

The Annual Parish Assembly of the **North Weald Bassett Parish Council**, was held on Monday, 20th March 2017, in the **Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood Common at 7.30pm.**

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

District Councillors Present: R Morgan
Essex County Councillor Present: A Jackson, J Whitehouse

Public: Twenty Six Members of the Public present
Press: One
Police: None present

In Attendance: Adriana Jones – Principal Financial Officer
Jo Tyler – Senior Administrative Officer

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

1. Introduction of Councillors

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 2016 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.

5. To receive a report from District Councillors

Councillor Mr Richard Morgan, representing Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering reported that he was very pleased to see that the Hastingwood Village Hall committee are carrying on with improvements to the hall. He also commented that he was pleased to see, from the Annual Report, that bulb planting would be carried out in Hastingwood this year, adding that the allotments are still well managed and are a very good thing to have in the village.

Cllr Morgan briefly mentioned the Local Plan, commenting that it seems to be progressing well with District Councillors and Parish Councillors doing all they can for North Weald Bassett. Cllr Morgan thanked the Parish Council for the support that they give not only to him but also to residents.

6. To receive a report from County Councillors

Councillor Mr Anthony Jackson, representing North Weald mentioned how Essex County Council had reduced its annual budget from £3 billion to £2 billion. He reported that one of the biggest challenges for Essex County Council was highways, with £140m expenditure on roads this year.

Cllr Jackson mentioned Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan, stating that 44% of all housing proposed lies within his constituency. He stated that Essex County Council would need to provide the infrastructure to support the Local Plan.

Cllr Jackson mentioned social care, stating that supporting people to stay in their own homes helps them to have a much better prospect of a longer life and health, 50% of all people needing care being over the age of 85. The budget for this coming year allows ECC to spend more. ECC have been able to freeze the council tax for 2017/18, but have taken the social care levy to support it, which means there is a 3% increase in the council tax.

Cllr Jackson confirmed that Junction 7A of the M11 would now be going ahead. The Government have given ECC another £14m towards this project. Cllr Jackson was unable to confirm when work would commence, but stated that it would be happening.

Cllr Jackson reported that there was a plan by Hertfordshire County Council to build an incinerator on the border of Dobbs Weir. The Local MP, Harlow Town Council, EFDC and ECC have all written to object to the proposal.

Councillor Mr Jon Whitehouse, representing the Thornwood part of the Parish, mentioned Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan, stating that District Councillors have a responsibility to look not just at the houses that might be built but also to consider what the impact on the roads would be, adding that this would need to be looked at very carefully. With regards to Junction 7A, there was a concern that some money had been taken away from Junction 7, but it is still part of Highways plan and is still on the list to be upgraded. Cllr Whitehouse stated that highway maintenance is frustrating, giving an example of the signpost into Upland Road which had been reported numerous times but does not meet the threshold for repair. He also mentioned the streetlights between Hastingwood and Thornwood stating that older lights replaced with LED would be cheaper to run. Cllr Whitehouse said that he wanted to encourage people to report highways problems to ECC via their website, adding that although there is no guarantee that the problems will be repaired, at least they can be recorded on the list.

Cllr Whitehouse also briefly mentioned social care and the expansion of St Andrew's Primary School in North Weald.

With regard to the Local Plan, the Chairman informed those present that Latton Priory and Hastingwood could now be included as part of the parish of North Weald.

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:

Award winners were announced by Jo Tyler, the Chairman and Vice Chairman handed out certificates, together with prizes, as follows:-

Runners Up:

Margaret Mulliner and Daphne Buckley – for assisting with the planting of the new garden by the parade of shops in North Weald – 150 winter pansies were planted before Christmas.

Laura Chalcraft - for taking over the role of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Kevin Hebden – for assisting the Parish Office staff, whether that be in response to an emergency, removing graffiti or ensuring that the play areas are safe.

The **Community Long Service Award** was presented to **Mrs Vivian Madden**, who has been the secretary for North Weald Horticultural Society for 30 years without a break. Mrs Madden is retiring from the role this year.

The **Lifetime Contribution Award** was presented to **Mr Arthur Moreton**, for his work with RAFA and North Weald Airfield. Arthur is the North Weald Airfield Ambassador to Epping Forest District Council.

The **Group Award** is presented to **Epping Forest Countrycare**, for the work that they carry out at Thornwood Nature Reserve and Weald Common.

The **Citizen of the Year Award** was presented to **Mr James Waters** – Jimmy is a keen supporter of everything that goes on within the Village of Thornwood, assisting with the annual fete and the gardening club. Jimmy has just completed writing a book about Thornwood. The book is very informative, delving into the past history of the village. The photographs and the information contained in the book is a wonderful achievement.

The final award was presented for **Exceptional Valour** to a dog named **Stanley**. Despite being only 16 months old, Stanley raised the alarm during a night in December and woke his owners for them to discover that there was a fire in their loft. On realising this Stanley's owners, along with a new puppy, fled the house with only minutes to spare before their entire house was destroyed by fire and smoke. Stanley's senses obviously detected the heat and smoke so early and his intelligence on raising the alarm and saving them all definitely deserved recognition.

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

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm