

## TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.**

**Present:** K.Lawson (Chairman), K. St Pier (Vice Chairman), B. Evans, A. Hill, D. Howson and D. Lloyd.

In attendance: Mrs C.McFarlane (Clerk), East Herts District Councillor M.McMullen and four parishioners.

**41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr D.Manners, Cllr J. Sheridan and East Herts District Councillor L.Haysey.

### **PARISHIONERS COMMENTS**

Mr D. Marshall from Churchfield Road attended to voice his concerns about the current levels of noise emanating from Tewinbury Farm marquee which has been ongoing for several years. The noise is very audible and continues until 1/1.30pm. They have rung the Duty Manager several times.

Mr & Mrs Boyd Carpenter from Churchfield Road wished to complain about noise from Tewinbury Farm which has caused disturbance over the last few years and ask that consideration be made to reducing the light pollution at Tewinbury Farm in particular the car park.

Mr I Williams, Tewinbury Farm attended to answer any queries on the planning application. He apologised profusely at the disturbance caused and offered his private number for Mr Marshall and Mr & Mrs Boyd Carpenter to ring if the disturbance happens again. He advised that the Duty Manager is obliged to log any complaints.

He stressed that the new building is substantially smaller than the marquee and will be completely soundproofed like the other barns. He also advised that lighting is being looked into.

### **42. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

*There were no declarations of interest.*

### **43. PLANNING**

#### **Planning Applications received**

**3/10/1200/FP – Tewinbury Farm, Hertford Road, Tewin** – New function barn to provide entertainment space for weddings, charity fundraising events in association with the hotel.

Tewin Parish Council does not normally write in support of planning applications, but we feel that this particular application has benefits to the Mimram Valley and hence to parish as a whole.

Tewinbury Farm encompasses not only the hotel, function venue business and local working farmland, but also owns most of the River Mimram and its banks over a two mile stretch from Digswell to Poplars Green.

In the Adopted Local Plan, policy GBC14 "Landscape Character" makes reference to "enhancing or conserving key characteristics and distinctive features, as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment". The Mimram Valley Parklands LCA states "The Mimram ..... is regarded by English Nature as the best chalk stream in East Anglia/Midlands." and stipulates to "encourage local landowners to maintain the existing high quality of the Mimram watercourse and banks and to manage its riverbanks to increase biodiversity".

Managing a river and its banks does not come for free, and rejection of this application for a function venue has a financial impact on the business which in turn has an impact on the landowner's ability to manage the Mimram.

Policy "GBC8 Rural Diversification" admits to the possibility of new buildings within the Green Belt as in "(c) where a new building is required it meets the criteria of policy GBC7." Policy GBC7 relates to siting and design such as making a building sympathetic with its surroundings, which this application obviously seeks to do. (Note that this is not to claim that this application satisfies GBC7 which in itself relates to new agricultural buildings. Rather it satisfies the criteria of GBC7 as called up from GBC8).

The current function venue marquee, which this application seeks to replace, has some adverse planning history, but it is an established source of local employment. In other circumstances, the Local Plan seeks to protect such employment - as in Policy EDE2 Loss of Employment Sites.

A permanent purpose built structure should resolve any problems with noise from the marquee, as reported by several neighbours in the Churchfields/Margery Lane area. Tewinbury have also indicated their intention to reduce the intensity of the external lighting around the new venue.

Therefore Tewin Parish Council is of the opinion that this application should be approved.

**3/10/1303/FP – Folly, Churchfield Road, Tewin** – Single storey rear extension and new pitched and flat roof to replace existing flat roof – TPC No Comment

**3/10/1265/FP – Tewin Water Farm House, Tewin** – Proposed single storey side extension – TPC No Comment

**3/10/1162/FP – 13 Hertford Road, Tewin** – Single storey stable block comprising 4 loose boxes, tack room and adjacent to yard hardstanding – TPC No Comment

#### **44. PAVILION**

**Accounts for Payment** - In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations payments amounting to £23,417.75 from the Pavilion Account were approved by the Council.

The refurbishment is on schedule. The Council agreed to new cladding on the front of the building and the relaying of the patio adjacent to the tennis courts.

#### **45. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in the Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm

