



North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

27 June 2020

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 **Monday, 13th July 2020 at 7.00pm.**

There will be no physical meeting in line with current Government guidelines and therefore all communications will be conducted electronically via ZOOM. A link will be sent out to you in order that you are able to access the meeting.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To **PROPOSE** and **SECOND** nominations for the Office of Chairman and, if there is more than one nominee, to vote thereon. **Members are asked to NOTE that no Elections should take place if someone currently holds office, however Members can agree that the current Chairman remains in place until 6th May 2021, under the Coronavirus Bill. However they can still choose to show their support and take an 'informal' vote for the Minutes during these unprecedented times.**

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 

To **PROPOSE** and **SECOND** nominations for the Office of Vice Chairman and, if there is more than one nominee, to vote thereon. **Members are asked to NOTE that no Elections should take place if someone currently holds office, however Members can agree that the current Vice Chairman remains in place until 6th May 2021, under the Coronavirus Bill. However they can still choose to show their support and take an ‘informal’ vote for the Minutes during these unprecedented times.**

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 

To **RECEIVE** any apologies for absence.

4. OTHER ABSENCES

To **NOTE** any absences for which no apology has been received.

5. 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.

5. 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.

6.  CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 

To **APPROVE** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2019 and to **NOTE** the decisions and actions taken using delegated power, at the meeting held on Wednesday, 11 March, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

7. ASSET CHECKS

As reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July, Members are asked to **NOTE** that a full survey on Parish Council Assets has been carried out. A brief report regarding the PFO’s findings, together with any recommendations will be given at the meeting.

8.  ALLOTMENTS 

a) General Report

As reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July, Members are asked to **NOTE** the contents of the report attached at **Appendix 2** which gives a brief summary of any actions taken.

b) Hastingwood Allotment Site

Members of this Committee may recall the problems experienced with controlling Mare’s Tail. One of the allotment plot holders has had to give up one of two plots due to the on-going problem. A report is attached at **Appendix 3**.

c) Allotment Wardens

As Members will be aware, the role of warden is carried out on a voluntary basis. In

recognition of their hard work and commitment, going forward, Members are asked to **CONSIDER** allocating allotment plots free of charge to the wardens as a gesture of thanks.

d) Community Allotment Garden – Wheelers Farm Gardens Allotment Site

As reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July, the Clerk will give a brief verbal report regarding this matter.

9. CEMETERY 

a) Maintenance of Memorial Benches

There are a total of 9 memorial benches located in the Cemetery, all of which are in need of some maintenance. A quote to prepare and treat the benches has been received from the Cemetery Grounds Contractor, the total of cost of which is £795.00 (this includes all materials and labour). It is recommended that this work is undertaken as soon as possible, therefore Members are asked to **AGREE** to accept this quote.

b) Repairs to Picket Fence – Memorial Garden

As reported at the Parish Council Meeting on 6th July, Members are asked to **NOTE** that the white picket fence surrounding the Memorial Garden is in need of some repairs. Following a meeting on site with the Cemetery Grounds Contractor, the Clerk has agreed that the repairs should be carried out as soon as possible. The cost for this work will be £180.00.

10. PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ADJACENT TO CEMETERY 

Members will be aware of the ongoing issues with quad bikes and motorcycles using the bridleway adjacent to the cemetery to access the disused Golf Course, as reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July. For a number of months the Clerk has been liaising with Simon Taylor, PRoW Enforcement and Liaison Officer for Essex County Council, with regard to the possibility of installing a gate along the bridleway. The latest email response received is as follows:-

“As I believe we have touched on before, the issue of preventing access for motorcycles along bridleways while at the same time keeping the legitimate public rights unfettered is a very difficult nut to crack.

The “bridleway stile” is just about the best lawful means but many horse-riders don’t like them and under modern equality legislation there has to be an accessible gap or gate to the side, minimum width 1.1m. This remains perhaps the best option though.

Alternatively, you could try a straightforward field gate. This would have to be unlocked but with suitable signage would act as a deterrent and any quad bikers or motorcyclists ignoring the signage and accessing the bridleway would have absolutely no defence so the Police could then enforce their powers under s.34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (as they can do already of course)”.

The Clerk has advised Simon that, although a sum of money has been set aside, she has been unable to find anything suitable anywhere which will allow horses to pass through and at the same time not allow motorcycle access. The Clerk has advised Simon that she believes it would not be good use of Parish Council funds to spend the money on

something which would not alleviate the problem. Simon has agreed with this and is unable to recommend a suitable solution. Simon has advised that he is not aware of a structure that would permit horse access but not motorcycles.

At the time of preparing this agenda, the Clerk has received a further email from concerned residents who have reported that motorcyclists have continued to visit the land regardless of the lockdown measures. Despite Police Officers attending and Notices being put up, the motorcyclists have not been deterred. Members are asked to **CONSIDER** how they wish to proceed with this matter. If any Member wishes to view the emails relating to this matter please contact the Clerk **prior** to the meeting.

11. PLAY AREAS

a) Annual Play Area Inspections

Members are asked to **NOTE** that the Annual Play Area Inspections have been scheduled to take place at the end of September / early October.

b) Repairs to Wet Pour (Safety Surfacing)

As reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July, Members are asked to **NOTE** that all three play areas have had repairs to the Wet Pour. All work was completed on the 24th June.

12. CONTRACT FOR GRASS CUTTING - WEALD COMMON

The Parish Council is responsible for cutting two of the fields on Weald Common. Mr Kerr is contracted to cut the larger of the fields (known as field 'B') twice a year at a cost of £250.00 per cut. The Parish Council's contractor cuts the grass where the old play area used to be, the pathway leading to the football pitch and the pitch itself, this field is known as field 'A'. Members are advised that the remainder of this field is not cut at the present time.

13. CONTRACT FOR GRASS CUTTING – THORNWOOD FIELD

Members are asked to **NOTE** that following issues regarding the grass cutting of Thornwood field, the Clerk has been liaising with a new manager at Pinnacles (the company contracted to cut the field). A total of 5 cuts were missed during the 2019-2020 season, therefore the Parish Council has received a credit of 5 x £48.00. Moving forward, it has been agreed that a total of 16 cuts will be carried out per season. This will be closely monitored over the coming months.

14. GARDEN AT PARADE OF SHOPS - SPONSORS

Members are asked to **NOTE** that due to the impact of Covid-19, this year plaques are being offered to the usual Sponsors at a cost of £75.00. The Chairman of the Parish Council has arranged for the plaques to be printed and will be liaising with the Parish Council's contractor with regard to putting them in place.

15. NORWAY HOUSE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Members are asked to **NOTE** that the Sunflower Competition has had to be cancelled this year. The Chairman of the Parish Council has been liaising with staff from Norway House and was advised that, due to the Covid-19 crisis, staff are continuing to work from home. When staff have to visit Norway House social distancing measures have to be adhered to, therefore they felt that it would not have been practical to hold the competition this year.

16. CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL & GREEN POLICY 

As noted by Councillors at the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020, Members of this Committee are asked to **AGREE** to the temporary changes to the Parish Council's Environmental & Green Policy, which are required due to the impact of Covid-19.

17.  REPORT FROM CLLR IRVINE 

Councillor Irvine has picked up some concerns, via social media, regarding an area which is walked quite often by residents in North Weald. The area in question, although located in the parish of Theydon Garnon, borders North Weald. Cllr Irvine is concerned about the use of barbed wire and a copy of his report is attached at **Appendix 4**. The Clerk has written to Simon Taylor, PRoW Enforcement and Liaison Officer for Essex County Council, regarding this matter. Members are asked if this Parish Council should take any further action.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council