



North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

18th September 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME OF THIS MEETING

This Meeting is open to any other North Weald Bassett Parish Councillor who wishes to attend

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE** which will be held on **Wednesday 25th September 2019** at **The Library, High Road, North Weald** at **10.30 am** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 
To **RECEIVE** any apologies for absence.
- 2. OTHER ABSENCES**
To **NOTE** any absences for which no apology has been received.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 
To **RECEIVE** any Declarations of Interest by Members

A Member with a personal interest in a matter must consider whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary, Non Pecuniary or Other Pecuniary Interest, and declare it accordingly. A Member who is unsure as to how to declare their interest should seek independent advice.

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To **RECEIVE** questions from members of the public.

In accordance with an agreed procedure, the time allocated for public questions shall be limited to 15 minutes or such other period determined by the Chairman of the Meeting

5.  CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 

To **CONFIRM** the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2019, attached at **Appendix 1**.

6. PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT 

A verbal report will be given at the meeting. Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** any action required. **Appendix 2**

7. ALLOTMENTS 

a) Allotment Warden – Queens Road and Wheelers Farm Gardens

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that a Volunteer has come forward as Allotment Warden for the Queens Road Site. The Allotment Sub Committee continue to temporarily take over wardenship of the Wheelers Farm Gardens site.

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** wardenship going forward as the Council has not received any applications for the vacancy.

b) Thornwood Allotment Site Water Supply

Following damage to the one of the water uprights at the Thornwood Allotments, repairs have been completed by the Parish Councils grounds maintenance contractor. However, due the piping being extremely old, the part required for fixing needed to be ordered from America. Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that whilst the repairs have been completed, should there be a problem in the future the Council may be asked to consider the full replacement of the old piping right through to the stop cock at the hall, and for the length of the allotment site.

c) Hastingwood Allotment Site – Racing Pigeon Quest 

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** a request from an Allotment Holder to house Racing Pigeons on the Plot

An extract from the minutes of the Committee meeting of 26th September 2018 are below for Members information:-

E18.24 ALLOTMENTS

a) Hastingwood Allotment Site

Members NOTED that the Clerk had received an enquiry from an allotment holder asking whether or not it would be possible for a potential tenant to site a pigeon loft and race pigeons from an allotment plot. Attached to the agenda were details of the RSPCAs recommendations with regard to keeping pigeon lofts and racing pigeons, together with a copy of the current Allotment Tenancy Agreement, Rules, Regulations and Codes of Practice (March 2018). The Chairman advised that he had spoken to tenants at the Hastingwood site and they had stated that they would not want a pigeon loft there, therefore, he asked that the Clerk respond to the enquiry and say no.

The PFO stated that there is a Dovecote situated in the Thornwood Allotment site. The Clerk advised that keeping doves was very different to keeping pigeons, adding that the dovecote is located in an open garden area, not on an actual allotment plot.

8. ASSET CHECKS

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that the asset checks for North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood have been completed with minor works required.

9. BULB PLANTING 

At the last Committee meeting Members **AGREED** to plant Crocus and Daffodil bulbs at the entrance gates and within the Cemetery and also within the High Road as required during the month of October. Members of the Committee are asked to **AGREE** a date for planting and arrangements for the purchase the bulbs.

10. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS VILLAGE GREEN, NORTH WEALD 

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that a 10ft Christmas tree has been ordered. Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** what further arrangements they would like to make this year. Members may wish to coincide with the Parish Hall.

11. CEMETERY 

a) Stolen Statue

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that the statue of the little girl was stolen in July. The incident has been reported to the Police and Council's Insurance Company.

b) Criminal Damage at the Cemetery

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** the damage to the gates, fence and bench and also that the lock to the front gates was removed. Committee Clerk to provide a verbal report

c) Memorial Adornments 

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** the Chairman's concerns regarding the number adornments within the Hedges and Cremated Remains Sections.

Committee Chairman to provide a verbal report

An extract from the minutes of the Committee meeting of 26th September 2018 are below for Members information:-

E18.25 CEMETERY

b) Attached to the agenda was a photograph taken by the Chairman of this Committee which depicted excessive ornaments on plots in the Cremated Remains section of the Cemetery. The Clerk advised Members that a notice had been put in the notice board reminding owners. The Chairman asked if a letter could be written to the plot holders. The Clerk stated that we cannot write to all plot holders. The Clerk expressed concern that people would be upset. She stated that she did not feel right, as the Proper Officer of the Council, writing in her name, however, if the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Environmental Committee wish to sign a letter, the Clerk would write the letter. The Clerk warned the Committee that if letters were sent regarding this matter, there could be a lot of bad publicity. Cllr Clegg asked how this problem was resolved

before. The Clerk advised that the problem was not resolved, despite putting a notice on the notice board. The Chairman reminded Members that owners of plots in the new Meadowbrook Section were asked to sign an agreement on purchasing the plot which states that there are to be no ornaments, other than one vase of flowers. The Clerk reminded Members that if they were to take ornaments away from plots, those ornaments would have to be stored securely by the Parish Council, they cannot be thrown away. Following lengthy discussion, Members **AGREED** that no action would be taken at the current time.

12 MEMORIAL TREE 

Following a request from Cllr Clegg, Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** the quotation for the works to the tree located in Hampden Close. Members are asked to **NOTE** that neither the land or the tree belong to the Parish Council. However, there is a dedication plaque placed at the foot of the tree.

13  **ANNUAL TREE SURVEY**  *Appendix 3*

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** the recommendations arising from the report. Quotations are being sourced for the recommended works

14 THORNWOOD COMMON PLAYING FIELD

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that the Epping Youth Football Team have agreed a contract with the Council matches commenced 8th September.

15 BONFIRES

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** the information from EFDC regarding bonfires

16  **ENVIRONMENTAL & GREEN POLICY**  *Appendix 4*

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** any amendments to the Policy at a local level

17 VILLAGE SIGN

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** the arrival date of the refurbished village sign.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council