

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2015  
IN THE ORCHARD PARK SITE OFFICE at 7pm**

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**-1- Present:** Mr.M.Davies, Mrs H.Ford, Mrs J.Hird, Mrs E.Watson(Chairman), Mr K. Watson, Mr P.Awford(County Cllr.), Mr M.Williams(Boro’Cllr.), Mr &Mrs P.Gough (rep. Longford PC), Mr R.Minter(rep. Down Hatherley PC). Also 18 members of the public of whom a list of names was taken.

**-2- Apologies:** None

**-3- Opening Remarks by the Chairman:** In view of the dominating issue of the Robert Hitchins’ building application for a large ‘mixed use housing development’ on land to the E. of Tewkesbury Road, behind Orchard Park and across brook Lane, this would take precedence over all other agenda items.

**-4- Special Item- the Hitchins application for 725 houses:** There was not one dissenting voice within the room as the following views were expressed, spelt out by many. (i)The current misery of peak hour traffic queues on at least 3 days every week, the build up reaching from the Longford roundabout & beyond the centre of Twigworth. (ii) The dangers in turning out from driveways at all times of the day due to traffic size, volume and speed, and (iii) the hours of ‘gridlock’ when an M5 diversion occurs. With the 1200+ house Drymeadow Innsworth development due to be built, hundreds of further houses within Twigworth would degrade the quality of life for everyone. Cllr.Awford highlighted the crucial issue of surface water lying for a long time after heavy rain; with the heavy clay loam of the area & the permanently high water-table, this was inevitable. Regarding the sewage flow mechanism the area, was underprovided; this all emphasised that the proposed development was not sustainable. It furthermore sought to circumvent the legitimate planning route via the Joint Core Strategy and the local 3-parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. This latter (the NDP)) was localism at its best and into which many informed & competent people had voluntarily invested a great deal of time. Unfortunately the NDP and the JCS are not yet finalised and the application was a clear and cynical attempt to circumvent the democratic process.

The Clerk said that the PC had already submitted their response which was vigorous opposition (as likewise had Down Hatherley PC), and that the issue of drainage and pluvial flooding had been the first and longest section of the text. This land should also stay untouched as it was good quality agricultural land and also in the Green Belt.

**-5- Minutes of the Last Meeting:** These had been circulated in advance & were signed.

**-6- Matters Arising:** *A bus bay in the Tewkesbury direction...* The Chairman said that she did not think that any area near the Orchard Park entrance would be truly safe from a traffic point of view since unwise overtaking would be encouraged. It was decided that use of the old school drop-off bay be considered. *Location of a second dog-waste bin within Orchard Park...* Cllr.Awford would seek to inquire from the TBC refuse co-ordinator whether a walk of 35m was acceptable to reach an off-road bin.

**-7- Roads & Pavements:** Whilst anxiety about the Hitchins’ application seemed to permeate almost every minute of the meeting, time was found to discuss the state of Twigworth’s pavements. The narrowness of many sections & the weed outgrowth is inhibiting some from walking to the Garden Centre. There is a need for dropped kerbs at the Orchard Park entrance and a length past the Gloucester end of the lay-by becomes an impassable long puddle during & after rain. Cllr.Awford will see if any of his annual “dedicated parish grant” could fund these necessary improvements. The possibility of a “Pelican” crossing near Orchard Park was discussed. This question had been aired in the past and unfortunately there was little likelihood due to the proximity of bends in the road and that there had not been a fatality in this area.

**-8- County Councillor’s Report:** (i) The county’s bid towards devolution was now in place. (ii) The name for the new Leisure Centre was likely to include the word ‘Tewkesbury’ rather

than the evocative (but meaningless to outsiders) '1471'. Cllr.Awford asked that a warning be printed in the local 'Benefice' magazine about bogus phone callers. People with an Eastern accent are known to be ringing purporting to be on behalf of the County Council or the NHS Trust.

**-9- Planning:** *Outline application for 10 bungalows at Twigworth Fields...* The Clerk said he had never been sent this information & no one else had flagged it up from the website. This was the second time an application had failed to be sent, but the only time that the PC had failed to send a comment in on time. *Court farm: "Lelandii for Sale" notice...* The chairman wondered if this required a 'change of use' application. The Clerk to inquire. The Vine House Application for 5 bungalows appeared to still be awaiting a decision.

**-10- Finance:** Casual labour: bus shelter cleaning. Mr Hird was assiduous with this weekly work but nowadays was often complaining about the filth found therein. Cllrs. found the description almost too much to listen to. It was unanimously agreed to raise his remuneration from £40 to £50 a quarter.  
Chq. no.000442 £50 (J.Hird, bus shelter cleaning for Aug / Sept / Oct)  
Large housing application: roadside placards and leaflets to homes – The Clerk had been tasked with this and a local person had assisted with the making & erection. Some of the costs would be borne by Down Hatherley but Twigworth's share of the costs so far had been £222.19. Chq. 000443 - £2232.19 (Mr D.Bayley)  
CPRE Planning event: 000441 - £15 (GAPTC)

**-11- Any Other Business:** A member of the public asked about improving the overgrown condition of the bridleway beyond the Brook Lane bend. It was felt that such a clearance would be far down their list since manpower and finance was so cut back, but the complaint had been logged.

## **2016 meetings (as usual, the first Thursday alternate months)**

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> (AGM)**

**July 7<sup>th</sup>**

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Signed.....Date.....