



North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL



Jim Davis Room, Parish Office, North Weald Library, 138 High Road, North Weald CM16 6BZ

Tel: 01992 523825

Fax: 01992 524756

Email: clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

www.northweald-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

30 September 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOTE 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, 7 October 2015** 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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 

To **CONFIRM** the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015, which were previously circulated with the Parish Council Meeting Agenda for 6 July 2015.

5. ALLOTMENTS 

Weekly Allotment Sub-Committee meetings continue to take place subject to their being issues to be discussed.

a) Smaller Allotments

Following recent articles in the press regarding a decrease in the take-up of allotments nationwide, the Environmental Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** if some of the larger plots on the allotments (Wheelers Farm Gardens, Queens Road, Hastingwood A & B) should be split to create smaller, easier to manage to plots.

b) Communal Allotments 

The Clerk has asked that Councillors consider whether or not the creation of Communal Allotments should be considered, possibly with raised beds and facilities for the disabled. An example of a Communal allotment project is attached to the agenda.

6. PLAY AREAS

a) Inspection regime

Members are asked to **NOTE** that at the 7th September meeting of the Parish Council, it was agreed that the following play area inspection regime would be implemented:

- Weekly - Routine Visual Inspection completed by the Principal Finance Officer
- Last week of each Month - more thorough Routine inspection completed by Parish Council handyman
- Quarterly - Operational Inspection completed by Parish Council handyman
- Annual - Full inspection looking at compliance of equipment with national standards completed by external company

This regime began at the start of September.

b) Actions for Consideration following inspections

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** that any faults or issues classified as Medium or High Risk have been actioned immediately (or are in the process of being actioned). A summary of these works will be given at the meeting.

Weald Common Old Play Area	
All Equipment	All items of equipment are showing beginning to rot at the bottom, some more significantly than others. There are a number of items that will need replacing in the near future, and the Committee should consider budgeting for the cost of replacing these. The findings of both the Quarterly (27th July 2015) and Annual (8th June 2015) inspections have identified this rotting and splitting, however they have been classified as low risk. The

	<p>long term future of this play area should be considered, and it if is to be retained significant funds should be budgeted for to effect the required repairs. Full details will be available at the meeting</p>
School Green Lane	<p>One of the entrance gates no longer operates correctly. Both the external play area contractor and the Parish Grounds Maintenance contractor have looked at the equipment and are not able to fix it. The gate is currently padlocked shut, and the Office has received phone calls from members of the public asking when it is going to be opened. Committee members are asked to consider its replacement.</p> <p>2 bay cradle swing - Annual report identified that the shackle bolt should be removed and the bushes and shackle pins checked for wear. The quarterly report stated that there is some movement in the top supporting joint, and that the shakles should be removed and inspected. Committee to consider these works, or whether or not a plan should be put in place to replace these swings.</p>
Graffiti	<p>There is non offensive graffiti on the multiplay unit at the new WC play area, and the sign of the old WC Play Area. Committee to consider if this should be removed. Offensive Graffiti is removed as soon as practically possible.</p>
Thornwood Common	<p>Quarterly play area inspection dated 27th July stated with reference to the play shell that the securing pieces are loose, some are cracked and some grub screws missing. Finger entrapments, and minor scratched graffiti on 1 panel. However the annual report completed on 8th June stated that the item complies with BS EN 1176 and that the only remedial works is to monitor the wetpour shrinking around that base of the item. The Environmental Committee commissioned a separate operational inspection of this item by an alternative contractor, which was completed on 22nd July, the results stating that the grub screws were tightened or replaced, and that the equipment should be monitored for signs of movement to the green plates. During the weekly inspection on 21st September, no movement was found.</p>
Wetpour	<p>Minor damage and shrinkage has occurred at Thornwood, Weald Common New and School Green Lane play areas. The PFO has sourced a company who are able to provide a wetpour repair kit, and it is hoped costings will be available for the meeting. This will allow the Parish Council to complete the repairs themselves, without incurring significant costs.</p>

7. ASSET CHECKS

The Asset Checks are scheduled to be completed on 1 October 2015. An update on any actions required will be given at the meeting.

8. CEMETERY 

a) Row Markers

The Clerk has made enquiries regarding the purchase of row markers for Burial Section One. The use of row markers would aid not only the Parish Council's Grave Digger but also prospective purchasers in identifying which plots are currently available. At the present time, there are 12 plots available for purchase in Section One. There are 11 rows which require marking, the cost of providing one 4" x 4" granite marker inscribed with "Row Number" secured on to a stainless spike is £18.00 (plus vat). Members may also wish to consider the purchase of row markers in readiness for the use of Burial Section Two, in order to mirror the layout of Section One.

b) Granite Memorial Tree

Members will be aware that consideration will soon need to be given to the marking out of Burial Section Two. Bearing this in mind, the Clerk has investigated the possibility of purchasing a Granite Memorial Tree as a centre piece for Section Two. The "tree" would be produced in light grey granite, with 18 leaf shaped black granite plaques on each face, providing 36 plaques in total. The plaques would be available for purchase and inscription. The total cost of supply and installation would be £2950.00 (plus vat). The tree is supplied by granart Memorials (the memorial masons who supply the boulders and plaques for use in the Cremated Remains section). Granart have advised the Clerk that they would also be able to carry out the necessary ground work and install the concrete foundations at a cost of £600.00. The price quoted for the inscription on the leaf (including postage) is £48.00 (the leaf plaque would be secured with stainless steel security fixings).

9. COMMUNITY TREE STRATEGY

The Clerk has been advised by Chris Neilhan, Principal Officer, Landscape and Trees, Epping Forest District Council, that there is not enough money in the budget to undertake a Community Tree Strategy at the present time, however, he will be in contact again when funds are available.

10. WEALD COMMON 

Countrycare has contacted the Clerk asking whether or not the Parish Council would like the following tasks completed:-

1. The length of hedge which is on the Parish Council part of the Common (towards the top end which did not get laid last year) looks out of character with the rest of the hedge. It is around 40 metres long and the cost would be £350.00 for labour and £50.00 for materials. Alternatively, Countrycare have suggested that their volunteers would be prepared to carry out the work for the cost of the materials only.
2. Cutting of hedge between the Weald Common Play Area and Village Hall land – this was laid two years ago and is now beginning to grow again, it is suggested that, from a safety point of view, the height the Parish Council may wish for the height to be cut back. The cost for two people for two hours to cut and tidy up would be £100.00.

10. GREEN OUTSIDE PARADE OF SHOPS, NORTH WEALD

Councillor Buckley will give a verbal update at the meeting.

11. BULB PLANTING 

As at the time of preparing the Agenda, there has been no response from residents with

regard to volunteering to assist with bulb planting this year. Therefore Members are asked to **AGREE** a date, time and location(s) for bulb planting, bearing in mind that this needs to take place within the next couple of weeks.

12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – VILLAGE GREEN, NORTH WEALD 

Members are asked to **CONSIDER** what arrangements, if any, they would like to make for this year.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council