



DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting: EXTRAORDINARY

Date: 18 April 2016

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: NORTH WEALD LIBRARY, 138 HIGH ROAD, NORTH WEALD

PRESENT:

Councillors (10) C Hawkins (Chairman), A Buckley, B Clegg, Mrs S Jackman MBE, T Blanks, R Spearman, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs E Godwin-Brown, G Mulliner, B Bartram

Also in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to the Council
Joanna Tyler – Senior Administrative Officer

Members of the Public (1) 1 Member of the public was present.

Members of the Press (0) No Members of the Press were present.

C15.215 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (4)

NOTED that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors B Eldridge, N Bedford, A Tyler, D Stallan.

C15.216 OTHER ABSENCES (1)

Councillor Ms D Adams.

C15.217 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs A Grigg declared a Personal Interest in agenda item number 5.

C15.218 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Clerk asked the Chairman if he would permit her to ask a question from a member of the public who was present. The Chairman *AGREED*. The Clerk stated that the lady is an allotment holder who is concerned about access to the Queens Road allotments. The Clerk had informed the member of the public that the meeting would be going into private session because of the confidential nature of the item to be discussed. The Chairman stated that Members had attended a site meeting earlier in the day and that the matter would be discussed this evening. He advised that the Parish Council is in negotiation with Epping Forest District Council with regard to access to the allotment site.

The Member of the Public left the meeting.

C15.219 QUEENS ROAD ALLOTMENT ACCESS

The Chairman reminded Members that this meeting had been called following the decision made at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday, 4th April 2016, at which Members *AGREED* that following further information received they wished to reconsider the decision made at the 7th March Parish Council Meeting relating to Queens Road Allotments. In Accordance with Standing Order Number **15 – 15.1 REVISION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION** – three Members had signed a written Notice advising of this decision, which is the required number of signatures.

The Chairman stated that Members had attended a site visit today and he asked what their verdict was. The Clerk tabled copies of the site map, which had originally been distributed at an earlier meeting. The Clerk reminded Members that they had now received three reports regarding this matter and asked if anyone had any questions.

Councillor Mulliner stated that the main reason the decision was recalled was because Members did not fully understand what they were agreeing to. His understanding was that the Parish Council currently have an access to the Wheelers Farm Gardens site from the High Road, with a dedicated hard-standing car park for people to use. With regard to the Queens Road site, the concern had been that allotment holders would not be able to gain access during the building works. It was now his understanding that access to the site will be guaranteed by foot during the building works and once these works are finished there will apparently be access to any of the 6 visitors car parking spaces for allotment users. Cllr Mulliner stated that he was of the opinion that there is no reason for the Parish Council to give up the right of access from the High Road to the Wheelers Farm Gardens site.

The Chairman asked the Clerk if Cllr Mulliner had summarized the facts correctly. The Clerk confirmed that he had, however, the 6 parking spaces referred to will not be owned by the Parish Council. Cllr Bartram stated that the car park at Wheelers Farm Gardens was not hard-standing but was in fact grass. Cllr Blanks stated that he could see no reason to give up the right of access, Cllr Spearman agreed.

Councillor Buckley asked if the Parish Council needed to have confirmation of access to the Queens Road site in writing? The Clerk stated that ever since she had known the site, members of the public have used the gate at Queens Road. The Clerk asked Cllr Mrs Grigg if this was the case when she was Clerk in 1986. Cllr Mrs Grigg confirmed that the access was there then. The Clerk stated that if the Parish Council has had access to the Queens Road site for that amount of time then it should be an established use.

The Chairman stated that there was a proposal from Councillor Mulliner to leave things as they are, not to give up the right of access at Wheelers Farm Gardens, and asked if there was a seconder for this proposal Cllr Buckley seconded the proposal. A vote was taken as follows:-

- 9 - For
- 1 - Abstention

The Clerk stated that she would write to Epping Forest District Council to inform them of the decision.

Meeting Closed: 7.40pm

Signed:

Date: