



**MINUTES**

**Meeting:** ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMITTEE

**Date:** 29 October 2014

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Venue:** NORTH WEALD LIBRARY, HIGH ROAD, NORTH WEALD

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors (8)** G Mulliner (Chairman), C Hawkins, B Eldridge, B Bartram, G McCormack,  
B Clegg, A Buckley, Mrs A Grigg

**Also in Attendance (3)**

Susan De Luca, Clerk to the Council  
Adriana Jones, Principal Finance and Administrative Officer\*  
Joanna Tyler, Administrative Officer\*

\*For part of meeting

**Members of the Public (0)**

**E14.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (0)**

**E14.22 OTHER ABSENCES (0)**

**E14.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*NOTED* there were no declarations of interest.

**E14.24 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2014 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

**E14.25 QUARTERLY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT**

Members *NOTED* that the Quarterly Play Area Inspection was completed by ARD on 23 September 2014. The Principal Finance and Administrative Officer had visited each of the sites on Friday, 10 October 2014, to review the findings of the report. Following discussion, Members **AGREED** the following actions:-

**Weald Common Play Area – Old Site**

Re-secure cut and lifting section of plastic matting at gate entry - **Priority 2**. *To be reviewed after Budget and Precept Meeting on 17.11.2014, when at which time all-weather surfacing will be discussed.*

Treat and repaint the litter bin – **Priority 3**. *Will be reviewed in the Spring.*

Replace worn centre links to bottom Burma Bridge chains – **Priority 2**. *To be reviewed after next play area inspection as, at present, does not present a serious H&S risk.*

Monitor all timber works for any signs of rot and rough edges plus any deterioration in the splits that have appeared. *Cllr Mulliner confirmed that he monitors for signs of deterioration on a monthly basis.*

### **School Green Lane Play Area**

Adjust 1no prosafe gate to allow it to close flush with post and re-secure loose slam plate – **Priority 2**. *Members AGREED that the gate does not present a H&S risk and should be reviewed after the next inspection. There is, however, a loose slam plate which needs fixing and Councillors asked if Thornwood Grounds Maintenance could be contacted. Thornwood Grounds Maintenance contacted and asked to complete works within the next six weeks.*

Rub down, treat and repaint top bar to cradle swing – **Priority 3**. *Members AGREED that Thornwood Grounds Maintenance be contacted to complete the works within six weeks.*

Replace 1no set of anti-wrap bars and tail chains to the Flat Seat Swing – **Priority 3**. *To be reviewed following the next play area inspection.*

Replace 1no missing bung to upright on Multi-play unit and slide – **Priority 2**. *Members AGREED that the Principal Finance and Administrative Officer should order replacement caps and for Thornwood Grounds Maintenance to fix within the next six weeks.*

Recommend filling the large gap under the fencing with soil and turn or, Alternatively, fit gravel boards to prevent animals from entering the area – **Priority 2**. *Members AGREED that Thornwood Grounds Maintenance should be contacted to suggest a solution (perhaps fitting gravel board to fill gap).*

Other – Graffiti on multi-play unit – *Thornwood Grounds Maintenance advised 29.10.2014.*

### **Thornwood Common Play Area**

Jet wash to remove minor moss and algae growth from original tarmac surfaces inside the area on a regular basis – **Priority 3**. *Thornwood Grounds Maintenance requested to clear algae.*

Repair small split in black wet pour under Rock N Cross – **Priority 2**. *Councillors NOTED that Cllr Spearman had agreed to fill with a liquid tar to stop any further deterioration.*

Replace missing plastic cap at slide entry section on tower unit and slide to cover exposed bolt thread – **Priority 1**. *Councillors AGREED that Thornwood Grounds Maintenance should be contacted to replace plastic cap.*

Replace 1no missing blanking bolt to Tower Unit and Slide Upright – **Priority 2**.  
*Councillors AGREED that the bolt should be replaced. The Principal Finance and Administrative Officer emailed Safe and Sound on 29.10.2014, asking if they could supply a bolt and if we could fix it ourselves.*

Replace 1no missing plastic cap to Monster Shop Play Panel – **Priority 2**.  
*Councillors AGREED that Thornwood Grounds Maintenance should be contacted to replace.*

**E14.26 RoSPA PLAYSAFETY PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT**

Members **NOTED** that Kevin Hebden had attended and passed the Level 1 Routine Inspections of Children’s Playgrounds Course on 3 September 2014.

**E14.27 ALLOTMENTS**

Following a report of a possible water leak at Thornwood allotment site, Cllr Hawkins informed Members that he had attended the site with the allotment warden and they could not locate any leak.

*\*Adriana Jones left meeting and Jo Tyler joined meeting.*

**E14.28 BULB PLANTING**

Bulb Planting had taken place at Scribbles Nursery and the Red Pre-School. Members were reminded that bulb planting had been scheduled to take place at Blenheim Square, North Weald, following today’s meeting.

Bulb Planting had been booked with North Weald Village Pre-School for Wednesday, 5 November 2014 at 11am. Members were advised that North Weald Scouts were unable to assist with bulb planting this year, however, would like to be involved next year if more notice is given.

**E14.29 GREEN OUTSIDE PARADE OF VILLAGE SHOPS, NORTH WEALD**

Following the discussions at the previous Environmental Committee Meeting, Cllr Buckley informed Members that he had visited Brook Parade in Chigwell, as suggested by the Clerk. He reported that the plants used appear to be low maintenance and that they look very good.

Members discussed what they would like to see on the green area. The Clerk stated that Members would need to provide a plan of the area, detailing what they would like to see there. Once the plan had been drawn up it would need to be submitted to John Simmons. Cllr Buckley offered to assist in drawing up a plan of the area. The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs Grigg if she would be able to contact Quentin to assist with this.

**E14.30 REMOVAL OF PHONE BOX, OUTSIDE PARADE OF SHOPS, NORTH WEALD**

Members **NOTED** that the Clerk had written to Epping Forest District Council

regarding removal of the phone box, a response to which was still awaited. The Clerk stated that she would chase this.

*The Chairman welcomed Chris Neilan, Principal Officer, Landscape and Trees, EFDC, to the meeting.*

**E14.31 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact A and J Lighting to see if it would be possible to put the lights on the tree near to the flagpole. The Clerk asked Members if they wished to approach Wheelers Farm Gardens with regard to providing a venue for refreshments (the Warden at Wheelers Farm Gardens kindly allowed use of the hall following last year's switching on of the lights). Cllr Mrs Grigg stated that they should be approached once confirmation had been received that the lights could be placed on the tree.

Meeting closed: 11.00 am

Signed .....  
Date .....