



MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of Twyning held on the 17th April 2023 at 6.30pm in Twyning Village Hall

Present: Council Chairman Cllr Peter Hadley, Cllrs. Clayson, Davies, Ellis, Ferguson, Lockett, Murray, Clerk/RFO, County Cllor Cate Cody, Borough Councillors Philip Workman, Mike Syztmiak, 47 members of the public

1. Welcome by the Chairman and Annual Report of the Parish Council

In addition to general Council administration, during this year the Parish Council has utilised the precept to fund part surfacing of the footpath alongside TRAC, replacement of litter bins, tree inspection and surgery, equipment hire for the Jubilee event, a contribution towards the tennis court lighting, warning signs on the Quay and noticeboard repairs, contribution to play equipment at TRAC, a grant to the Royal British Legion, newsletter and website administration, upkeep/grass-cutting of the village green and Kilmore Field.

Traffic surveys were conducted to support our grant application for speed monitoring equipment and our application for a mobile VAS has now been approved. We are working with other public bodies to improve highway safety, especially for horse riders and pedestrians using our narrow lanes and we continue to urge all road users to limit their journeys and slow their speed.

We have had to anticipate an increase in costs across the board in the coming year and make provision for potential legal fees. We have managed to keep the Parish Council Tax increase to £1.98 per annum for a Band D property.

All Councillors are volunteers and have spent significant time (and brainpower!) over the last few years responding and representing our Parish, especially on planning matters.

Parish Highlights 2022-2023

- Post-covid health & wellbeing
- Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- The village fete
- Christmas in Twyning
- Our Ukrainian guests
- Planning appeal refused for the Landslip/Petticroft/Nut Orchard

Looking forward to 2023-2024

- Coronation celebrations
- Other community events
- Protect our heritage & assets
- Expansion of the school

- Look after our neighbours
- River water – how do we help restore the quality / work with the River Trust ?
- Climate change – local focus on wildlife and reducing our carbon footprint?
- S106 / CIL payments

2. Special Guest: Meet a Guide Dog and learn about fostering a puppy

Paul Lennon attended with Guide Dog Barney to give an interesting talk. Puppies are fostered from about 8 weeks, and introduced to normal family life and a variety of environments to ensure socialisation. They are regularly health checked and assessed for their ability to be trained. At 14 months they are ready to be trained in the training centre which they attend on daily visits. They are then moved to work with the people who need them. Volunteers are very important to the success of the scheme with a current 2 year wait for a trained dog, a recent campaign has seen more people come forward. The average working life of a dog is 8/9 years.

3. Refreshment Break and Group Discussion (What Twyning Needs/Our environment)

4. Public Participation on points raised from the Group Discussion

Suggestions were as follows:

- Safe way to walk/cycle to shop and school
- Pavements
- Water testing via Green budget amendment – needs volunteer group
- Village Gateways
- “No mow May”
- Bat and bird boxes, bug hotels
- Cycle path alongside the river to join up with Tewkesbury
- Co-ordinate with Tewkesbury Town Council to have cycle path on the A38
- Bus Services
- Stop parking on the pavements
- More wonderful volunteers needed
- Keep the hedgerows

5. Community Speakers are invited to give an overview of their activities

Beavers – Members of the Beavers Group explained their system of awards and how they had achieved them with examples of their badges. Most had now achieved their bronze award.

Cubs – Two members, Sam and Amelia demonstrated through role play how others might be encouraged to join cubs and discover new activities. They meet in the village hall but also go on camps and Sam said his favourite activities had been the Christmas party and the Summer water fight, working toward a First Aid badge. Their leader was pleased with the high attendance and the opportunity for Cubs to learn life skills such as dealing with emergencies.

Scouts – There are currently 23 members in the section enjoying climbing, canoeing, camping and looking forward to St Georges party, Bald Eagle and shooting range. Leaders are always needed but thanks to Liz and Dan Orchard and the rest of the parents for their help.

Explorers – Approximately 35 14-18 year olds attend each week. The Girls Team were extremely happy to win Trophy for their overnight expedition through the Cotswolds. Lots of the activities are joint with the scouts and everyone works towards Duke of Edinburgh awards. The Explorers support the Remembrance Day parade but no longer have a flag and are seeking funding for a new one. Each year there is a Worldwide Jamboree with a strict selection process. Gloucestershire has a representation of 36 members with 5 from Twyning. Esteban explained that he would be one of the 50,000 scouts attending the Jamboree in South Korea this year, each scout had to find £4000 funding for the event and prepare for the event with camps held in the UK.

Twyning Footpath Team report 17th April 2023

At last after Covid the footpath team managed to meet together on many occasion during the year and in response to various reports from both Twyning residents and members of the team we visited numerous locations. Besides the team using the cutting equipment to try and keep the Public rights of way clear we are now receiving report that various stiles and other road side furniture is requiring repair.

At first these were just one or two reports a year and were manageable, but in the last twelve months this has increased to double figures and sourcing the materials has been difficult. Of course the responsibility for the stiles and gates is with the land owner and where possible I have contacted them to bring it to their attention and together we have tried to ensure a safe route around the parish.

Gloucestershire County council public rights of way arranged for yet another hole to be repaired in the wooden bridge near to the Fleet Inn and reported that at some stage in the future the whole bridge will have to be refurbished.

I was pleased to receive a request to provide information to Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding the usage and up keep of the Twyning footpaths especially those on the Nut Orchard land for use at the Planning inspectorate inquiry.

I would like to thank the “Men’s shed” for sharpening all the cutting tools we use and also the parish council for settling the cost of this important service.

I would like to thank all the team for volunteering their support and time and hope that this year will be a better year for the team to get together.

Bob Beetham Twyning Parish footpath coordinator

Lunch Club

Lunch club is doing well and has increased in numbers over recent weeks. We held a successful Christmas meal and are planning a special lunch on 5 May to celebrate the coronation and an outing in August.

Judy Allen
On behalf of Twyning Lunch Club

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting

17 April 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen

Currently the Village Hall is well used and is in good financial health, I am happy to report, but we are struggling to find residents who are willing to sit on the Management Committee as trustees. There are only 4 of us currently and, ideally, there should be 6. We are without a Chairman at the present time, Dave Lockett having defected to the Parish Council, but I would like to thank him for his hard work over the past four and a half years. Thank you Dave.

Hire charges have not risen for the last 10 years but because of the huge hike in electricity charges we might well end this financial year with a trading deficit. Luckily we have the funds to withstand the extra costs and the income from the solar panels helps in mitigation. Our biggest income stream is from the Village Hall lottery and I would encourage people to join as it only costs £1 per week for 10 shares. The monthly draw results are displayed on the notice board outside by the gate.

Maggie Ball
Treasurer

Hosting Families from the Ukraine

Bill O'Dell gave an account of his experience of hosting a family from the Ukraine. Aware that it is an enormous leap of faith and that sometimes expectations are too high. Difficult to understand the level of trauma people have suffered and which is ongoing. Was delighted that the family he hosted settled into life in Twyning and found local work. There was some difficulty ploughing through all the necessary forms but the Gov.UK website is helpful and support to the host now available for 24 months. There are people who still need help. Overall a very rewarding experience. A Ukraine refugee from Kiev, Vlad, gave his account of how he felt arriving in Twyning from a big city. It was not so bad and he has been thrilled to try tennis for the first time and pedal boarding on the river. His younger friends have really enjoyed Twyning school. He thanked his hosts and explained that the help is very important.

Church

The church is all yours even though it is a Saxon building at the wrong end of the village. The church are custodians of the building and pleased to report the clock now shows the right time and the heating is working. 200 people came through the doors this year and we want to reach more people. We arrange activities such as the Flower Festival – this year we have a jazz band. We

always need volunteers to maintain the churchyard, ring the bells (training provided). The Church newsletter helps us communicate. We want to make this year one of Celebration. Ron Hesketh

Friendship Group

The Group was formed by bereaved people who wanted to come together. Originally meeting in the pub they now meet in the chapel. Age UK representative is available to assist with claiming benefits, IT training etc. and members of the Friendship Group assist with lifts to the doctors, prescriptions, contact and friendship. John Westcott is a member and keeps us amused with his magic tricks. We also hold a Christmas lunch.

TRAC

Ian On'Hanlon, Chair of TRAC, said his members were always busy keeping the site clean and open for use. More facilities are now open to the public. TRAC also run events, currently planning one for the Coronation and are hoping to provide circuit training equipment in the near future. Exploring the possibility of installing an outside toilet/changing facility with S106 funding. TRAC members are all volunteers and as with other groups are always looking for more help.

Tennis Club

Pleased to report more than ever members and teams. Arranging Summer camps and walking tennis for the less energetic. The Club arranges social events e.g. BBQ. The Club has recently installed new floodlights with assistance from the Parish Council.

Twyning Tigers

Now has 50 members of 4-11 year olds with lots of interest ongoing. 80% of children walk or cycle to the field. Now holding matches to get teams competing but also fun football with no pressure to play matches. Will be trying to get FA affiliation. It has been a great journey and thanks for everyone's support.

Twyning Men's Shed

Bill O'Dell explained it was Repair Shop meet Scrap Heap Challenge. The members repair all manner of things and ask for donations for their work. The idea is to be productive and sociable. What is said in the shed remains in the shed. We have trialled a Sisters Shed but this has not taken off, the Men's Shed will remain just that. If you have anything to repair bring it and we will have a go.

6. Written reports will be circulated from your County Councillor and Borough Councillors

Cate Cody, Gloucestershire County Councillor Annual Report – April 2023

I've now spent nearly two years as your elected Gloucestershire County Councillor and it's been quite a year! I'm particularly thrilled to have supported Twyning in both the Bow Farm and Hillend (Nut Orchard) planning refusals; by writing objections, carrying out TV and social media interviews, rallying support, speaking against the proposals at the committee and the inquiry and attending three full days of the inquiry. Bow Farm Gravel Extraction (Land At Bow Farm, Bow Lane, Twyning, Tewkesbury) Planning Application 19/0081/TWMAJM was refused on 26/01/23 Public Inquiry Part

Parcel 0025, Hillend, Twyning, planning application - refused by the inspector in March. It was amazing to work alongside such dedicated members of the community. It really was a huge team effort. Well done Twyning!

I also secured funding for and thoroughly enjoyed planting the Queen Elizabeth II's lovely commemorative oak tree on Twyning Green and had a great time at the August fete too.

For information, I have given a list of all my Councillor roles at the end of the report. Over the year, my monthly reports have contained the following. If anyone would like the links again, or further information, please let me know. Information and / or advice regarding:

Women's Tour (Road Cycling)

Tewkesbury Repair Cafe

Twyning School extension

GCC's Change of cabinet member for Highways and Flooding

Gadgeteers with Gloucestershire Libraries Support for families during the summer holidays

Twyning Road Closures

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Tewkesbury Library renovation Fostering

Strong and Steady Homes for Ukraine scheme

Anti-Slavery Week

Cost of Living Support Hub

Children's services GCC Scrutiny Reports

Age UK - Local Drop-in Sessions

Children's Winter Holiday Activities

What the three different Councils do (Town, Borough and County)

Fire safety

£2 Stagecoach Bus fares

'Cutting costs and carbon' Winter energy saving campaign.

Funding opportunities for the following:

GCC's £200,000 Digital Innovation Fund Community Speedwatch Fund

My councillor division Build Back Better Funding, (several projects in Tewkesbury as well):

Community Bus Trial (to have it stop in Twyning – Wednesday mornings)

Kemerton Conservation Trust, Upham Meadow SSSI (funding to purchase and protect land)

I have some funding set aside for Twyning Primary School as well.

My Highways Local Budget (several projects in Tewkesbury as well):

Footpath Surface alternative to tarmac alongside TRAC.

GCC Tree planting scheme (several projects in Tewkesbury as well): Commemorative oak tree

Individuals have also contacted me and been signposted to free trees and hedges Environment, sustainability and recycling:

Tree Planting Network Green Group Farming Motion

Gloucestershire Recycles rewear, reuse and recycle

Climate Change – Youth Action Group Waste Wizard Tool Food recycling campaign (cut waste and carbon)

Tewkesbury Library, Greener Together Events Green Group County Budget wins: e-bikes trial; secure bike storage, fund improvements to our rivers and funding for maintenance of public rights of way.

'No Person is an Island' GCC's Director of Public Health's first annual report

New Director of Integrated Commissioning appointment

Spring Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Gloucestershire Music Tewkesbury Town Council's Warm and Well 'daytime discos'

Consultations and Surveys:

Long-term future of cycling in Gloucestershire consultation

Youth Action Climate Change Survey

Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership Consultation

Council powers to enforce moving traffic restrictions consultation

GCC's proposed 2023/24 budget consultation

Planning Enforcement Plan Engagement consultation How can transport can be decarbonised?

Consultation Healthy lifestyles service consultation

Suggestions for public EV charging points in Gloucestershire

Twynning Casework Personal case work for residents

My roles as a Tewkesbury Councillor

- Tewkesbury Town Councillor – Tewkesbury North Ward Committees:

λ Full Council λ Severn Ham committee λ Watson Hall and Anglo American Garden Trustee Working Groups: λ Climate Change Action Working group - Chair λ Tewkesbury Town Regeneration Project (on hold) λ Local notice board upkeep (Town Council / Stonehills Community) λ Case work λ

Tewkesbury Borough Councillor – Tewkesbury South Ward Committees:

λ Full Council λ Audit and Governance Committee λ Standards committee λ Horsford Trust Committee Working Groups: λ Climate Change Action and Flood Risk Management Working group - Vice Chair λ Planning Policy Reference Panel λ Tewkesbury Garden Town Reference Panel λ Case work

Gloucestershire County Council – Tewkesbury Division Committees:

λ Full Council λ Adult Social Care and Communities Committee λ Safety and Licensing Committee Working Groups: λ Restoring our Rivers Working Group λ Cycling Liaison Working Group λ Stakeholder in the School Streets trial (Tewkesbury C of E) and volunteer coordinator λ Case work λ Group Leader for the Green Party There are four Green County Councillors so we have a proportional share of the Scrutiny Committees and consequently we are representatives for several of these. Non Council Groups λ Plastic-free Tewkesbury – project lead λ Tewkesbury Nature Reserve

- Management team and Species Monitoring Group λ Roses Theatre - Trustee and board member λ Tewkesbury Friends of the Earth – member and Wingmoor liaison forum representative λ PPNP (Prior’s Park Neighbourhood Project) – Environmental Ambassador and official Borough representative λ Stonehills Estate Community Group leader λ Toads on the Roads – Tewkesbury coordinator

I am also a member of various other local and national groups I am more than happy to be contacted if you have any questions on this report or if I can represent you in some way at the County Council.
Cate Cody cate.cody@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Tewkesbury Borough Report for Twyning Annual Assembly.

17th April 2023

This last year has been very busy especially as we have got back to a degree of normality following the pandemic and some things had been delays as a result.

For Twyning planning continues to be a very important issue in the lives of many of the residents. We have had at the local level a good deal of support in getting some of the most inappropriate applications refused by the Borough Council, sadly to be over turned by a Government Inspector. One heartening exception to this is the land at Nut Orchard when the Inspector concurred with the local opinion this was a totally inappropriate site for building. The tree preservation order placed by the Borough and the recommend refusal by Borough Councillors along with the Parish and hugh village response all produced the right result. There is also a date set now for a tribunal to decided if the land can be deemed an Asset of Community Value so the action continues!!

We bring regular Borough updates to the Parish Council meetings and work with both the Parish and County to improve the village where we can. We are often held to account by the Parish Councillors on your behalf!!

We hold Borough surgeries as often as we can to share news and listen to residents concerns and are always at the end of a phone call, email or letter.

Other roles include helping with grants that are available, licensing and promoting local initiatives with items like the 'slow down for hedgehog' signs now seen on the village green. If you don't know already this sign was designed by a pupil at the village school.

Please note, following a government decision, that at the Borough elections on the 4th May you are now required to show photo ID when voting at the Village Hall. This can be Passport, Driving Licence, etc but for a complete list of acceptable photo ID please see the Borough council website <https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/photo-id-required-for-voting> . We do hope this won't put you off voting as this is an important part of our democracy

Cllrs Mike Sztymiak and Philip Workman.

