



North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

20th February 2019

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 **Wednesday, 27th February 2019** at **The Library, High Road, North Weald** at **10.30 am** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 

To **RECEIVE** any apologies for absence.

2. OTHER ABSENCES

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

3. 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.

4.  CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 

To **CONFIRM** the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2018, attached at **Appendix 1**.

5. PLAY AREAS

A verbal report will be given at the meeting.

6.  ALLOTMENTS 

a) Annual Allotment Holders Meeting

Members of this Committee are asked to **NOTE** that the Annual Allotment Holders Meeting is to be held on Sunday, 24th March 2019 at the Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, 9.30am for 10am start. This date has been confirmed by the Chairman of this Committee. As in previous years, Allotment Wardens will be asked to send in nominations for awards to the Principal Financial Officer. Therefore, as wardens for the Hastingwood A Site, the Allotment Sub Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** any nominations they would like to be considered and advise the PFO accordingly.

b) Review of Allotment Fees

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** if there is a need to increase allotment fees for 2020/2021. As members will now, the Parish Council is required to give 12 months notice of any increase in fees. For the new financial year (2019/2020) there was no increase, and these fees are as follows:

- Under 50sqm = Extra Small	£23.00
- Between 51sqm & 100sqm = Small	£25.00
- Between 101sqm & 150sqm = Average	£26.00
- Between 151sqm & 200sqm = Large	£30.00
- Over 201sqm = Extra Large	£32.00

c) Allotment Warden – Hastingwood A

The Allotment Sub-Committee currently carry out the role of allotment warden at Hastingwood A, visiting the site on a monthly basis. Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** if the Sub-Committee should retain this role for the forthcoming year or whether nominations should be asked for at the Annual Allotment Meeting.

d) Toilet on North Weald Allotments

Some time ago, discussion took place with STORM (EFDC contractors working on Queens Road) with regard to the possibility of them laying an additional connection to the sewer system (as part of their Queens Road Works) to enable a toilet facility to be located on the North Weald Allotments. The Clerk recently chased EFDC regarding this, and their response was as follows:

Storm Building Ltd. have investigated the feasibility of allowing NWPC to connect the proposed toilet facilities to our new drainage system including consulting their engineers. However, unfortunately this is not feasible for the following reasons:

- 1. The engineers would need to re-run their calculations and then the process of gaining approval from Thames Water would need to start again. This would lead to a potentially long delay with SBL getting on with the drainage works. As well as a delay, this would also result in EFDC incurring a significant increase in costs.*
- 2. You may also need to apply for Planning, Building Control and Land Drainage Consent approvals which, again, would potentially lead to significant delays for our programme.*

3. *Because we are 2 separate organisations it would be best if we had separate independent connections to the main Thames Water run because of potential complications in terms of liabilities e.g. blockages.*

Therefore, at this stage in our development programme it would be best if you were to make own independent application to Thames Water.

North Weald Allotments (consisting of both Wheelers Farm Gardens and Queens Road Allotments) is our largest allotment site. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** the provision of a toilet on this site. Further details will be made available at the meeting.

e) Changes to Allotment Rules and Regulations

Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if any changes are needed to the Rules and Regulations for the allotments. A copy of the current Rules and Regulations are attached at **Appendix 2**.

7. MILESTONES

As Councillors will recall, this Parish Council received funding for works to restore and renovate the Milestones in the Parish. This work was undertaken by Mr Jimmy Waters on a voluntary basis. Mr Waters has advised the Parish Office that one of the Milestones in Thornwood has now fallen over. Within the Parish Council Earmarked Reserves, an amount of £195.12 is held for works to Milestones. Attached to the agenda at **Appendix 3**, is some paperwork and pictures concerning this milestone and details of the complexities of re-siting it at its current location. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if they wish to take any action on this matter.

8. TREE RISK ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Councillors may recall, from the previous Committee Meeting, discussions regarding two trees adjacent to the boundary of the Thornwood Allotment site and concerns expressed with regard to their safety by a former Parish Councillor. In light of the concerns arrangements were made for a Tree Risk Assessment Survey to be undertaken by a qualified arboriculturist. A copy of the assessment is attached at **Appendix 4**. A schedule of works required is included under Appendix A of the survey. Three contractors have been contacted to quote for the works to be undertaken. Two contractors have responded and their quotations are attached at **Appendix 5**. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** how they wish to proceed with this matter.

9. CEMETERY

a) Cemetery Fees

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** a possible increase in cemetery fees for 2019/20. Last year Committee Members agreed a 10% increase for the purchase of exclusive rights of burial in a plot in The Meadow Brook Section only, with all other fees remaining the same as the previous year. A copy of the current fees sheet is attached at **Appendix 6**, together with details of costs charged by neighbouring cemeteries.

b) Diana Memorial Tree

The Clerk has received correspondence from the Chairman of North Weald and District Preservation Society regarding the Diana Memorial Tree. Concerns have been expressed with regard to the appearance of the tree and the memorial stone. The tree has been

checked by the arboriculturist who carried out the Tree Risk Assessment Survey and has not been identified as requiring any remedial works to be undertaken within the next 12 months. However, in light of the concerns, Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** any action they may wish to take.

c) Unused Section

Members may recall the discussion regarding the unused section of the Cemetery. One quote had been obtained from a contractor to clear the area of shrubs and small trees, leaving the mature specimen trees. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** how they wish to proceed with this matter.

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