



North Weald Bassett Parish Council

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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

28th September 2016

TO: ALL COUNCILLORS

You are hereby summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Parish Council** which will be held on **Monday, 3rd October 2016**, in the **North Weald Library**, High Road, North Weald Bassett at **7.15pm** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

Susan De Luca

Clerk to the Council

**PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED TIME OF THIS MEETING DUE TO THE
EFDC LOCAL PLAN BEING DICUSSED**

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

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 5th September 2016 and to **NOTE**
- the Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held on 21st September 2016 as attached at *Appendix 1 (excluding Confidential Item on Pink – The Minutes are attached on pink together with item, both of which are detailed on pink on this agenda)*
- the Notes of the Remembrance Sunday Meeting held on 21st September 2016– *To be tabled*

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

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 🖐

A full Clerks Report for this month has been held over due to the importance of the Local Plan – (as Agreed at the last Meeting – details will be included in next month Report). However Members are asked to **NOTE** that there is one matter that does need to be addressed from last month's meeting , details of which are shown below:

a) STREET NAMING & NUMBERING

Members will recall that the two names suggested by this Council were:

- **Queens Court** (for the 12 new houses off Queens Road)
- **Centenary Court** (for the 4 new homes off Bluemans End)

- (1) Following email correspondence between this Council and Alan Hall, EFDC Director of Communities, regarding the naming of the proposed new developments in North Weald under Phase 3 of the Council's Housebuilding Programme, Alan Hall has now received the comments of the Council's Neighbourhoods Team (who are responsible for administering the naming of all new developments in the District) on the Parish Council suggested names.

Apparently this has thrown up a couple of issues, in that they are unable to agree the two names that were put forward since it would be contrary to the District Council's Street Naming and Numbering Policy and national standards, stating that the Neighbourhoods Team have pointed out that the Council's Policy does not include the suffix "Court" in the list of suffixes, listed in Section 13 of the Policy, that can be used for "new streets" (i.e. new addresses that do not comprise, say, a block of flats). This is an EFDC error, since "Court" was included in the list of suggested suffixes that EFDC included in their email to me, for which we have received an apologised.

Alan Hall has gone back to the Neighbourhoods Team, suggesting that this would only be a "minor infringement" of the policy and asking if "Court" can be used, but they have advised that this is not possible, since they have to comply with national gazetteer requirements.

Therefore, the Parish Council has been asked to propose a different suffix for both of their proposed names. The suggestion for "Close" as an easy change ?

- (2) In addition, the Neighbourhoods Team are unable to agree to "Queens Court" since, apart from it having the "Court" suffix referred to above, they point out that it would be contrary to Section 4(a)(4) of the Council's Street Naming and Numbering Policy, which states that street names must **not duplicate** any name already in use in the area or neighbouring area. As you are aware, this development will be on land off of the existing Queens Road. They have also advised that this would not be acceptable to the Royal Mail either.

Therefore, please the Parish Council is asked to put forward a different name for the proposed new development off of Queens Road.

One of the suggestions at the last meeting – *and to carry on the theme* – was Queen Elizabeth – so maybe a suggestion of either Queen Elizabeth Close or Elizabeth Close may be acceptable to this Council to put forward.

Since a response on the proposed names to EFDC is needed in time for their Council Housebuilding Cabinet Committee in the near future, **this Parish Council has been asked to respond with an alternative name and suffixes by close of play on Friday 7th October 2016.**

Alan Hal has advised the two District Ward Members for their information, so that they are aware of the current situation.

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.**

DUE TO THE LOCAL PLAN – MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO KEEP ALL REPORTS AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE AT THIS EVENING’S MEETING

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**

MEMBERS REPORTS

- a) Chairman’s Report
- b) Vice Chairman’s Report
- c) District Councillors Reports, District Councillors are Invited to Submit a Written Report if they are Unable to Attend the Parish Council Meeting
- d) County Councillor Reports
- e) Cllr Mulliner – Environmental Issues - To **RECEIVE** a Report on any Environmental Matters.
- f) Councillors Reports

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts

Members are advised that The Financial Report for this month has been held over due to the importance of the Local Plan – (as Agreed at the last Meeting – full details will be included in next month Report).

9. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – NOTIFICATION IN CHANGES TO LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

 At their meeting on 14 July the Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee considered the amount of Revenue Support Grant that EFDC is likely to receive over the next three years and the effect these reductions would have on the grant passed on to local councils.

In previous years the support to the parishes has been reduced by the same percentage as the grant has reduced. By 2019/20 EFDC will no longer receive any grant and so needs to reduce parish support to zero by this time as well. The level of support in 2016/17 is £201,249 and it was decided to reduce the support in equal amounts so £134,166 is paid in 2017/18 and £67,083 in 2018/19 followed by no support in 2019/20. An alternative approach was to continue with reductions reflecting the annual percentage change in grant but this created much steeper cuts with support falling to £97,405 in 2017/18 and £50,651 in 2018/19.

This decision was endorsed by the Cabinet on 1 September and decisions from that meeting are now being actioned.

A document is attached which shows what each parish is receiving in 2016/17 and what you will now receive in 2017/18 and 2018/19. As stated above to reflect the complete removal of Revenue Support Grant in 2019/20 there will be no support grants to parishes in 2019/20.

Details of how the above information relates to this Parish Council is shown at **Appendix 4** and any Member who finds these details unclear are asked to contact the Parish Office if you require any additional explanation.

10. FINANCIAL CAPPING OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS –GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

 A consultation has just been launched by DCLG entitled “The 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement – Technical Consultation Paper”. This is an important consultation as it includes questions about extending the referendum requirement for increasing Town and Parish Council’s precept by more than 2% to local councils for the first time.

In broad terms if the capping was introduced a Council would only be allowed to increase the precept by approximately £200 for every £10,000. This will severely hamper the sector taking on additional services and projects. If this proposal goes ahead it will inhibit the amount of new work parishes can undertake without a referendum. Referendum cost approximately the same as an election so for the smallest councils this will be a very large amount of money and for the larger ones it will mean many thousands of pounds.

At the Essex Association of Local Councils AGM, discussion took place as detailed below:

Local parish and town councils are an important part of communities and local democracy, and should be able to get on with the job of improving quality of life and well being without central government interference.

It is vital local councils continue to have the freedom and flexibility to raise the resources they need to invest in local services, especially at a time when they are taking on services and assets from principal councils, often much valued services which would otherwise cease completely and which communities want to see continue.

This meeting is therefore extremely concerned about a consultation published by the government on 22 September which includes proposals to extend council tax referendums to some or all local councils.

Local councils in Essex are doing a brilliant job improving their areas; whether it’s by building community resilience, increasing house building through neighbourhood planning, providing local transport solutions, supporting the local economy and businesses, organising community events and festivals, helping meet social care needs and making places dementia friendly or giving grants to help local groups and organisations – all this and more for an average cost to residents of just over a pound a week.

This meeting also notes that local councils account for just 1.7% of the £26 billion raised through council tax in England and have demonstrated fiscal responsibility in recent years with overall

increases in precepts going down, rising this year by just 6 pence per week as a result of local councils taking on services from principal councils and funding not being passed on to them.

Given their important and growing role, local councils should be celebrated and supported, not hindered by central government.

And a Proposal was put that:

“This meeting is resolutely opposed to proposals by the government to extend council tax referendum principles to some or all local councils; and calls upon all local councils in Essex to respond to the government consultation stating their opposition to the proposals. I therefore duly submit this motion to the AGM that the Government do not introduce a capping to the Parish Sector.” Cllr Peter Davey.

The Proposal was **AGREED**, unanimously.

Members present at that Meeting were therefore asked to take this back to their own Councils, with immediate effect, and respond accordingly.

“That the Government do not introduce Capping to the Parish Sector – Given their important and growing role, and that local councils should be celebrated and supported, not hindered by central government.”

Members of this Council are therefore are asked to **CONSIDER** if they are in **AGREEMENT** with this statement. Documentation is attached for Members at **Appendix 5**.

11. BOUNDARY COMMISSION BOUNDARY REVIEW

■ On the 13th September the independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies. The publication marked the start of 12 weeks of consultation, during which the Commission has asked for comments to help shape the proposed new constituency boundaries.

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal, the BCE has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. The BCE must report to Parliament in 2018 and, if agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

Publication of the initial proposals is the first time people get to see what the map of new constituencies might look like. The rules that the Commission works to are such that wide scale change is inevitable. Under the proposals only 68 of the existing 533 English constituencies remain unchanged. People can comment on anything from where the proposed new boundary lines are to the names of the constituencies.

The consultation closes on **5 December 2016**. There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2017. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the BCE will look at all the evidence received and make final recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.

There are changes planned for the Harlow Constituency. Members are asked to note that the proposed Harlow constituency includes the District of Epping Forest wards of North Weald Bassett, and Moreton and Fyfield, from the existing Brentwood and Ongar constituency, which brings it within 5% of the electoral quota. Due to the importance of a Boundary Change – Copies of the **FULL** Document & Map have been reproduced for All Members at **Appendix 6**.

12. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

On 27th September, the agenda for the EFDC Cabinet meeting on 6th October was published. Attached to the agenda was a copy of the Draft Local Plan, and Cabinet members are asked within the agenda to:

- endorse the Draft Local Plan and the non technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal to Full Council that consultation on the Draft Local Plan should commence for a 6 week statutory period from 31 October to 12 December 2016.
- recommend to Full Council that the Draft Local Plan be endorsed as a material consideration to be used in the determination of planning applications and enforcement decisions in accordance with paragraph 216 of the National Planning Policy Framework; and
- recommend to Full Council that the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder be granted delegated authority to make any necessary minor non-material amendments to the Draft Local Plan prior to the commencement of public consultation on 31 October 2016.

The full Council meeting at which the final decision on the plan will be made is on 18th October, meaning until this time the Draft Plan as published in subject to change. However, the Draft Plan does give an indication of the planned future for the District until 2033, details of which were scheduled to be discussed at the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 29th September. Due to the size of the consultation document (382 pages), and the level of detail included within it, time will be needed for both Councillors and Office Staff to digest the information and consider how this will impact on the Parish before Council agree a formal response to the consultation.

As stated above, the public consultation on the Draft Local Plan is expected to take place between 31st October and 12th December 2016. Members are therefore asked to **CONSIDER**:

1. **If, and how, the Parish Council should raise awareness of this consultation with local residents and businesses (taking into account it is the responsibility of EFDC to do this);**
2. **If a working group should be set up to consider the content of the Draft Local Plan, who should sit on this working group, and whether or not this working group should:**
 - **Provide feedback on its findings for the November Parish Council meeting**
 - **Formulate a draft response for consideration by Full Council at its December meeting;**

Councillors are also asked to **COMMENT** on their findings and their understanding of the content of the Epping Forest Draft Local Plan as it currently stands.

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 is currently **ONE** confidential item to be considered