



# *North Weald Bassett*

## *PARISH COUNCIL*

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*Clerk to the Council*  
Susan De Luca

*31<sup>st</sup> October 2013*

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### ***TO: ALL COUNCILLORS***

You are hereby summoned to attend A **Meeting** of the **Parish Council** which will be held on **Monday, 4th November 2013**, in the **North Weald Library**, High Road, North Weald Bassett at **7.30pm** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

**Susan De Luca**  
**Clerk to the Council**

*Members of the public and press are invited to attend this meeting*

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## 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. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** 🖐️

📄 To **APPROVE**, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **4. 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.*

Members are asked to **NOTE** that on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis announced new rules to increase town hall transparency, by producing guidance requiring councillors to register trade union affiliations and dealings. Government guidance on openness and transparency of a councillor's personal interests has been revised to include ***specifically registering union memberships***. In addition a council's own code of conduct, guided by the 7 principles of public life, should now specify a requirement to register personal trade union interests. This is intended to avoid conflicts of interest when councils consider issues directly affecting trade unions,

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such as reviews of taxpayer-funded subsidies given to trade unions. Within 28 days of taking office councillors must register certain financial as well as non-financial interests required by their council's code of conduct, which should include any trade union membership.

## 5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To **RECEIVE** questions from members of the public.

*In accordance with an agreed procedure, the time allocated for public questions shall be limited to 15 minutes or such other period determined by the Chairman of the Meeting.*

## 6. CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

 To **RECEIVE** the oral report of the Clerk on matters which may be of current interest to Members and which require a formal update, and to **RECEIVE** such correspondence and communication as the Clerk may place before the Council, details of which are shown on **Appendix 2**.

*NOTE: Any Member wishing to have a communication brought to the attention of the Council should give prior notification to the Clerk.*

## 7. REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

 Members are reminded that in order to ensure smooth and **prompt running of the meeting** it would be **prudent to provide the Clerk with a written copy of their report in order that this can be circulated to all Members with the Agenda**.

To **RECEIVE** any questions emanating from any reports from Members who wish to give a report and/or who are representatives on Committees, Working Groups, Outside Bodies and other meetings that Members or the Clerk have attended and which, **if available**, will be reproduced at **Appendix 3: if they have been submitted by Members for inclusion**

- a) Chairman's Report
- b) Vice Chairman's Report
- c) District Councillors Reports
- d) Highways Reports
- e) Councillors Reports
- f) Environmental Issues – to include Allotment Issues – Cllr Mulliner to Report
- g) Neighbourhood Action Panel Minutes – If these are available
- h) County Councillors Reports – If available

## 8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

### a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts

To **APPROVE** the lists of cheques which were signed up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and **NOTE** the summary of income received and the account balances at the end of the month. **(to be tabled)**

### b) Budget Items – Request Form

Members are reminded that the Budget and Precept meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm, and that any suggested budget items should be with the Finance and Admin Officer by 4<sup>th</sup> November together with any associated or supporting paperwork.

### c) Parish Support Grant

Members may recall that from 2013, council tax support for Local Authorities took the form of reductions within the council tax system, replacing national council tax benefit. Making reductions

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part of the council tax system had the effect of reducing a billing authority's council tax base. For 2013/2014, billing and major precepting authorities received funding which reduced their council tax requirement. This included funding attributable in respect of parish council areas, however billing and local precepting authorities were left to come to their own agreements on the arrangements for passing down the funding attributable to the local precepting authority. The Government made it clear that the funding attributable to the parish precept had been provided to the billing authority and expects them to work with local parish and town councils to provide certainty over their funding.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September, EFDCs Finance Cabinet Committee considered a report submitted by Bob Palmer, Director of Finance and ICT EFDC, included in which were details of the possible grant reductions for Local Authorities for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 (part of a current DCLG consultation). The committee felt that any reduction in the EFDC grant should be reflected in the grant paid to local councils. This would mean a reduction of 13.6% for 2014/2015 and a further reduction of 14.1% in 2015/2016. These reductions are subject to change dependent on the outcome of the consultation.

This is likely to have a significant effect on this Parish Councils precept, full details of which will be made available at the Budget/Precept meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **9. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Members are advised that arrangements are continuing with this year's events to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk will give Members an update on the final figures with regard to organisations and people attending the Ceremony at the Norwegian Stone/Debt of Honour and the luncheon.

#### **10. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL CITIZEN & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Members are asked for nomination for the above. The closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

#### **11. TRUSTEES – QUEENS HALL CHARITY**

Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** the appointment of two trustees to fill the remaining two Parish Council appointed positions on the Queens Hall Charity.

#### **12. PRESS REPORTS/LETTERS**

Following the recent letter in the local Magazine Village Life, regarding questions which are being asked of the Parish Council, members confirmed at the last meeting that they were happy for the Clerk to respond, but wished to review the draft letter before it was sent to Village Life. Therefore a copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 3** for Members perusal

#### **13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

In the event that the Agenda contains Exempt (pink) pages, or an item needs to be discussed confidentially, to **CONSIDER** the following motion to be proposed by the Chairman:

“That the public and the press be excluded from the meeting, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed.”

There are currently **NO** confidential items to be considered