



**MINUTES**

**Meeting:** ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMITTEE

**Date:** 25 June 2014

**Time:** 10.30 am

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

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**PRESENT:**

**Councillors (5)** G Mulliner (Chairman), C Hawkins, B Eldridge, B Bartram, G McCormack,

**Also in Attendance (2)**

Susan De Luca, Clerk to the Council  
Joanna Tyler, Administrative Officer

**Members of the Public (1)**

**E14.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (3)**

**NOTED** apologies received from Cllrs B Clegg, A Buckley and Mrs E Godwin-Brown

**E14.17 OTHER ABSENCES (0)**

**E14.18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**NOTED** there were no declarations of interest.

**E14.19 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

**E14.20 WEALD COMMON PLAY AREA**

Members **NOTED** that Mrs Sue Malpass, representing North Weald Mums Group, had been invited to attend the meeting by Councillor McCormack.

Members **NOTED** that the North Weald Mums Group were unsuccessful in their application for grant funding from Lottery Awards For All. Members were asked to **CONSIDER** the possibility of granting additional funding towards the purchase of new play area equipment for Weald Common Play Area.

The Finance and Administrative Officer had confirmed that, as at 31 March 2014, the amount of money held in the Weald Common fund was £23,711.00 and had suggested that a minimum of £9,000 be held back to cover maintenance costs for Weald Common for the next three years.

The Clerk stated that the Parish Council could make another application under the CIF grant funding for a piece of play equipment. The previous application was under the name of the North Weald Mums Group and if the project had already started, no further funding would be granted. However, if a piece of play equipment is removed from the planned project, an additional grant application may be made for

that specific piece of equipment. Members **NOTED** that the CIF grants panel sits in September.

Sue Malpass asked about the Weald Common Fund and how much money would be available for the Play Area. The Clerk stated that the fund originated from a 106 Agreement, of which £70,000 was given to Weald Common. The Parish Council legally need to retain an amount in that fund for maintenance of Weald Common in perpetuity, ie., forever. The Clerk stated that a minimum of £2,000 per year is spent on maintenance.

*The following handouts were distributed, for Members perusal:-*

*Quotation from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd (dated 29.8.2013)*

*Quotation from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd (dated 17.6.2014)*

*Quotation from Wicksteed Playscapes (dated 25.11.2013)*

*Quotation from Sovereign (dated June 2014)*

*Details of North Weald Mums Fundraising Accounts (to June 2014)*

Sue Malpass informed Members that North Weald Mums are still awaiting receipt of a revised quotation from Wicksteed Playgrounds Ltd.

Sue Malpass stated that all three of the quotations have taken into account the removal of the existing play equipment, however, if the old equipment was to be retained, this would save North Weald Mums a total of £2,000.

*Following lengthy discussion, the Clerk asked the Finance and Administrative Officer to join the meeting at this point.*

The Clerk asked the Finance and Administrative Officer if she thought there would be sufficient room to site a new play area South of the existing site, heading towards the goal posts. The Finance and Administrative Officer confirmed that there would be sufficient room to house the play equipment and that the new play area would have better drainage, however, in the long run, this would cost more money as there would be two play areas to maintain. The Finance and Administrative Officer stated that it would be best to remove the old play equipment altogether.

*The Finance and Administrative Officer left the meeting.*

The Clerk stated that North Weald Mums would need to obtain new quotations if the old play area equipment was to be retained. The Chairman asked Members to vote:-

4 Members voted in favour of retaining the old play area

1 Member voted against

The Chairman of this Committee asked Members what type of surfacing did they want North Weald Mums to obtain quotations for; grass lock or wet pour. The Clerk stated that wet pour lasts longer and is safer for children. The Clerk asked if the quotations included safer surfacing to cover the whole of the play area. Sue Malpass confirmed that she had asked the companies to quote for safer surfacing around the base of each piece of equipment only, grass would cover the remaining areas. All

Members voted in favour of wet pour. Sue Malpass stated that North Weald Mums would like to install the play equipment detailed in the Playdale quotation which included swings, a climbing frame/slide (aimed at 3-7 year olds), a gravity bowl and a spinner (which are similar to roundabouts) and an Abu Dhabi which is a smaller slide. Councillor Bartram stated that the Playdale quotation does not include new fencing. Sue Malpass confirmed that she would ask them to include fencing on the revised quotation.

The Chairman of this Committee stated that Members would need to look at additional funding. He advised that North Weald Mums currently have £30,000 available, they have a sports day arranged for 5 July 2014 and plan to sell refreshments at the Tour de France. Sue Malpass stated that North Weald Mums hope to make £500 from these two events. The Chairman stated that Members need to look at granting additional funding of £9,000. The Clerk stated that although money is available from the Weald Common fund, if an amount is granted, the Parish Council will need to recoup it, which will mean that the Parish Council will need to realise that money when the Precept Meeting is held. Members would need to agree to get the money back over a five year period. Councillor Bartram asked whether or not the money could be recouped over the lifetime of the play equipment. The Clerk informed Members that if this was agreed, they would need to make it a policy decision from this Committee. The Clerk reminded Members that the Environmental Committee only has powers to spend £3,000, however, a recommendation may be made to Full Council to ask them to make a policy decision to recoup that money back over a 25 year period.

Following lengthy discussion, Members **AGREED** that Sue Malpass would arrange for a new quotation from Playdale (requesting that they remove the Abu Dhabi piece of equipment) and that the Clerk would submit an application for grant funding from CIF for a specific piece of play equipment.

Members **AGREED** that this Committee would make a recommendation to Parish Council that they make a policy decision for £10,000 to be spent on play equipment at Weald Common, to be recouped over a 25 year period via the Precept, which is the expected lifetime of the play equipment.

Sue Malpass informed Members that there is grant funding available from the Co-op for £2,000 which the Parish Council may apply for. Members were advised that the Finance and Administrative Officer had received details of this. Sue Malpass thanked Members and advised that the North Weald Mums Group would be meeting on Thursday of this week.

*Sue Malpass left the meeting at 11.15am*

#### **E14.21 ANY OTHER MATTERS**

a) Asset Checks

The Clerk informed Members that Councillor Bartram had asked for an update

on works outstanding, with regard to the asset checks. The Clerk stated that Thornwood Grounds Maintenance had confirmed that all work would be completed by 7 July 2014.

b) Green Outside Parade of Village Shops, North Weald

The Clerk informed Members that she had received an email from Councillor Buckley regarding the green outside the parade of village shops in North Weald. Councillor Buckley had visited the Cinnamon, the Co-op and the greengrocers to ascertain their views. He stated that they are all in agreement that the phone box should be removed and that the bench is rarely used. They agree that the area is a mess and would like to see it turned into a garden area. The Clerk had responded, stating that she could investigate further the removal of the phone box and the next steps, which are extremely lengthy. With regard to the green area, she had stated that this would need to be included as an item on the Budget and Precept Meeting.

Following lengthy discussion, the Clerk suggested that Members may wish to visit Brook Parade in Chigwell to see how the area has been planted. She stated that the garden boxes have never been vandalised and that the plants are quite low maintenance. The Chairman of this Committee stated that he would be happy to visit the area.

c) Play Area Inspection Report

Members **NOTED** that the Quarterly Play Area Inspection Report had been carried out on 19 June 2014 (a copy of which, together with a note from the Finance and Administrative Officer, was distributed for Members perusal). No Priority 1 items had been reported and Members **AGREED** that any Priority 2 items should be carried out within the next 1 to 6 months.

d) Allotments – Wheelers Farm Gardens and Queens Road Sites

The Chairman of the Parish Council mentioned the discussion that had taken place at the previous Committee Meeting regarding the allotment sites at Wheelers Farm Gardens and Queens Road and issues surrounding access. He recommended that the Clerk be permitted to take any action that needs to be taken with regard to the correspondent and stated that there should be a £1,000 fund put aside to finance this. Following discussion, no decision was agreed regarding this matter.

e) Overgrown Allotment Plots – Wheelers Farm Gardens and Queens Road

Members **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to the tenants reminding them to tidy their plots.

Meeting closed: 11.40 am

Signed .....

Date .....