



MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 2nd June 2014

Time: 7.39 PM

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

PRESENT:

Councillors (11) B Eldridge (Chairman for this meeting)- Vice Chairman of Council, N Bedford, B Clegg, A Buckley, B Bartram, T Blanks, P Collins, Mrs A Grigg, G Mulliner, R Spearman, D Stallan*

** for part of meeting*

Also in Attendance (2)

Susan Deluca - Clerk

Adriana Jones - Finance and Administrative Officer

Members of the Public (1)

Members of the Press (1)

C14.021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (3)

NOTED that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hawkins, Godwin-Brown and McCormack.

C14.022 OTHER ABSENCES (1)

NOTED other absence of Cllr Adams. (these were received too late to be reported to the meeting)

C14.023 MINUTES

Members **APPROVED** as a correct record, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 12th May 2014, and **NOTED** the draft minutes of the Thornwood Common Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee dated 1st May 2014.

C14.024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Grigg declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 14 (to be held in private session). Cllrs Collins, Bartram, Blanks and Buckley declared non pecuniary interests in Item 12 as they are all members of the RBL.

C14.025 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman invited Mrs Sheila Jackman, Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC), to address the Council. Mrs Jackman stated that she didn't have a question, but would like to formally invite members of the Parish Council to attend this year's Annual Meeting of EALC which is taking place on 18th September in Dunmow. Mrs Jackman stated that this year's event has been shortened, however there are two very interesting speakers (Chief Constable of Essex Police - Stephen Kavanagh, and East of England Ambulance Services - Rob Ashford - Locality Director).

The Clerk stated that she had been informed that residents from 91 High Road, North Weald, were also due to attend, however as yet had not arrived. It was AGREED that should these residents attend later in the meeting, time could be spent later in the meeting addressing their concerns.

C14.026 CLERKS UPDATE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The Clerk stated that members may have noticed a slight difference in the format of the Clerks Report, and that this was to ensure a more comprehensive update was available, Members **NOTED** the following Communications and Correspondence:-

Date	Reported By or Action Initiated By	Regarding	Date Additional Action Taken	Further Action Taken
15/5	Chris Collins	Bus Shelter, Pike Way , Damaged Window	15/5	Staff Reported to Highways for 2 nd Time
12/5	Cllr Buckley	Phone Box o/s Co-op, Cllr Buckley advised that Circus Posters were still in and outside of phone box	14/5	Clerk and Sammy Visited Phone Box to Assess – Posters were for Circus on 30 April 2014 – Photographs taken – Kevin asked to go and Clean Phone box again inside and out – Clerk chased BT again regarding Survey - - Email now received advising that the phonebox is used only twice a week – details of how to carry out Consultation on how to remove a phone box on Environmental Agenda for Environmental Committee for consideration at next meeting.
12/5	Cllr Collins	Bus Shelter Talbot	15/5	Clerk has been liaising with ECC in relation to this over the last three months. Following various emails and meeting with Cllr Anthony Jackson has advised that in addition to the balance £5000 of Essex County Councils Section 106 Monies a further £3000 has been allocated for the Bus Shelter out of the Local Highways Panel Funds and a replacement bus shelter will be forthcoming in the very near future (now confirmed in an email from Teresa Millbourne at ECC). The Clerk will have details of the types of Shelter (awaited from Essex County Council) for the Members of Environmental Committee Meeting on the 11 th June.
12/5	ATC	Whealers Farm Gardens WW1 Event	Ongoing	Road Closure has been applied for, Letters have been sent to local residents and organisations. County Cllr Anthony Jackson has asked Essex County Council to lend the Parish Council Essex County Council Barriers to close the roads, Adriana is currently liaising with the relevant officers in this matter. <i>*The Chairman has asked that Members note that this is not a event but the Parish Council has spent over 5 hours in helping to organise this event so far.</i>
	Cllr Collins	Replacement Flag		New Flag ordered

	Cllrs Mulliner & Collins	Tour De France	Ongoing	Councillors to receive an update if available
	Cllr Bedford	Legionella at Thornwood		Acting on Further Information from Cllr Bedford – Adriana has emailed his contact
	Various Cllrs	Questions to Councillor Jackson		The Clerk compiled a Schedule of Questions that Councillors asked for County Councillor Jackson and forwarded this to him, Cllr Jackson met with the Clerk on Friday 16 th May to discuss a number of issues. A copy of the Schedule together with the responses from Cllr Jackson are attached in the main body of the Parish Council Agenda. Cllr Jackson has agreed to meet with Members of the Parish Council at the Parish Council Meeting on the 8 th July.
	Cllrs Hawkins & Spearman	Thornwood Village Hall Fund Raising Event to Re Surface the Car Park		Clerk is currently completing the CIF Grant Application Forms – however she is awaiting the 3 Quotes 1 organised by Cllr Hawkins, 2 by Cllr Spearman before the Expression of Interest form can be submitted. Closing Date August 2014.
Ongoing	Clerk/ Adriana	Lottery Awards For All – Weald Common Play Area	20/5	Unique id received – which means that Lottery Awards For All should advise whether or not application has been successful within 30 days of unique id being sent out.
19/5	Jo/Clerk	Pedestrian Crossings North Weald	Ongoing	– Both crossings now have faded white lines. The Parish Council has been asking for the lines to be re-painted for a considerable time, however we have not been successful in these requests. Jo had contacted ECC on the 19 th May after she was nearly involved in a collision on the crossing next to the parade of shops in North Weald, however the Parish Council also received a phone call on the 21 st May from Ongar Town Council who were also experiencing problems in relation to action being taken on their crossings – so North Weald have joined forces with Ongar Town Council in putting pressure on ECC in relation to crossings in both North Weald and Ongar, and both Councils have now written to ECC.
Ongoing	Clerk/ Chairman	Chairmans' Annual Report	Ongoing	Graph for Inclusion within Annual Report attached – Members are reminded that distribution of the Annual Report to all homes in the Parish is due before 30 th June 2014 – Members are asked to advise the Clerk if they are unable to take part in the distribution.

The Clerk stated that she had two further items to report as follows:

- Chairman and members of the Parish Council have been invited to attend a memorial event regarding HMS Sickie (a Submarine which sank around 70 years ago). The event is being held in St John's Church, Epping on 18th June.
- Epping Forest Countrycare Annual Report is available for Members to view

Cllr Collins asked for thanks to be recorded to the Clerk for chasing up the bus shelter issue at the Talbot, and it is good to see that monies have been found to replace this shelter. Cllr Collins stated that he would speak with the Clerk following the meeting regarding the old shelter.

C14.027 REPORTS AND MEMBERS REPORTS

- a) **Chairman's Report** - No report
- b) **Vice-Chairman's Report** - Cllr Eldridge reported that the same recurring issues are still prevalent in Hastingwood, namely horses, meadows, verges, litter, and speed of traffic. In addition there have been several complaints regarding the noise levels from the motorway. Cllr Collins enquired as to whether or not this section of the M11 part that was proposed to be widened into four lanes that was put forward some years ago, to which Cllr Eldridge stated this was one of the things that he was looking into. Cllr Eldridge stated that originally trees should have been planted along this stretch of Motorway to act as a noise barrier, however this has never taken place.
- c) **District Councillors Report** - No reports
- d) **Highways**

Members *NOTED* the comprehensive list of Highway issues that had been reported/updated as attached to the agenda. The Clerk stated there was one addition to this list which had occurred today, and was for the very large rut in the island just off the Talbot Roundabout near the crossing, stating that she had received an email (of copy of which was read out for members information) which stated that this rut had been inspected however did not meet the criteria for immediate repair. The Clerk has passed this back to Cllr Jackson to look into, as the rut is very deep and is on the TDF route. Cllr Bedford stated that somebody else has obviously recognised it as a H&S issue as two battery powered lights have been taped to the posts. The Clerk stated Cllr Jackson has been and taken photo's of the rut. Cllr Bedford stated that ECC could have claimed for this damage via insurance as it was caused by the incident involving the SERCO van.

Cllr Blanks raised a query about some of the Highways issues referred to in the update sheet stating that some were referred to as open drain covers when in fact they were probably potholes / plug holes for bollards that had been removed, and had been missing for some time. The Clerk stated that this could be taken up with Cllr Jackson during his visit on 8th July.

Cllr Grigg suggested that the issue regarding 91 High Road should perhaps be recorded on the Highway update sheet, specifically the request to have the area outside 91 High Road resurfaced after a recent accident in this location at which a vehicle went through the fence of the property at 91 High Road. In addition, the drains outside Lysander Court as this contributes to the poor road conditions.

Cllr Grigg stated this had been reported to Jenny Hill (ECC Safety Engineer) and Cllr Jackson, however feels it would be appropriate to place it on the list. The Clerk stated that following notification from Cllr Grigg of these issues, she had spent some time going through the numerous complaints she had received from the residents of 91 High Road (52 emails in total) which contained complaints regarding many different issues, however none of these complaints relate to the road surface. Cllr Grigg stated that was following a recent incident that had taken place the previous week, and that she was reporting it on behalf of the resident. The Clerk confirmed that the resident of 91 High Road had never made a complaint regarding the road surface to either the Clerk or the Parish Office, and she was a little concerned that the email seemed to suggest that this had taken place and that the PC hadn't taken any action.

[Cllr Stallan arrived]

The Clerk stated that a member of Parish office staff has visited the corner of 91 High Road today and noted that there were no longer reflectors on the wall, where once there had been. Cllr Grigg stated that the resident would like new ones installed. Cllr Grigg continued, stating that has liaised between the resident, EFDC and ECC, however this issue is outside EFDC's remit, and that it was unfortunate that she didn't have access to the full historical records for accidents at this location. The resident would like this issue recorded for the future. The Clerk confirmed this would be added to the Highway list.

Cllr Buckley stated there were two issues that needed to be added to the list, the first being fly tipping in the layby near art nurseries (the Clerk stated that this had already been reported earlier in the week). The second issue was concerning the blocked drain outside the Chemists in the High Street, suggesting that perhaps this wasn't a blocked drain but a problem caused by a crack in the pavement. Cllr Collins stated that he had visited that site and there was definitely a blocked gully at this location.

Cllr Clegg stated that he can see the office staff have again chased the issue of the missing illuminated sign in Upland Road, and requested this issue is kept on the front burner as the sign and light being missing is very dangerous.

Cllr Eldridge reported that the T-Junction sign at the Hastingwood Road/Mill Street T-Junction is still missing.

e) Environmental Issues

Cllr Mulliner reported that a letter had been received by the resident of 83 High Road, North Weald, regarding issues at the North Weald allotments, and that this had been passed to the Environmental Committee to deal with. Cllr Bedford stated that the waste oil in the lay-by has not been removed. The Clerk stated she had reported this to Quasim Durani and Shirley Hawkins at EFDC, and was told this would be removed as a matter of urgency.

The Chairman reported that ECC Cllr Jackson has confirmed will be attending the 8th July meeting of this Parish Council.

f) Neighbourhood Action Panel

Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the last NAPs meeting had only been issued today, however they could contact the PC office if they would like a copy.

g) County Councillors Reports

The Clerk stated that there were no formal reports received from County Councillors, however a copy of the list of questions that were put to Cllr Jackson, and his responses, were attached to the agenda. This was **NOTED** by members. Cllr Stallan stated that he would be sending an email to Cllr Jackson regarding item 6, last bullet point, regarding the ownership of land, stating that this issue is not who owns the land (EFDC do) but the fact that ECC have highway rights over this land which is blocking the potential sale of the land.

C14.028 FINANCIAL REPORTS

List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts

Members **APPROVED** the list of cheques which had been updated and were signed up to 31st May 2014, and noted the income received and account balances. Cllrs **NOTED** that as agreed at the May 2014 meeting, two cheque lists had been presented splitting the main council account with the Thornwood Village hall account.

C14.029 TALBOT ROUNDABOUT

The proposal to decorate the Talbot Roundabout for the Tour De France had been voiced by both Members and a Parishioner, and concern and criticism had been voiced that the Clerk had not been moving forward in a timely manner and also that officers of the various local authorities were not being inclined to move forward on this matter. The Clerk had previously advised Members that she had spoken to various officers and that they had had concerns regarding the health and safety aspects of the maintenance of the roundabout (not just for the TDF). Members **NOTED** a copy of an email from Trevor Baker at EFDC regarding the Talbot Roundabout detailing these concerns. Cllr Collins stated that the two issues should be dealt with separately as follows:

1. The Parish Councils role in the future maintenance of the Talbot roundabout.

For now, this opportunity had been missed, and the working group had put this on the back burner for now, with the understanding that this is something worth fighting for in the future.

2. Decoration of the Talbot Roundabout for the TDF

Councillor Collins felt that his comments should stand that in his opinion the opportunity to do this has been lost. Cllr Mulliner stated that 5 banners have been ordered at £499.99, and locations have been agreed for 4 of these banners.

The Clerk stated that earlier that day she had been made aware that grant funding was available for TDF bunting via the CIF, however this was not publicly well known. As such, the Clerk had made an application for this funding before the deadline of 5pm that evening. Cllr Blanks thanked the Clerk for making this application, stating that this is not the first occasion that he has heard that funding has been identified very late in the day due to poor publicity, and that this seems wrong, asking if there is a particular way grant funding is advertised. The Clerk stated that on many occasions, the Parish Council are not eligible to apply for funding, and that funding a grant the PC can be quite a challenge. The F&A Officer stated that ECC do have a CIF funding page on their website, however this specific grant funding suggestion (TDF) was not listed. The Chairman invited Mrs Sheila Jackman to address the PC. Mrs Jackman stated that perhaps this was something that could be brought up at the next Liaison meeting. Cllr Stallan suggested that perhaps Members may wish to ask Cllr Jackson on 8th July what ECC's policy is on notification as to what is the availability of all grant funding. Mrs Jackman suggested that Cllr Jowers, as head of CIF, could also be asked as well if Cllr Jackson is unable to provide the answer.

C14.030 TEMPORARY CHANGE OF USE FOR HANGARS 4 & 6, NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD, TO PERMIT A CHARITY DANCE ON SATURDAY 14TH JUNE
Members **NOTED** the decision of the EFDC Portfolio Holder for Asset Management and Economic Development, to agree the use of the aforementioned Hangars for a Charity Dance to benefit the Royal Air Force Association and the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. All members present supported the event.

C14.031 ELECTRICITY CABLE ON NORTH WEALD ALLOTMENTS - DEED OF EASEMENT

[Cllr Stallan declared a pecuniary interest in this item, and left the meeting]
Members **NOTED** that the Clerk had received an email from Savills (Thames Waters' Agent) in relation to Thames Water Utilities laying an Electricity Supply (cables) to feed the nearby North Weald STW at the nearby Sewage Works and as such the cables will need to be laid through the Allotment Land owned by the Parish Council. Thames Water were therefore seeking permission from the Council to lay these electric cables across the allotment land as illustrated by the proposed cable route indicated by the green line on the a plan that was tabled for members. They are willing to enter into a Deed of Easement with the Council to regularise the matter. The Clerk stated that Savills wished to know if the Council were happy to grant an easement, and if so, what the timeframe will be in obtaining approval to proceed with this arrangement. The Clerk had investigated if there would be a financial benefit to the Council and this has been confirmed, and the Clerk was awaiting a Head of Terms where these details would be outlined.

The Clerk confirmed she had spoken with the Allotment Warden for that site, and there are a approx 7 allotments that will be affect, two of which have garden sheds directly in the path of the proposed cable. In addition, the whole length of the rear of

Queens Road allotments has a chain link fence with concrete posts, which is in a very poor state of repair and may need to be removed/replaced. There are also a number of trees which may be affected by any works. Members noted that the Clerk had been liaising with Mr Lassy, and that a Project Manager would like to visit site and meet with the allotment Sub-Committee to discuss this further. Cllr Collins asked if the allotment holders who's plots will be affected could be contacted, to which the Clerk stated that the Allotment Warden was already in the process of doing this. Cllr Grigg asked if Savills had indicated a time frame for these work, and if there would be a preferred time for these works to be completed in terms of causing the least disruption to allotment holders. The Clerk suggested that winter would be the preferred time, however she would need to check this with the Allotment Warden. She would also need to liaise with Savills regarding time frame. Cllr Mulliner suggested if the fencing was replaced, perhaps pallistrade fencing would be most appropriate.

After discussion, Council **AGREED** in principal to these works, subject to further discussion and agreement involving Savills and the Allotment Sub-Committee.

[Cllr Stallan rejoined the meeting]

C14.032 WREATH LAYING AT ST ANDREWS CHURCH IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WAR I

Members **AGREED** to join with the RBL in a joint event of wreath laying at St Andrews Church, North Weald, in commemoration of start of WWI.

C14.033 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

As the Agenda contained one Exempt (pink) pages, the Chairman **PROPOSED** the following Motion: *“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.”* This was **AGREED**, and members of the public and press were asked to leave the meeting.

C14.034 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP - LEADER LODGE

[Cllr Stallan declared a non pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of being housing portfolio holder]

The Clerk explained that the previous week, she had received notification from ECC of grants that were available for the following:

- Community Assets - Under the Hammer
- Community Share Matching
- Empty Buildings and Derelict Land

The Empty Buildings and Derelict Land grant states:

Capital grants to support local communities to bring empty, abandoned, derelict building and land back into community use/ownership. Such sites may have been left empty for a variety of reasons such as through absent or irresponsible ownership. because they have been empty or abandoned for a number of years

many of these buildings cannot be listed (as an asset of community value and the Right to Bid)

Shortly after receiving this notification, the Clerk saw a notice in Epping for Leader Lodge - Residential Development site - offers in excess of £500,000, inviting tenders. The Clerk subsequently put two and two together, and thought perhaps the Parish Council could bid for this asset and bring an empty, derelict building back into community use. The Clerk stated that she had spoken with the Chairman and a couple of other Councillors who had mentioned that there had been comments in the past that the library was an prefabricated building and had no real thermal insulation under the floor – therefore on some visits from maintenance operatives it had been voiced that the library was ‘now not fit for purpose’ under current day standards, and it had been stated that it cost ECC a lot to run. In addition, the Clerk stated that some time ago she spoken to County Cllr Jackson about the need for a new Community Hub which could include a Library, Parish Council Office, Doctors, Police etc, and that Cllr Jackson had spoken with ECCs Cllr Jowers and Cllr Finch regarding such an idea, and that they had stated they would give the Parish Council full backing (with possible financial backing) for such a hub.

The Clerk had spoken with Locality (providers of the grant funding) to establish what the process would be should the Parish Council wish to apply for a grant. The Locality representative advised that in the first instance, the Parish Council should contact the local authority (EFDC) asking if they would be willing to transfer leader lodge to the Parish Council a community asset. If this was not forthcoming, the Parish Council could ask if the owners of Leader Lodge (EFDC) would enter into a private sale agreement with the Parish Council, rather than a bid. Alternatively, the Parish Council could apply for Leader Lodge to be registered as a Asset of Community Value which would at the very least give a short time period for the Parish Council to consider how it wishes to move forward.

The Clerk stated that nothing has been actioned or agreed, but that this was simply an idea that came about by chance, and that she wanted to put it Council for discussion and debate.

Cllr Eldridge stated that if the Parish Council were successful in getting a grant, monies would still be needed to rebuild and renovate the property to bring it back into community use. The Clerk stated that if ECC were to sell the land on which the library currently sits, perhaps it could be sold for housing, and that the money raised could be used to fund the rebuild of new library and community hub.

Cllr Collins stated that his first reaction when reading the information regarding this agenda item was that he was a little confused, in that he is all for taking advantage of grants that are available, however when the Parish Council initially moved from School Green Lane to the library, it was because it was beneficial for the community for the Parish Council to be in a central location. Cllr Collins stated that he would therefore have an issue with the Parish Council moving to Leader Lodge, in that it

would be taking this amenity out of the centre of a village and relocating it on the outskirts, and that he would not support this.

Cllr Stallan stated that he agreed with Cllr Collins. In terms of Leader Lodge, the Parish Council would need to go through the formal bidding process, however he would take a step back as he was a bit concerned that he had missed the agenda item where the Parish Council had made a policy decision that they want to move from its current location in the library, stating that he could not recall having seen this on any agenda item in the past, nor that the current parish office was not fit for purpose. Cllr Stallan continued stating that whether or not the Library building itself is fit for purpose is something that ECC would need to confirm, however he could not recall ever seeing a document stating as such. The Library is in the centre of the village, and that its location was one of the reasons the Parish Council took the brave step to move. Whether or not Leader Lodge would be fit for the purpose of a community hub would be up for discussion. There would be extra costs needed for its renovation, and the Parish Council would be reliant on Essex County Council giving them a share of the profit they would make from the sale of the library land in order to renovate Leader Lodge. In addition, Leader Lodge is much further out of the village, and as such he feels the footfall would drop which may then lead to an argument later on down the line to close the library because of numbers.

The Clerk reiterated that she was not asking anybody to do anything, but simply putting the idea of taking advantage of grants that were available for the benefit of the community. Cllr Stallan stated that using his long experience of being a District Councillor, the fact that members have discussed this item, even though it's on a pink, will lead to members of the public thinking that the Parish Council has already made a decision, which they haven't, and that he will be voting against this as the Parish Council has never even discussed if they wanted to move, and whether or not ECC have stated that the building is fit for purpose.

Cllr Bedford stated that he fully supported the forward thinking of the Clerk, and felt that moving could resolve some of the problems in the village, especially if other agencies such as doctors, dentist, police etc were involved, and suggested perhaps discussion should take place with these agencies to see if they would be interested. Leader Lodge could become a new community hub. Cllr Mulliner stated that the word 'hub' implies 'centre'.

Cllr Clegg stated that he considered what Cllr Bedford had said, and that he agrees with him, proposing that the Clerk should continue to explore an opportunity of the provision of a Village Hub even if Leader Lodge was not the right place. It may be that any bid would fail miserably, however appreciated that this idea was borne out of a set of events in the same time period that the Clerk linked together. Cllr Clegg **PROPOSED** that the Clerk continues with exploring these opportunities, and that the item is placed on a future agenda for full discussion.

Cllr Blanks stated that he agreed with Cllr Collins and Cllr Stallan, and that he was one of the Councillors with whom the Clerk had an informal discussion. Cllr Blanks

stated that the Leader Lodge sale notice states that the site is to be sold for residential private purposes only, so this may be the first barrier. Secondly, the grant details state under the Empty Building and Derelict land about bringing a property back into community use/ownership, however as Leader Lodge is already owned by the Community (EFDC) this may also be a problem. Cllr Blanks stated that the Parish Council only owns one building - Thornwood Village Hall - which according to the Chairman's report accounts for 22% of the precept, which equates to £33k, which is already rather continuous, and now the Parish Council are thinking about spending £1million on another property, which to him doesn't seem like a very good idea. Cllr Clegg stated that he failed to see how that argument had any correlation at all to this discussion, to which Cllr Blanks stated that as a Parish Council we have the responsibility of looking after public money, not buying buildings. Cllr Clegg stated that if the purchase of a building meant you could resurrect services and facilities for a local community, that would be a community benefit. Cllr Bedford stated that he felt two issues were being confused - the Hall, and a Community Hub. A hall was simply a community facility for use, however the hub would need to be a joint venture with other partners, as it simply would not be viable for the Parish Council to run it alone. This is something that would need to be thoroughly explored.

Cllr Eldridge asked if the library building was good enough for the office staff, to which the Clerk stated that this isn't an issue which has really come into question.

The Clerk reiterated that this was simply an idea put on the table for members to discuss and debate. She had become aware of some funding, and the availability of Leader Lodge, and put the two and two together. It may be on this occasion two and two doesn't make four, but perhaps the funding or other similar funding could be utilised to look at completing a feasibility study for a community hub.

Cllr Buckley asked if there had been any indication from ECC that they want to close the building, or if the building was under threat, to which the Clerk stated that the Parish Council has a 10 year lease with a 7.5 year break clause. Cllr Spearman stated that he felt this option was worth exploring.

Cllr Blanks stated that whether we like it or not, there are going to be many changes over the next two years or so, partly because EFDC do not have a current Local Plan in place. People such as the Peer Group will be applying for planning permission, and some of the developers like to throw in community stuff also.

Cllr Grigg stated that the word she had written down was 'location'. Leader Lodge is not the right place for the Parish Office. Cllr Grigg stated that she understood the issues with the current offices, however at Leader Lodge the footfall would be lost. She supports the principal of the idea, providing there was a suitable site, however it would need to be central. A central location is the most important factor. Cllr Bedford stated that perhaps the idea would then be to redevelop the current Library site. Cllr Stallan stated that the current site wouldn't fulfil the criteria of the grants suggested, and that in the grant application you would have to name the site in

question. Cllr Stallan asked if the Parish Council do not go for Leader Lodge, this grant is no longer a possibility.

The Clerk stated that there are other grants available that would fund feasibility studies for such a project. Cllr Stallan stated that in the first instance the Parish Council needed to agree whether or not they want to start looking for alternative accommodation.

Cllr Stallan stated that it was important to remember that whilst he understood the working environment of the staff was very important, however the Parish Council were in the first instance 15 members, who, were elected by residents who paid Council Tax, and it was Councillors not staff who were answerable to the residents.

The Clerk stated that any feasibility study that the Parish Council undertake should include the Library within those studies. Members **AGREED**.

Meeting closed 21.05

Signed
Date