

The Annual Parish Assembly of the **North Weald Bassett Parish Council**, was held on Monday, 21st March 2016, in the **Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood Common at 7.00pm.**

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

**Parish Council Members Present: Councillor Cyril Hawkins – Chairman
Councillor Alan Buckley – Vice Chairman**

**Councillors: B Bartram, Mrs E Godwin-Brown, G Mulliner, R Spearman, B Eldridge,
Mrs S Jackman MBE, A Tyler**

Apologies received from: Councillors T Blanks, B Clegg, Mrs A Grigg, D Stallan, D Adams

**District Councillors Present: R Morgan
Essex County Councillor Present: None present**

**Public: Thirty Nine Members of the Public present.
Press: One
Police: None present**

**In Attendance: Susan De Luca – Clerk to the Council
Adriana Jones, Jo Tyler**

The Chairman welcomed Members of the Public to the Annual Parish Assembly.

1. Introduction of Councillors

The Chairman introduced all Parish and District and County Councillors who were in attendance.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Assembly were circulated. All those present **AGREED** that the minutes be approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. To consider any matters arising from the last meeting.

No matters were raised.

4. To receive a report on the Council's activities from:

The Chairman of the Council: Councillor Cyril Hawkins

The Chairman gave a brief report of the activities carried out by the Parish Council during the past year. A copy of the Annual Report was circulated to those present. The Chairman thanked the Parish Council Staff and the Parish Councillors for the work carried out.

The Chairman informed those present that work would be commencing on a new garden in the High Road, North Weald and asked Cllr Buckley to give a brief update. Cllr Buckley stated that the new garden would enhance the area in front of the parade of shops. It is hoped that the garden will deter parking on the "zig-zag" lines near to the crossing and deter litter dropping. Low maintenance plants and bushes will be planted. Work is due to commence within the next four weeks. A member of the public asked if plants could be planted on the roundabout at the Talbot and referred to the roundabout at Ongar as an example. The Clerk advised that the roundabout is managed by Epping Forest District Council, the roundabout at Ongar is bigger than the one at the Talbot and is easier to plant there. The Parish Council have been trying, for the past 4 or 5 years, to have plants planted there. Epping Forest District Council have advised that they have health and safety concerns for contractors because the roundabout is so small. Cllr Buckley reported that Parish Councillors had carried out bulb planting last year and would look to plant bulbs on the green areas near to the Talbot roundabout next year.

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of the Parish Council's Environmental Committee, Cllr George Mulliner, organises visits by the committee to Hastingwood Allotments once a month, to ensure that everything is running smoothly.

The Chairman asked those present if they had any further questions. No further questions were asked.

5. To receive a report from District Councillors

Councillor Mr Richard Morgan, representing Hastingwood and Sheering, reported that everything is running smoothly. Cllr Morgan asked if the allotments at Hastingwood were well used. The Chairman stated that they were. Cllr Morgan asked what the development was at the end of Woodside. The Chairman explained that the site has been bought by travellers and the development was won on appeal. Cllr Morgan asked what the Parish Council had budgeted for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk advised that the amount of money budgeted was £40,000. The Clerk asked the Parish Council's Principal Financial Officer to give a brief report on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Principal Financial Officer advised that the Parish Council had budgeted just under £40,000, with £35,000 left. Leaflets are being delivered to residents asking them to have a say as to whether or not we go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk stated that it is there if you want it. A total of 101 residents have signed up as interested and probably another 80 have expressed an interest. The Clerk said that if anyone present would like to assist with the delivery of the leaflets, please contact the Parish Office.

A member of the public asked if residents would have any rights if a Neighbourhood Plan went ahead. The Clerk stated that residents would not be able to stop houses being built, but could have a say in the type of homes that would be built. Residents could also have a say in where shops would go, where roads would be built, etc. The Neighbourhood Plan is to advise your Local Authority that you need these sorts of things. The Principal Financial Officer stated that there are certain rules and policies set by District Council and the Neighbourhood Plan needs to conform to that.

A member of the public asked when would the Neighbourhood Plan be in place. The Principal Financial Officer stated that if there is enough interest from residents, it will take around two years or so until you end up with the final document, adding that it is a long process.

A member of the public asked if the Neighbourhood Plan supplemented previous plans. The Clerk stated that the Parish Councillor who was involved with the completion of a parish plan gave incorrect information at that time. With a parish plan the District Council do not need to adopt it, with regard to a Neighbourhood Plan, they have to take notice of it.

Councillor Tyler asked the Chairman if he could address those present with regard to the celebrations of 100 years of North Weald Airfield. Cllr Tyler briefly mentioned the Community Day which is to be held on Sunday, 17 July 2016 and urged those present to look out for the advertisements over the coming weeks. A member of the public stated that she lived near to the Airfield and said that when there were public events she found it difficult to get out of the village, commenting that all events should be advertised. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council can only advise, adding that the Airfield has its own website which publicises events.

6. To receive a report from County Councillors (if available), no report received.

7. To receive questions from the public concerning matters over which the Parish Council has control or some influence. No questions received.

8. Presentation of Citizen of the Year Awards:

Councillor Alan Buckley, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council advised that there had been a lot of nominees received this year and announced the runners up and winners as follows:-

Runners Up:

June Peachey – Resident and Editor of North Weald Village Life Magazine

Sazzad Ullah – Manager of the Cinnamon Restaurant, North Weald

Stefon Brown – Road Sweeper Operative, North Weald

Citizen of the Year:

This was awarded to Roy Sudra, Post Master, North Weald Post Office. Roy is retiring this year after 25 plus years of service to the community. He is highly regarded, extremely knowledgeable, polite and courteous and will be missed by all.

Individual Award for Voluntary Services to the Community:

This was jointly awarded to Iris Smith, secretary to Thornwood Seniors Association, and to Lisa Harman, Allotment Warden for Wheelers Farm Gardens and Queens Road sites in North Weald.

Group Award:

This was jointly awarded to Jacky Kelly, Lynn Austin and Jackie Blaney (Secretary, Bookings and Treasurer of Hastingwood Village Hall Committee) for their involvement with the refurbishment and building of the extension to the hall.

The Parish Hall at Thornwood Common Management Committee, have been active over the last year in raising funds to ensure that the hall goes some way towards self-funding. Events have been held such as quiz nights, Sunday Ploughman Lunches and a Carol Service.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited those present to join him and enjoy some refreshments.

The meeting was closed at 7.50pm