

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th February 2012 in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.

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

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

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr J. Sheridan and East Herts District Councillors L. Haysey and M. McMullen.

Resignation – On the 5th February 2012 Cllr Pat Fulford resigned as a Parish Councillor. East Herts Council has been advised and adverts for a new Councillor will be put up on 10th February 2012.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr & Mrs Jepson explained the reasons for their objection to the proposed development of land at the Rose & Crown. This area is located in the Tewin Conservation Area and is an attractive leafy spinney which forms an essential part of the rural street scene providing an aesthetic break from rows of housing in this attractive village setting. It provides aesthetic screening for the Rose & Crown car park and is a wildlife habitat. The proposed house will result in an excessive loss of trees and will overlook their garden and their house. Historically Mr Jepson has considerable difficulty gaining permission to do necessary works on the trees in the Conservation Area and there have been a report that there has been recent clearance of scrub which they assume is in accordance with Conservation Officer at East Herts.

Mr Spendley from 23 Lower Green explained the details of his planning application and that it was not visible from the road only by the immediate neighbours who have been consulted and have no objections.

Mr Purton from Grass Warren attended to gather further information on the proposed Grass Warren development by Riversmead. The Council advised him of the Public Meeting on the 9th February 2012.

96. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held 5th December 2011 and 9th January 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

97. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr K.Lawson declared a personal interest in a planning application as it was close to her property.

98. NO MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

99. FINANCE

Accounts for Payment - In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the schedule of payments amounting to £4,252.62 from the Current Account was approved by the Parish Council.

Public Works Loan Board ("PWL B") – The third repayment on the loan from the Public Works Loan Board was paid on 7th December 2011 amounting to £2,916.50. The next repayment is due on 7th June 2012.

Budget Report – The Parish Council expects to have approximately £100 surplus at the year end, instead of the predicted £1,126 deficit when the precept for the year was set at £24,800. This is partly due to £1,100 of unspent Contingency fund and the insurance fee being £775 below budget and despite having to fund the £1,200 P3 works ourselves.

The balance on the Current Account can comfortably accommodate the projected income and expenditure (- £1,992) up to the year end and allow some surplus (£2,352) to cover any expenditure in April before the precept is received.

Football Club Deposits – Stevenage Youth Football Club agreed to donate the £50 deposit paid in October 2008 for use of the Pavilion, to the Parish Council.

Meeting Dates - The Parish Council agreed the proposed meeting dates for the next year.

Standing Orders – The Council agreed to amend paragraph 1(a) to say "If any phone calls are received during the meeting the recipient is required to leave the room" so as to not disturb the meeting. The Standing Orders were accepted and will be signed and distributed after the amendment.

Financial Regulations – These were accepted by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. Copies will be circulated to all councillors.

New Homes Bonus – East Herts Council has advised the Parish Council that they are committed to providing 25% of their New Homes Bonus with Parish Councils where development triggers the bonus. Whilst the Parish Council is not due anything for 2009/2010 it is likely to receive an amount for 2010/2011 payable sometime in 2012.

Elections Costs – The Council is still waiting for an invoice from East Herts Council for Election costs for the May 2011 election

Senior Citizens Lunch - In accordance with the minutes dated 6th December 2010 the Parish Council made a donation of £100 towards the Senior Citizens lunch arranged by Friends of Tewin.

Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit – This was completed by Cllr B.Evans and D.Lloyd on 30th January 2012 and was satisfactory.

Scope of Internal Audit – The Parish Council's financial regulations were adopted in 2012 and will be reviewed by the Parish Council during 2016. Internal auditor will complete a review form. Invoices, cheques, paying in book, minutes and computer records are cross referenced and randomly checked on a quarterly basis by two Councillors.

Independence – The Internal auditor is paid by the Parish Council to undertake the audit and has no other connection to the Parish Council. They complete the internal audit review form and the questions on the external audit form.

Competence – The Internal auditor is a qualified accountant practising in Watton at Stone. She is also a Parish Councillor for Watton at Stone Parish Council in charge of Finance and Budget. She is recommended by and audits accounts for Bennington and Datchworth Parish Council.

Relationships – The Internal Auditor goes through the audit with the Clerk and makes recommendations. The Parish Council is aware of its duties. Training is offered to all Councillors and Clerks.

Audit Planning & Reproving – Parish Council follow the guideline in the 2008 Practitioners guide and external auditor's recommendations. The audit takes place once the year end accounts have been completed. The Financial Risk Assessment is completed at the same time as this review.

Review of Financial Risk Assessment – This was completed on 30th January 2012 and the following points were raised:

Pavilion Insurance Valuation – The Parish Council agreed that the current valuation was acceptable.

Invoices/Cheques – The Parish Council agreed to ensure invoices relating to cheques are viewed by a Councillor prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Internal Audit – Cllrs B. Evans and D. Lloyd completed this on 30th January 2012 and everything was found to be in good order.

100. PLANNING

Planning Decisions

3/11/2041/FP - Seven Acres, 49 Upper Green Road And, 54 & 56, Upper Green Road, Tewin, Removal of Onerous Condition for Variation of condition 29 of planning reference number 3/07/2531/FP to agree a proposed minor material change to the buildings approved - variation to plots 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 - TPC No Comment – EHC Recommending Approval (Pending)

3/11/1939/FP - Mimram, Queen Hoo Lane, Tewin - Proposed first floor extension over pool/plant room – TPC No Comment – EHC Refused

3/11/1998/FP - 42, Orchard Road - Raise roof ridge to create first floor with rooflight, 2no bay windows and open porch to front elevation, two storey rear extension with balcony – TPC No Comment – EHC Granted

3/11/1981/FP - 37, Upper Green Road - Raise roof to create first floor accommodation – TPC No Comment – EHC Granted

3/11/1758/FP Archers Green Cottages, Archers Green Lane, Tewin - Proposed amalgamation of 2 cottages into single dwelling and replacement of rear two storey flat roof extension – TPC No Comment – EHC Granted

3/11/2047/FP - Tewin Bury Farm - Erection of agricultural storage barn which will house a straw/wood chip boiler for heat generation, with PV panels on the south facing roof slope; creation of a new landscaped edge to the north bank of the river Mimram and retention of existing hard standing for agricultural storage - TPC No Comment – EHC Refused

Planning Applications received

3/12/0039/FP – 21 Bishops Road, Tewin – Two storey and single storey rear extension and rear glazed balustrade – TPC No objections but would like EHC to note the neighbour's objections.

3/12/0038/FP – Land at Rose & Crown, Upper Green Road, Tewin - Erection of detached four bedroom dwelling with access onto Upper Green Road – TPC object as this area is located in the Tewin Conservation Area and is an attractive leafy spinney which forms an essential part of the rural street scene providing an aesthetic break from rows of housing in this attractive village setting. It provides aesthetic screening for the Rose & Crown car park and is a wildlife habitat. The proposed house will result in an excessive loss of trees and will overlook the neighbouring properties garden and their house. Historically the neighbouring property has had considerable difficulty gaining permission to do necessary works on the trees in the Conservation Area and there has been a recent report of scrub clearance which the Parish Council presume is in accordance with Conservation Officer at East Herts.

3/12/0059/FP – 23 Lower Green, Tewin – First floor rear extension – TPC No Comment

Certificates of Lawfulness - None

Enforcement Issues

Land behind Godfries Close and Harwood Close - Planning Enforcement at East Herts Council met the owners of two of the plots in December and viewed the land behind 12 and 18 Godfries Close with them. He discussed lawful uses (agriculture, grazing, etc) with the owners and told them that before undertaking any use of the land they would be wise to submit either a planning application or an application for a certificate of lawful use for what they proposed. There being no breach of planning control the file was closed. Investigations are proceeding into land behind 21 Godfries Close.

Rose & Crown – The Parish Council advised Greene King that if no response was received by 9th January the Parish Council will report the sign to Planning Enforcement and the Conservation Officer at East Herts Council. The sign has now been removed.

Sevenacres – Cllr K St Pier has already met Bill Beyzade of Taylor Wimpey. Their intention is to begin work under the existing plans in the near future and to apply for permission to demolish Sevenacres and build extra houses. The Parish Council has a meeting with Taylor Wimpey on Wednesday 8th February 2012.

Riversmead Public Meeting – This is being held at Tewin Memorial Hall on 7th February 2012 from 4pm until 7pm to consult with Parishioners about the building of 8 new houses in the Grass Warren area.

Neighbourhood Planning Consultation – Cllr K Lawson submitted a response to this consultation and it has been circulated around the Council.

101. HIGHWAYS

Various Highways Issues – Potholes and Highways signs on Hertford Road have been reported to Highways.

B1000/Churchfield Rd Junction Visibility – These works have now been completed.

Salt Bins – Grass Warren now has a full grit bin. We are awaiting a replacement grit bin for Hertford Road.

102. PAVILION, PLAYGROUND & UPPER GREEN

Tennis Club and Valuation Office – Nothing to report.

Pavilion CIC and Valuation Office – Nothing to report.

Pavilion Water Testing – Cllr K St Pier and Cllr D.Howson are in the process of drafting a Water Testing Scheme.

Pavilion Heating – Cllr B. Evans and K St Pier are in the process of researching and getting quotes to adapt the heating system so that it can be activated using a mobile phone.

Pavilion Shower – The water pressure from the showerheads is 3bar and the manufacturer's limit is 3bar. A quote to supply and fit an adjustable mains water pressure reducing valve for £108 was agreed.

A quote to supply and fit isolation levers to the showers for £156 was also agreed.

A quote to replace a length of black guttering for £102 was also accepted.

Fire Risk Assessment – This has been completed and circulated to the Council. The Council agreed to

accept the Fire Risk Assessment.

Playground Netting – Friends of Tewin have kindly donated £302 towards the netting. The netting has now been received and the Council agreed to pay the invoice with a note to the suppliers that it is subject to checking. Cllr A. Hill will put the nets up when the ground is drier.

Tree Planting – Cllr J. Sheridan and K St Pier have met on site to discuss various options. The Council agreed to arrange a meeting once the advice from Margaret Knight has been received in order to agree the final plan.

Playground Inspection – Nothing to report on the inspections. Cllr A. Hill advised that Tewin Hill Ltd has kindly donated the extra rubber matting to put in front of the bench and around the gate. The Parish Council thanked Cllr A.Hill.

Broken Kissing Gate on FP18 – Tom Goldsmith advised that the post has been supplied to the landowner who will install it.

Back Lane – The Council agreed to ask Tom Goldsmith if the muddy part of this Easy Access Route could be made good.

Car Park – The Council accepted Cllr K St Pier's offer to remove the ivy from some of the trees at the Upper Green car park.

Car Park – The Council agreed that a strategically placed tree trunk would solve the problem of cars trying to exit the car park via the footpath.

103. FOOTPATHS, COMMON LAND and LOWER GREEN

Common Land CL149 – The Council agreed to send a letter to the owner of Lady Walk and Bramble Lodge advising them of the location of Common Land, its effective owner and the legal constraints.

Footpath Maintenance – The Parish Council agreed to ask Kirkham Contracting to try and reduce the number of cuts if possible without compromising standards as we no longer have grant funding.

Lower Green - Complaints have been received about excessive and inconsiderate car parking on and around Lower Green on Sunday 15 January. Cllr D.Howson advised that Digswell Running Club had organised a large cross-country running event and pre-organised to use various car parking facilities in the village. Unfortunately the Bowls Club had to withdraw their parking facilities due to their AGM. The organisers could not overcome this lack of parking facilities at such short notice. No significant damage was done to the grass on Lower Green. The Parish Council agreed to put this in the Parish News.

104. CORRESPONDENCE

BT Telecommunications Cabinet – Following receipt of a Parishioner's letter complaining about EHC's refusal of the BT Cabinet the Council agreed to enquire again where and when BT would be applying for planning permission.

Brownfield Sites - Mr P.Holden wrote advising of his opinion there are enough Brownfield sites and empty houses which can be brought back into use before building on the Green Belt takes place. The Parish Council agreed to thank him for his letter.

Village Meeting – A parishioner asked if there would be a village meeting about various planning proposals. The Parish Council will wait until after the Taylor Wimpey presentation before considering this.

105. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Tewin Charities Trustees – Nothing to report.

Transport – Nothing to report.

Tewin Website – Annual report circulated.

Tewin Memorial Hall – Nothing to report.

Policing – Awaiting minutes from the last meeting.

Parish Paths Partnership – Nothing to report.

106. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 5th March 2012 in the Memorial Hall at 7.45pm.
As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 10.30pm.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS January 2012

Fault line: 0300 123 40 47

District Team: 01992 526900

Assistant District Manager: Eralp Yucelt

Area Engineer: Vicki Leggett

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

Ref:	PROBLEM.	DATE RAISED	COMMENTS
1	Surface Dressing of Main Road through Tewin	2009	H/W Locality Budget ??
3	Salt Bin – Needs replacing and filling	28.4.2011	Chased 5.9.11 Chased 3.10.11 Chased 7.11.11 Chased 5.12.11 Chased 13.1.12
4	Bridge Reflectors in Churchfield Road (nr B1000) – White lining & chevrons to be repainted & reflective discs/paint on bridge	2009	
5	Line Markings – Missing on School Lane	2009	

