Green, Tewin – Porch to front and garage with room over – TPC No Obj – EHC Granted

3/07/1746/FP/AS – 53 Orchard Rd, Tewin – Single storey infill extension – TPC No Obj – EHC Granted

60. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

Ditch on Churchfield Rd – Mr I Williams will be digging the ditch in the near future.

Ownership of Birdsmouth Fencing at Grass Warren – Nothing to report from Highways yet.

Beware Children Signs – Highways have ordered these

Ownership of Road outside Plume – Nothing to report from Highways yet.

61. RISK ASSESSMENT WORKS

New benches for Lower Green – Cllr D.Lloyd agreed to do some research on this. A letter had also been received from Mrs Joy Lawson, indicating she would like to make a contribution towards a new bench in memory of her late husband, Alan, who was a former Chairman of the Parish Council and a Councillor from 1973-83.

62. LOWER GREEN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The electrical contractor installed the consumer unit and the sockets on the 1.10.07.

EdF will be completing their work on the 9th and 10th of October and the electricity supplier will be installing the meter on the 11th October. The electricity supply should then be complete.

63. PLAYGROUND

Litter Bin for Playground – This has been ordered from SMP in green and will be delivered in 6 to 8 weeks.

Weekly Inspections – The step has still not been mended and SMP has been called again. The socket heads have been received. The sign has slipped and Cllr B.Evans agreed to readjust it.

Removal of Nets – Cllr Hill advised that this would be done within the next week, weather permitting.

64.ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council is still awaiting a reply from the landowner regarding the request for more land for allotments.

65. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received:

May Pond Green – Mrs Wilson asked if the Parish Council would consider pruning these trees as they are getting very large and taking light from 43 Upper Green Rd. The path from the garage to Godfries also needs strimming.

Plume of Feathers – EHC Tree Officer advised that the ash tree outside the Plume of Feathers has severe base wood decay and will have to be removed

Awards For All – The grant file has now been closed but the Parish Council is required to keep information on the playground for 7 years.

Rural Parish Conference - On 11th Oct in Bishops Stortford from 4pm until 8pm. Cllr D.Lloyd & S.Stott agreed to attend.

HAPTC Conference - On 6th November from 9.30am to 3pm at Ware Priory to address issues facing councils and their local communities

Benches – Cllr K St Pier is awaiting confirmation that the Tewin Society will be refurbishing 2 benches outside 18 Lower Green.

Datchworth Veterans Football Club – They have enquired about using the football pitch at Upper Green on Sunday afternoons. The Council agreed to meet them.

66. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Tewin Charities Trustees – Nothing to report.

Tewin Memorial Hall – Nothing to report

Parish Paths Partnership – Cllr K St Pier will be meeting the Countryside Management Service and HCC Footpaths Officer shortly for the annual meeting.

Transport – Nothing to report

Tewin Society – Nothing to report

Tewin Website – Linda Adams, Web Administrator will be retiring from her post and is looking for a volunteer to replace her.

Locality Policing – Nothing to report

Pavilion Refurbishment – A list of architect details has been forwarded and the committee advised that Cllr B.Evans is happy to advise on obtaining grants, however no contact has been made as yet.

Village Shop Steering Committee – They are in negotiation with the landlord who is prepared to lease the shop to them providing they can sign by the 19th October.

They are in the process of firming up on the cost of repairs and improvements and hope to open the shop (even if it is only for a brief period) before Christmas to sell Christmas goodies, and to open a cafe and community room in 2008. They also hope to reinstate the Post Office, but have yet to negotiate this.

They have applied for IPS status and are now getting grant applications completed as soon as possible.

67. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As several Councillors cannot make the next meeting the Parish Council agreed to change the date to 12th November providing a quorum is achieved.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 10.20pm.

APPENDIX 1 – HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS September 07

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. Removal of kerb on Churchfield Rd and landowner to arrange a ditch in adjacent field similar to White Horse Lane and alongside top end of Margery Lane.	
2	Grass Warren – Broken birdsmouth fence – reported to EHC	H/W looking into ownership
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	Signs Beware Children Sign – H/W Ordering	
6	Line Markings – Most done some missed such as School Lane	
7	Flooding - outside 12/14 Hertford Road.	
8	Plume of Feathers – Ownership of road around the green	H/W looking into

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