

North Weald Bassett Parish Council Constitution

May 2017

North Weald Bassett Parish Council consists of fifteen councillors elected every four years. Epping Forest District Council maintains the Register of Electors.

North Weald Bassett Parish Council's vision is "to ensure the Parish continues to be a vibrant Parish with a strong community spirit in each of its villages, where everybody matters. The aim is for the Parish to be a prosperous, safe and attractive place in which to live and work for the present generation, and for generations to come".

The purpose of the Council is to work within its statutory powers to maintain and enhance the village's public amenities, and to help the people of the Parish to improve their quality of life, in accordance with the Council's vision, and to work in partnership with Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council.

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution, and utilise its limited budget to achieve the greatest good for the community.

Councillors agree to follow the Council's Code of Conduct, which is overseen by the Monitoring Officer at Epping Forest District Council.

The Council's administrative affairs are dealt with by the Parish Clerk, and supported by other office staff.

The Council meets in public on the first Monday of each month in North Weald Library at 7.30pm except when this is a Bank Holiday, when alternative arrangements are made.

The Council sets up committees to deal with specific matters that require more extensive consideration. These consist of at least two nominated Councillors, who may co-opt other, appropriate members, including non-elected representatives.

The Council operates a freedom of information policy and publishes its agendas and minutes on the parish notice boards and its Website. Any member of the public can inspect Council papers and attend Council or committee meetings. They may also inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

Legal Standpoint

Local Government Act 1972

Constitution and powers of parish council.

(1)A parish council shall consist of the chairman and parish councillors and shall have all such functions as are vested in the council by this Act or otherwise.

(2)The parish council shall be a body corporate by the name "The Parish Council" with the addition of the name of the particular parish.

(2A)If the parish has the style of community, the council shall be known by the name "The Community Council" with the addition of the name of the community.

(2B)If the parish has the style of neighbourhood, the council shall be known by the name "The Neighbourhood Council" with the addition of the name of the neighbourhood.

(2C)If the parish has the style of village, the council shall be known by the name "The Village Council" with the addition of the name of the village.

(2D)If parishes are grouped under a common parish council—

(a)subsection (2), (2A), (2B) or (2C) (as appropriate) applies to that council as the subsection would apply in the case of the council of an individual parish; but

(b)the names of all of the parishes, communities, neighbourhoods or villages in the group are to be included in the name of the common council.]

(3)Notwithstanding anything in any rule of law, a parish council need not have a common seal, but where a parish council have no seal any act of theirs which is required to be signified by an instrument under seal may be signified by an instrument signed and sealed by two members of the council.