

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 7TH
2016 IN THE ORCHARD PARK SITE OFFICE AT 7PM**

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- 1- Present:** Mr M.Davies, Mrs H.Fird, Mrs J.Hird, Mrs E.Watson(Chair), Mr K.Watson, Mr P.Awford (County Cllr.), and 13 members of the public.
- 2- Apologies:** Mr M.Williams (Boro' Cllr)
- 3- Announcements from the Chair:** The meeting will need to conclude by 8pm since there will follow an open meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to discuss preferred sites within Twigworth where future house building could go.
- 4- Members of the Public:** Mention made of the very high water levels. One recent 'webchat discussion' had led to over 100 comments. People with existing wells are noticing that their water is approaching "alarming" levels.

- 5- Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** These were previously circulated & were signed as correct.
- 6- Matters Arising from the Minutes:** Dog fouling- The Ubico 'Direct Services Manager' was asking for comment & improvement suggestions on their road-sweep and dog/litter bin collections, and Environmental Health will, from now on, be asking for details of any dog-fouling complaints every 3 months.

-7- County Councillor's Report: There was an impassioned discussion amongst all in the room over the feeling that Hitchins will definitely take their 725 Twigworth house application to appeal when, (as anticipated) the borough Planning Committee reject it on January 19th. Cllr.Awford expressed disbelief that such a large build was even contemplated in these fields which so quickly and often became waterlogged after rain. There was no proven safe strategy to engineer the problem away on a subsoil of such heavy clay loam. He was also concerned that the issue of 'food security' be considered; these lands were of greater long-term national benefit and should be left for agriculture. When traffic congestion implications are considered, the scheme was totally unsustainable. Such a 'mega' housing scheme would affect the whole surrounding area. Communities over a multi-parish area must pull together in protest and collect as much data and photographic evidence as possible. The Environment Agency's data was the most consulted and relied upon, yet they still haven't recognised the scale and the problem of the pluvial (rainfall) standing surface water phenomenon which is critical in this area, let alone how to manage it. Regrettably, there was no government plan for a 'bypass canal channel' which could divert exceptional river flows from the Gloucester area. On other matters he warned that Council tax was certainly going to rise by around 2% and that funding of adult social care was a significant part of this. The new Leisure Centre was rapidly almost complete and should be impressive both outside and in. He urged that it be well used.

-8- Roads and Pavements: Cllr.Awford had prevailed upon Highways to commit a team to several days in the near future on a detailed repair of pavement and gutter defects through the parish. His comment brought the meeting almost to a point of clapping & cheering. This was welcome news indeed. The Chairman said that she had made strident comment recently to an Highways officer (Mr Hawkins) over blocked gulleys and been assured that problem areas were always jetted twice a year not just the standard every 12 months.

-9- Planning: New applications- *Transfer of caravan selling business to the empty 'Breakers' site...* Glos. Highways had no objection to this application, particularly in that it would mean very much fewer traffic movements to the site (over 150 a day when the Breakers was operational). No PC objection. *High iron scroll gates (max. permitted height) and porch enlargement at "The Cottage"...* No PC objection. *Premier Inn- replacement UPVC window frames...* No PC objection.

-10- Finance: chq. 000444 (£50) J.Hird, bus shelter cleaning, Nov/Dec/Jan.
Annual Precept request: The clerk had previously circulated budget figures in which a drop of £540 (to £1202) compared to the previous year, was predicted for the end of the financial year balance. It was decided to ask for a larger than usual increase namely for £2500, compared to £1725 last year. The clerk said that this year's additional "Support Grant" was going to be lower due to government grant restrictions.

-11- Correspondence and Any Other Business:

Query from Longford PC: Would Twig.PC be interested in sharing costs of a defibrillator to be positioned on the Longford-Twigworth boundary & which would be securely encased in a box on a pole? Cost per PC would be about £750. Answer: Twigworth PC is not interested.

The "Transparency Code" - It has become a requirement that every PC now post on a PC and/or village website details of all meetings, Minutes, and financial data, and grant money may be available for set-up and training. But it all depended upon a keen and competent local person being available. There was no suggestion that it was obligatory upon the PC Clerk to take this on. Local resident Mrs S.Yates expressed an interest and was passed the information to peruse.

Big Community Switch - This County County scheme was being widely circulated since every household joining saved nearly £200 a year on power bills. It involved the bulk buying of power by reverse auction. Before accepting, every registering household is given a no-obligation quote. The principle is that it is the big energy companies who are forced to compete for customers. Registration occurs about 6 times a year. The clerk would put details on the notice boards.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

Signed..... Date

