

Twyford Annual Parish Assembly

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2016 at the Parish Hall, Twyford

Parish Councillors present: Cllr Lawton (Chair), Cllr Cook, Cllr Corcoran (from 8.45), Cllr Cornwall, Cllr Forder-Stent, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Sellars, Cllr Watson, Cllr Wheeler.

Apologies were received from HCC Cllr R. Humby & WCC Cllr Izard.
David & Judith Lea and Derek Maskell also sent their apologies.

The Assembly was attended by 30 further attendees including a journalist from the Hampshire Chronicle.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th May 2015

The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 27th May 2015 were considered.

Resolved: "The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2015 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting". Proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Forder-Stent and carried unanimously.

Report on Crime and Disorder in the last year, specific to the Twyford area

This Item was taken at this stage to enable Sergeant Gilmour to also attend the Colden Common APA.

There have been several changes since the last Assembly. Neighbourhood policing was re-organised in 2015; in 2016 there has been a newly appointed Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and a new Police Commissioner. Richard Nolan the PCSO (Police and Community Support Officer) with primary responsibility for Twyford resigned and departed in May. It is intended to replace him but no appointment has yet been made; in the meantime Sgt. Gilmour is the primary contact for community police matters and aims to provide cover.

Sgt. Gilmour reported that Twyford has relatively low exposure to crime, no burglaries were reported but there was an attempted break-in of the Post Office and General Stores; which reflects a wider trend of attacks on shops. The main issues involving Twyford have been related to road traffic, in particular speed, or safety, matters falling within the remit of the Highways rather than Neighbourhood policing team.

Sgt Gilmour referred to the normal phone numbers for emergency (999) and non-emergency (101) police assistance, but added that for non-emergency community policing matters he and his team remain available. His contact details are on the Constabulary website and are also held by the Parish Clerk.

In response to questions Sgt Gilmour advised that Country Watch had been restructured and now takes a strategic role; John Radcliffe who was involved locally has moved to a new role. If there are matters of concern, these should be directed to Sgt Gilmour in the first instance. Sgt Gilmour noted that PCSO Nolan was known to walk and cycle locally and this level of visibility had unfortunately been lost with PCSO Nolan's departure, but this should only be a short term concern.

Chair's Report

Cllr Lawton referred to the hard copies of his report (Annex 1) which were available to all attendees. He mentioned in particular, the recent deaths of Mike Andrews and Sam Sowton, both regarded as stalwarts of the local community; and expressed his condolences to their families. Cllr Forder-Stent was congratulated on the recent recognition given to her for her services to the community and Cllr Lawton drew attention to the change of Clerk in April.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Humby's full report at Annex 2 was referred to and that it would be published as part of the minutes. Cllr Cook on his behalf drew attention to the following: the Report is in two parts, it refers to Cllr Humby's roles and focus, as a member of the WCC Executive, on transport; the second part focusses on matters specific to Twyford. Cllr Cook emphasised that speed reduction and road safety have received attention; the pedestrian lights for crossing of the road near the Church/Northfields had been a significant improvement for which former councillor Daryl Henry and Cllr Izard had been key. The "Keep Clear" signage had dramatically improved access to and from Northfields. Attention is being given to accident related data and concerns about the junction of Highbridge Road with the Main Road. The thanks of Cllr Humby were also expressed.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Cook explained that due to the Colden Common APA she was attending the Twyford Assembly and Cllr Izard the Colden Common. Cllr Cook expressed her and Cllr Izard's thanks to voters for their re-elections. Cllr Izard is elected for a 3 year term and Cllr Cook for 2 years. Though representing different parties they work very closely together for the benefit of the Twyford and Colden Common communities. Former councillor Mason has moved on and he was thanked for his services.

Reference was made to the Winchester Silver Hill development proposals and that approval has been granted to redevelopment of the surgery as a distinct and separate site. In Colden Common the Sandyfields site is to be developed and £700,000 will be contributed to expansion of the primary school. WCC will make a final decision on whether to refurbish or to replace River Park Leisure Centre at a cost of £25 to £30million.

Devolution proposals continue to be made for Hampshire and 'Heart of Hampshire' booklets are being produced to explain that particular option. Devolution will involve an Elected Mayor. More information is available on the WCC website.

Parish Hall Beech Tree

Liz Kennett as Chair of the Parish Hall Trustees referred to the reported decision to fell the Beech tree (the announcement was placed on Parish Notice Boards, at the Parish Hall and circulated via the Twyford Information Service email distribution and Facebook). The reasons for the decision and reports obtained by the Trustees are described in that communication. In summary, the tree has been monitored as it has aged, a 1996 report estimated that only 20 year lifespan remained and more recently another report advised that a 5 year plan to replace the tree should be put in place. Two recent reports gave conflicting advice but the Trustees have concerns that one report in favour

of retaining the tree gave insufficient consideration to the health and safety risk arising from its particular location by the road and pedestrian access to the main entrance of the Parish Hall. Expenditure to seek to prolong the life of the tree had been considered but it would involve some cutting of the tree, groundworks to assist the roots and ongoing surveys. Such costs are a significant proportion of the gross annual income of the hall, which is a standalone charity, albeit well supported by the Parish Council and local fundraising (including a donation derived from the Graze Festival). Liz Kennett added that recently the hall curtains had been replaced and exterior works had become essential due to several leaks. A sum of £30-40,000 had been earmarked but quotes obtained now indicated substantially more expenditure was needed. There were now concerns that some Trustees may resign if opinion continued to be expressed in favour of retaining the tree because the Trustees are concerned that the dangers of the tree and the viability of the hall itself are not being sufficient prominence.

In response to questions Liz Kennett said that consideration was being given to one or two replacement trees, but no decision as to their species or location had been made. Consideration was also being given to proposals to utilise the tree trunk in some way and to utilisation of some of the other timber. Since the announcement there had been 8 email to the Secretary of the Parish Hall Management Committee of which 7 supported the decision.

A member of public expressed their thanks to the current Trustees, to Louise Watson and to the organisers of the Graze festival. It was noted that a Wedding Reception had been held in the Parish Hall and efforts were being made to obtain some photographs to aid publicity and encourage further such bookings.

The external refurbishment will commence in July and last for 6 to 8 weeks. The hall will remain available for use but will have scaffolding and builders on site during the day; and so any users are likely to be impacted. The summer break had been chosen for the works because most clubs and societies using the hall suspended their regular use over that period.

Twyford Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair reported on behalf of Cllr Corcoran. Several surveys had been undertaken and the results are being collated into a draft policy which will be issued for consultation in September. The South Downs National Park has specified that provision must be made for 20 houses on 'exception sites' (those not involving infill). Two possible sites, at Northfields and the Surgery have come to the fore but the 20 houses could be located in various locations. A recent High Court decision has caused some uncertainty, this needs to be resolved in order for an objective to provide more housing of an affordable nature to be pursued. Concerns exist that many properties in Twyford are too expensive to enable first time buyers to enter the property market.

Eastleigh Local Plan

David Lovegrove commented that he is a retired architect, formerly involved with new town and school development; he is therefore not anti-development per se. He explained that Eastleigh need a Local Plan to act as a source of reference for all major development within its boundary, the current plan extends to 2036. There is the need to identify provision of 20,000 new homes – although 10,000 has already been identified by existing planning consents and infills. David

Lovegrove added that planning tends to be reactive, because developers identify and promote particular locations for development. Where agricultural land of £500 an acre can become worth £500,000 such sites then gain the support of the landowner and a case for development is built. In the absence of alternative areas already designated for development the planning authority then finds it difficult to object and even more so to fight an appeal against its decision to decline planning permission. This is the current situation and prime farmland is under threat instead of focussing on brownfield sites or sites with less of an environmental impact.

Action against Destructive Development (ADD) has been formed to co-ordinate the opposition of local parishes affected by the Eastleigh Local Plan's proposals for 6,000 homes and a major new east/west road; reference was made to Bishopstoke, Owslebury, Colden Common, Allbrook, Fair Oak and Upham. Eastleigh is scheduled to issue a report on 16 June, which responds to its public consultation exercise. ADD's concern is that without adequate alternative sites, the 6,000 homes will be built because of the reactive approach taken, land at West End, Botley and Allington lane is considered to be preferable. The new east/west road will take traffic toward J12 of the M3 but will end at the Allbrook railway bridge – which there are no plans to improve. Planning models factor in 5 traffic movements per dwelling per day, so 30,000 extra journeys can be anticipated, many of which are likely to pass through Twyford to and from the M3. David Lovegrove concluded by asking for the personal support of Twyford residents and also that of the Parish Council in opposing the proposed development of the 6,000 homes and the east/west road.

Community Projects

Graze Festival report by Roger Walker – last year was a great success, attended by 2,000 people and raising £10,000 for local causes. A licence for up to 5,000 people has been granted for the next 5 years. The target attendance for the event on 28 August this year is 3,000. 25 applications for donations were received resulting in 7 donations including canopies for Guide tents, Parish Hall curtains and a sewing machine. Parking this year is close to the site and pedestrian access will be as last year, via Bournefields.

Twyford Social Club – Report by Mary Timms – (A full written report is at Annex 3). The Social Club is struggling financially and needs more support from the village. A refurbishment programme is underway, through the donation of time by its members, hedging plants were donated by Simon Cooper. To reduce inconvenience to its neighbours a sound limiter has been installed and the entrance doors are being moved, this will also result in provision of access suitable for disabled persons. To increase use of the facility partitioning is being installed so the bar can be separated from other areas. Fund raising will include a Christmas Bazaar and possibly film nights. Membership is open to all, payable in advance the fees are £20.00 per adult, and £40 per family (plus £10.00 for the first year). (A full written report is at Annex 3).

Twyford Community Project – Report by Helen Scaiff (A full report is at Annex 4) – A venue for use by the youth of the village is needed and should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Discussions are taking place with the Twyford Surgery to enable the former Scout Hut to be put into use. A condition is that the hut cannot be used during surgery hours due to constraints on car parking spaces, but this would prevent late afternoon/early evening use. A further 'sticking point' is that the Surgery do not want the duration of any use to extend beyond 2 years, but with a need to spend

approximately £16,000 to bring the hut back up to a usable standard a 5 year period is being sought. In response to questions about the viability of using other existing village facilities it was pointed out that the Parish Hall had been considered but was only available on Friday evenings, which did not suit volunteer youth leaders. The Social Club had also been discarded in the past as unsuitable, but with the partitioning off of the bar, it was acknowledged that this could be reconsidered.

Twyford Good Neighbours – Report by Colin Francis – Unfortunately lunches are no longer arranged because of the lack of a co-ordinator. Transport to the Surgery and also to Winchester, Southampton and Basingstoke hospitals remains in high demand and since Christmas 23 drivers have completed 390 trips. More drivers are needed and cover for Jo Francis who takes calls from those needing transport. A Driver Assessment – for drivers over the age of 60, which seeks to identify and correct bad practice normally costs £31 but two thirds is subsidised for any eligible drivers who assist. During subsequent discussion it was established that Ian Wheeler provides cover for Jo, an answer phone to record calls from those seeing assistance was suggested and a Freephone number that could be diverted to various recipients of calls each with access to a diary of availability of drivers might be considered.

Methodist Chapel report by Mary Ann Browne- A stained glass window of the Chapel is in urgent need of repair and a grant of £600 is being sought from the Council, three further windows also need attention. The Chapel is used for coffee mornings and other community uses and is in the Conservation Area so the support of the parish is important to preserve it. The services of a local artisan to remove the windows have been secured but donations for the repairs are being sought.

Guiding in Twyford – Report by Vicky Feldwick – Guiding in the UK has 538,000 members. In Twyford a Brownie group for 7 to 10 year olds is run on Mondays and has 14 members, Guides (for 10 to 14 years) is run on Thursdays and has 22 members. A ‘Rainbow’ group for girls under 7 years is run in Colden Common as well as two Brownie groups. Twyford Brownies have enjoyed the new equipment at Hunter Park, and have benefitted from trips to the New Forest, London and one attended an event in Finland. More leaders would assist, such as to enable a Rainbow group to be run in Twyford. The annual fundraising ‘Duck Race’ on the Itchen Navigation is on 26th June.

Kindling Forest School & Twyford Playgroup – Reports by Catherine Hutchinson – Kindling Forest School was established in 2014 and has a storeroom in the Pavilion but all activity is outdoor and uses the Spinney/three corner wood. It aims to provide an outdoor experience during all seasons and seeks to compliment not compete with the playgroup. Three quarters of its attendees are from Twyford. Although subject to Ofsted inspection it does not receive public funding. The Twyford Playgroup has existed for 44 years and it was last rated as “Good” by Ofsted. It receives public funding for 15 free hours (this has been frozen since 2011). Due to demographic changes numbers of attendees have fallen recently, impacting on the playgroup’s finances and it is using its reserves to maintain existing levels of service. The support of the Council and Parish Hall Management Committee is therefore being sought as well as other fundraising efforts.

Twyford Mothers and Tots – report by Ian Wheeler – between 9.30 and 11.30 on Wednesdays a group of mothers and their young children meet, primarily to enable pre-playgroup children to socialise. The meeting is not formal and open to newcomers.

Twyford Waterworks – Report by Sue Cook - The Edwardian clean water pumping station has six Sunday open days in 2016, between 11.00am and 4.00pm (5 June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September 2nd October). Adult entry is £5 but under 16s are free. Volunteers are welcome. Annex 5 has further information.

Abbeyfield Orchard Close – reference was made to the forthcoming open day.

AOB

A resident observed that it would be beneficial if there was a Twyford Village Diary where events could be publicised. It was noted that a hard copy diary was once available at the Post Office, but it was not well used and sometimes removed and so had fallen into disuse. It was reported that the Parish Council has a working party that is looking at the management and content of the Parish Website and it could include a calendar of events.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Annex 1 – Chair’s report

Annex 2 – County Councillor’s report

Annex 3 – Twyford Social Club report

Chairman's Report

Overall

This could have been a difficult year but on the whole it has turned out to be a satisfactory one.

Parish Council

This time last year the Council had lost a number of its experienced councillors and numbers were down. However we were delighted to have Bob Woodward return to the Council and recruit two new members in Richard Sellars and Sue Cook (Twyford's City Council representative). I am pleased to add that there are hopefully one or two more residents who have shown an interest in joining the Council.

Elizabeth Billingham, the parish clerk resigned from the Council at the end of April after three years' service. We were delighted to appoint Tony Bronk to the position, not only because he and his wife are villagers of some long standing and involved in community life, but also for the undoubted skills he brings to the Council.

I would also like to record with sadness the recent passing of Mike Andrews, my predecessor as chairman of the parish council, and Sam Sowton. Both contributed much to the community. On a happy note, I would like to say how delighted we were that Angela Forder-Stent received recognition in the national honours for her tireless work in the community.

Traffic

The installation of the pedestrian lights opposite Twyford House and the new 40mph limit by Hockley Cottages was carried out efficiently during the summer holidays last year. Those who live in the areas have found the lights to be very useful when trying to cross the road at peak times but many feel the speed limit in the 40mph zone is not being adhered.

Long-term parking on the street has increased over the year and has become a serious problem. Finches Lane, Hazeley Road, Queen Street, and Park Lane suffer badly and inhibit the movement of traffic through the village. Consequently Bourne Lane and to a slightly lesser extent Roman Road have become rat runs particularly favoured by large cars and van drivers wishing to avoid the centre of the village.

The volume of traffic using the High Street as an access route to and from the motorway has not reduced. Furthermore it is set to increase with a new large housing development taking place Colden Common and more planned in the future near Fair Oak and Botley. HCC have agreed to undertake a traffic and an environmental survey in the near future. The Eastleigh Development Plan will be discussed tonight.

Planning

There have been no major planning applications this past year with most applications being extensions and improvement to properties. Perhaps the two biggest redevelopments taking place are to properties off Brewers Lane and Manor Road.

Many will have heard that there has been an interest by the Wickham family to seek support for the development of the western part of their field above the surgery up to the school's leased playing fields on Hazeley Road. This, and other potential sites, has been discussed by members of the Neighbourhood Plan working group who will report further on their work later this evening.

Recreation

The village is lucky to have some attractive recreational grounds which are well maintained and well used. However Berry Meadow and the Meads are essentially self-financing through annual grants whereas maintaining Hunter's Park is the Council's largest expenditure by a significant margin with relatively minimal income derived from its hire.

Use of the park for Football has been in the decline for the past few years but cricket has gained in popularity with the wicket being regarded of a high standard. A set of gym equipment has been recently installed and the Recreation Committee are seeking how the netball court can be resurfaced for ball games and skate board use.

The playgroup returned to the refurbished Gilbert Room during the year but the Forest School which now appears well established and has consolidated its base at the park.

Waine Lawton

Chairman

Report from Cllr Rob Humby

As some of you may know, I was given a new role a couple of months ago and I am now Executive Member for Environment and Transport at the county council which means I am responsible for Hampshire's roads, waste and minerals. I have also recently been appointed as the Cabinet Member for Business Partnerships and Policy Co-ordination at Winchester City Council.

I thought it might be useful if I divided my report into two parts. Firstly, I would like to talk briefly about some of the things we have been doing across Hampshire in the last couple of months. I will then follow-up with a more local report on the progress we have made.

Across the county, we have had to make some big decisions. A reduction in local government funding by central Government of more than 55% since 2010 has meant we just haven't been able to do everything we would have liked or in the way we used to do it. We've made some tough decisions and are continuing to do so but at every stage we are doing everything we can to protect front line services.

The biggest recent change to our policies has been to alter the way in which we prioritise traffic management schemes to let local councils make decisions about what should be done in their area.

The new approach to non-safety related traffic management projects will ensure that we prioritise road safety measures and give town and parish councils more flexibility to promote local schemes which they can fully fund themselves.

Against a backdrop of continued cuts to funding from Government, we've had to look at how we can make the best use of the resources we have, while at the same time continuing to place safety as our highest priority.

We have, therefore, prioritised County Council resources on road safety education and safety measures where we have evidence that they will reduce casualties.

With less resources, and a growing number of requests for traffic calming and traffic management schemes we've had to review our policy to ensure we return to a sharper focus primarily on road safety.

Having said that, I completely understand that local communities value traffic calming and traffic management measures in towns and villages across Hampshire. Therefore, when a scheme is not prioritised by the County Council on proven safety grounds, we have put in place a system for town and parish councils to fund some straightforward local traffic management enhancements themselves, which the County Council will help develop and implement on their behalf.

This will give town and parish councils the opportunity to promote what they believe is right for their communities. These could include:

- Village gateways
- Enhanced village place name signs

- Traditional finger post signing
- Sign de-clutter works
- Vehicle activated speed limit reminder signs
- Minor signs and carriageway lining alterations
- Bollards to prevent footway overrun
- Informal crossing points for pedestrians

We have also just completed a ten week public consultation on the future of our HWRCs. We've been asking people what they think on a range of options to reducing the running costs of this service.

No decisions will be made until the results of the consultation have been carefully considered. It is a genuine opportunity for Hampshire residents to have their say on how we can ensure a financially sustainable service for the whole county, as Government funding reductions for councils are set to continue.

I know that HWRCs are well used, well run and highly valued by local people. This consultation has been a chance for residents to tell HCC how we can make changes which we can all live with, using the resources the County Council has to provide a service which is fair to everyone in Hampshire.

The responses we have gotten have been varied. Some people suggest their HWRC should only be at the weekend to keep their facility local while others are happy to drive a bit further in the knowledge that their HWRC would be open more often.

We are also considering the possibility of introducing a small charge for each visit as this means that we can keep sites open. Introducing a small charge would need a change in the law, but knowing that Hampshire's residents would consider this as a way to keep all their HWRCs open would give me enough support to take the suggestion back to MPs and the Government.

Details of this consultation can be found at: www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016

We are also doing everything we can to support individual communities across the county. This includes extra funding for the 'Parish Lengthsman' scheme.

The County Council currently provides funding for parish and town councils to employ a local 'lengthsman' who takes on maintenance tasks such as cutting back hedges, cleaning signs and clearing ditches. The scheme has grown, in just a few years, from covering a handful of parishes to encompassing more than half the county.

We're really pleased to have been able to introduce our Town and Parish Councils to an effective, community-based solution to local, immediate maintenance jobs, and support them to take it up.

The County Council is making further opportunities available for 2016/17 for new parishes to engage with the scheme this financial year.

Locally, Operation Resilience will continue in the year ahead and several of our major roads will be resurfaced while others will have surface dressing added.

In Twyford last year I have worked with the Parish council to tackle many issues and resolve a number of problems in the village. I won't give you an exhaustive list but I thought I would just give you a flavour of what I have been involved with in our area.

One of my primary priorities this year has been to continue to tackle speeding traffic through the village and to push hard for speed reductions and investigations where possible. I am also encouraging officers to work more closely with the police to ensure that any traffic speed data is fed through into our system so that we are working with all the facts.

Back in October, I supported the parish council in ensuring that the hedges in Finches Lane were cut back and throughout the winter we have worked together on blocked drains and flooding problems.

Finally, I gave my support via a grant for £850 to the Twyford Parish Hall Management Committee for a tree survey on a beach tree at the parish hall.

I am always happy to discuss any of the work with I have done or to listen to any of your concerns and problems. Please feel free to be in touch with me if you have an issue you would like to raise.

I would like to thank the Chairman and outgoing Clerk for all the hard work and support they have given me over the last year. I look forward to working with you all and with the new Clerk Tony in the year ahead.

Cllr Rob Humby

1/6/2016

Twyford Social Club

The TSC which has been around since the end of the First World War, recently held an extraordinary meeting to discuss its future, which the existing members felt was bleak as financially it was struggling to survive.

At this meeting it became apparent that there were a great many people in Twyford, I being one, almost unaware of what went on there and who used it.

This family friendly club was keen for more support particularly within the village and the committee was aware that they needed to raise the club's profile.

It is however a chicken and egg situation. We know that it is not the most attractive space. Its poor ambience is a barrier to attendance, so revenue stays low and so there is no money to make the required changes to decor, lighting etc.

Unperturbed the club has embarked on a programme of refurbishment with most of the work being done by members. This greatly reduces the costs. Various 'teams' meet for regular cleaning, maintenance etc. Simon from the Post Office has kindly provided hedging for which we are very grateful. This is already improving the outside appearance.

The activities at the social club have, of course, like all other venues in the village attended by the public, caused inconvenience to neighbours from time to time. However the committee have succeeded in addressing their concerns and the continuing plans have these problems firmly in mind.

A sound limiter has been installed which cuts off power to music systems before any noise goes above the permitted level. There are plans to move the entrance doors further from the neighbours. However, the cancelling of the bands that were practising there has resulted in a large reduction in income.

It does however remain a very useful village resource full of friendly people!! It has always had an area for socialising with pool, snooker, a huge TV, and a table tennis. Recently we have formed a separate space so that various groups are also able to meet. Zumba has started, slimming groups, Warhammer sessions for young people, all of which are very popular. Regular events take place such as quiz nights, race nights, table sales, skittles, comedy and jazz evenings, and a fantastic singer last month.

There are plans too for alterations within the building to make the space more versatile, for example to partition the bar from some of the other public areas.

The club has a long history of cross-generational social engagement. Many members, who still attend, despite having left the village, talk of Sunday lunches with parents and grandparents together there. It offers a great space for such events. We hope in the winter to run tea and chat afternoons.

The planned partitioning which will separate the bar and cue sports and, together with disabled access to the building, should make the venue even more appealing. I am told, and I quote: “We girls from the village would like to be able to have a coffee or Pimms after school while the smalls play in Ballards, but we need to reach the tipping point where it's an appealing option”.

A pre-Christmas bazaar and craft sale is planned for November 12th. This will be a new venture.

Long term, with internal alterations done, efficient sound proofing and adequate finance for the licence, it would be possible to hold the occasional showing of different films. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful this year in an application for funding towards this but we would still welcome anyone interested in contributing towards starting a film club or any other aspect of the upgrade.

And how about a village wine circle meeting or a craft beer evening or a cocktail and canapés club, or village competitions of table tennis or skittles?

I keep using the terms “members” and “club”. It's called a club as that's how it was set up, but years ago. It is open to all and with a membership of £20 per adult and £40 per family annually (plus £10 extra for the first year) which is absolute peanuts for what potential this venue has to offer, and far less than any other activities locally. You can come as often as you like but your contribution to this organisation, i.e. your membership, is paid in advance.

The club is about us all and we welcome any ideas from villagers old and young as to how they might want to use the venue more fully in new ways as well as the traditional ways. All these activities would be walkable to villagers, and, like everything at the TSC, at a reasonable cost. This is a venue that needs our support.

TCP REPORT FOR TWYFORD PARISH ASSEMBLY - 1st JUNE 2016

Despite past setbacks, the TCP committee remains determined to facilitate the provision of additional community meeting space in the village, particularly for youth activities. Census statistics show young people under the age of 20 constitute over one quarter of the village population and those under 15, over one fifth. Hence, the needs of our young people must be taken into consideration.

Over the past year, TCP has concentrated on two matters: input into the Twyford Neighbourhood Plan and discussions with Twyford Surgery about possible reuse of the Cecil Hut for both youth and community activities.

Neighbourhood Plan

We have pointed out that there are several possibilities for additional community meeting space. These include, in no particular order:

1. An extension of the Pottinger Pavilion (or a nearby detached building) in Hunter Park
2. Incorporation of suitable facilities into a redesigned Twyford Social Club
3. A new building to the east of the Parish Hall car park on land owned by Mr Wickham (Neighbourhood Plan Site 26)
4. A new building at Northfields (Neighbourhood Plan Site 1)
5. A new or refurbished building on the site of the Cecil Hut, ideally ultimately to be connected to the Parish Hall

We are well aware that all the above possibilities have some negatives, so we are not proposing that any particular scenario should necessarily be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. What we are saying is that the **provision of additional community facilities in Twyford, with a strong emphasis on the needs of young people, should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.** Our ambition, we believe, should be to offer Twyford's youth the best facilities that can be afforded. After all, they are our future!

Regarding possibilities 3 and 4, we believe that Site 26 should not only be considered for housing but also for the new community building (with an outdoor recreation area) and for a new village car park.

The new community building would principally be for local youth groups. Youth groups frequently need and benefit from outdoor as well as indoor space and land which may not be suitable for building could be used for this.

An alternative could be to site the new community building at Northfields. The centre of gravity of the village is gradually being pulled northwards by housing and other

developments at Northfields and a new community centre sited there might be beneficial both for those living nearby and for the remainder of the village.

Cecil Hut

Twyford Surgery is willing to consider the Cecil Hut being used again for youth and community activities. Discussions are at a fairly early stage but the following important considerations are relevant:

- A fairly detailed TCP costing exercise showed that essential expenditure to get the hut up and running again (including disabled use) would be about £16k with a further £20k of additional improvements highly desirable.
- The length of lease. Given the necessary capital expenditure, we think 5 years is the minimum term but the surgery would prefer a much shorter period.
- The letting hours. The Surgery does not want the hut used during daytime hours, due to parking considerations. TCP knows that for younger youth groups, use from 4pm is essential.
- Covering running costs. TCP calculations estimate that breakeven usage would be about 1000 hours per year or 25 hours per week during term time. This is equivalent to 4 hours per term-time weekday plus 5 hours during term-time weekends.
- At lease termination, if the Surgery wants the land back to develop its services, would there be a suitable place to relocate the hut?
- Above all, would a refurbished hut be seen as sufficiently attractive and would the plan be supported by the village? What do you think?

Finally, please do support the **TCP Duck Race** scheduled for **Sunday 26th June at the Bridge Shawford**. Duck tickets are only £1 each and there are three monetary prizes: £100, £50 and £25.

Notes to the speaker from Mike Southgate regarding Twyford Waterworks Trust

The following are the key points:-

- New Chair after two years of being on the committee to select a new Chair for Twyford Waterworks Trust the baton finally ended with me.
- In addition to the former Chair pulling back, a number of other long term trustees and 'doers' have indicated a desire to pull back. This has caused problems and we need to urgently find replacements!
- Graham is staying on as Project director to complete the HLF Return to Steam project and hopefully to mastermind the next project as we continue the story.
- Its a great local attraction for the local community in its broadest sense, not just the historical part but the wonderful nature trail and hide that Terry Forder-Stent has created.
- I want to work more with the local communities to further strengthen those local links and in particular get TWT registered on the local plan which is being developed.
- We want to make our own contribution to the recreation, leisure and education activities of the area.
- We could also do with a few more local volunteers to help out on open days if only for a few hours.
- We have had a few minor hiccups with the 'Return to Steam' project which should be shortly resolved and we should be in steam later this year.
- We are also now drawing up plans to proceed with the next stage of the 'Story of Water Treatment' which will be to look at what we can do with the lime kilns and quarry.
- At our first open day in May we enjoyed around 600 visitors to the site, fortunately a number arriving by the special 'heritage' bus service.
- We are now close to agreeing a longer term lease for the field/car park close to our site but as we get busier parking may well be an issue we need to work out.
- We had hoped to run a heritage bus service to and from Shawford Station/park and Ride but that has hit some hiccups.
- There is an Open Day this weekend please come along.