



**MINUTES**

**Meeting:** COUNCIL

**Date:** 2nd December 2013

**Time:** 7.30pm

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

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors (9)** C Hawkins (Chairman), B Bartram T Blanks, A Buckley, B Clegg, P Collins, B Eldridge, Mrs E Godwin-Brown, G Mulliner

**Also in Attendance (2)**

Susan De Luca - Parish Clerk

Adriana Jones – Finance and Administrative Officer

**Members of the Public (0)**

**Members of the Press (0)**

**P13.096 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (6)**

*NOTED* that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs A Grigg, McCormack, Stallan, Bedford, Spearman and Ms D Adams.

**P13.097 OTHER ABSENCES (0)**

Members *NOTED* no other absences.

**P13.098 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2013 were *AGREED* and signed as a true record. There were two minor grammatical errors on the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 18th November 2013, which were amended, after which they were duly *AGREED* and signed as a true record.

**P13.099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs Godwin-Brown, Cllr Collins, Cllr Buckley, Cllr Mulliner, Cllr Blanks and Cllr Hawkins declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 10, Remembrance Sunday, by virtue of being members of the RBL.

**P13.100 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No public present.

**P13.101 BUDGET 2014 - 2015**

Members *AGREED* that the precept amount as detailed in the F&GP Minutes of a 0% increase should be put forward to Epping Forest as the Precept for 2014 - 2015.

**P13.102 CLERKS UPDATE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Members *NOTED* the following Communications and Correspondence:-

From	Type of Document	Regarding
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EFDC	Agendas and Minutes	<i>Various - NOTED</i>
Village Life	Newsletter	<i>Noted</i>
ECC	Spread Sheets	<i>CIF Grant Funding - The Clerk was hoping to be in a position to let members know the outcome of the funding, however the formal letters to applicants had not yet gone out.</i>

Members **NOTED** that EFDC have amended the name of the North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee to the Asset Management and Economic Development Cabinet Committee, the next meeting of which was Thursday 5th December. The Clerk stated that with this Committees terms of reference was the management of Council owned assets, and item 'c' makes reference to the disposal of all of the Airfield. Councillor Blanks confirmed he would attend this meeting.

Members **NOTED** that the Clerk had received a letter from the North Weald Mums regarding Weald Common Play area that morning, a copy of which was tabled for members information. Attached to this letter was a copy of a petition supporting improvements to the Weald Common play area. Cllr Collins stated that it was quite a nice letter and the point had been made.

Members **NOTED** a notice of a road closure of Vicarage Lane West beginning 9th December 2013 whilst resurfacing works take place on byway 36.

### **P13.103 REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS**

**a) Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that in the past month he had been involved with the Christmas Tree working group, Allotment sub-committee, and had attended a Norway House Stakeholder meeting to discuss the Christmas party.

**b) Vice Chairman's Report**

Cllr Eldridge reported that he has been informed by the Estate Managers office at EFDC that Countrycare should help with the issue of horses on various greens throughout Hastingwood, and that details in terms of who owns the land can be sourced from Alison Mitchell (Asst Solicitor at EFDC). It was **AGREED** the Clerk would give Cllr Eldridge Ms Mitchell's email address.

**c) District Councillors Report - No report.**

**d) Highways Reports**

Cllr Collins reported that the kerb that runs from the new crossing in the High Street along the front of the shop have two blocked drains, meaning surfacing flooding is happening when it rains. It was **AGREED** to report this to Highways.

Cllr Blanks reported that the mum he has assisted make a claim against ECC following damage caused to her vehicle by a pothole had been refunded by ECC.

e) **Councillors Reports** - no report

f) **Environmental Issues (including Allotments)**

Cllr Mulliner reported that a further tree had fallen down at the North Weald allotments which had caused damaged to a chair and a wheelbarrow on a tenants plot. This issue is ongoing and is being dealt with by the Allotment sub-committee. The latest quarterly play area inspection had taken place, and the ground underneath the gate and picket fence had been classified as a priority 1 hazard. Three piles of rubbish has been fly tipped along the access route to the sewage works down Church Lane. It was noted the as this way private land, EFDC would not remove it, and that it was the responsibility of the land owner to do so. It was suggested that perhaps the land owner should consider locking the gate.

g) **Neighbourhood Action Panel**

The Chairman reported that Cllr McCormack had resigned as Chairman of the NAP, and that a replacement Chairman is being sought. In the meantime, Mick Sheen has agreed to assist. It was **AGREED** to ask Mick Sheen to keep the Parish Council informed of any discussions or actions agreed at these meetings.

h) **County Councillors Reports** - **NOTED** as attached to the agenda.

### P13.103 FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Members **APPROVED** the list of cheques, which were signed up to 31<sup>st</sup> November 2013 and **NOTED** the summary of income received and the account balances.

- Cllr Blanks asked what the total income / expenditure was for Remembrance Sunday, however it was **NOTED** that final figures were not yet available.
- Cllr Clegg stated that he had noted the increasing cost of water for the allotments. The Clerk reminded Members that the water bill for the TWVH allotments actually included the water supply for the Village Hall. Cllr Clegg asked if a breakdown could be established as to what cost to attribute to each facility, and if the costs were adequately covered by the allotment rental income. The Clerk stated that the since joining the Council in 2007, the allotment rent had doubled, and that the Parish Council has a duty to provide allotments if there is sufficient demand. Cllr Blanks asked if the Parish Council had a duty to provide water on the allotments, to which the Clerk stated it would be wrong to provide allotments without a water supply. Cllr Blanks stated he understood this, however the utility companies are earning a lot of money and the Parish council are subsidising the allotments. The Clerk stated she agreed that perhaps the allotment rental should be increased, and invited all Councillors to attend the next Allotment meeting in March at which this issues could be discussed and

Councillors could justify why to allotment tenants. Cllr Mulliner suggested it may be a good idea to make allotment tenants aware of the cost being incurred for water, and the rental doesn't cover it, and to encourage them to have a water butt. It was **AGREED** that the F&A Officer should provide a cost analysis of the water supply for allotments against the rental income, and to establish a approximate costing split between the TWVH and TW allotment water supply.

Members **NOTED** that 12 months notice of a rental increase would need to be given to allotment holders. Cllr Blanks asked if the TWVH had any water butts from which they could collect rain water. It was **AGREED** the environmental Committee should look into this.

#### **P13.104 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2013**

The Chairman reported that both events (St Andrews and the Debt of Honour) had been a resounding success with approximately 350 people attending the Debt of Honour service. Our Norwegian guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the luncheon was a great success. He continued stating that it was nice to see the new Vicar doing both services, as well as Hastingwood. Members noted that the new Vicar had recently completed a tour of the Parish with both the Chairman and Councillor Bartram. The chairman reported that he would try and raise the issue of railings on the war memorial in the Churchyard again.

#### **P13.105 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT**

Members **NOTED** that the event would held on Wednesday 4th December at 6pm on the Village Green near Wheelers Farm Gardens. Cllrs Mulliner, Adams, Godwin-Brown and McCormack have been organising the event, and a copy of the poster was attached to the agenda. Copies of this poster have also been distributed to the school and local shops, together with areas where there are lots of children, such as Blenheim Way and the Scouts.

Cllr Godwin-Brown confirmed unfortunately they had been unable to put the lights onto the Silver Birch as originally agreed due to the soft ground and machinery needed. As such, the lights had been placed on the tree near the doctors surgery, and a Christmas Tree had been purchased and planted in the flower box, on which there were also lights. The two children who win the picture competition will be give the task of turning on the Christmas lights. The Choir from St Andrews School will be singing hymns, followed by refreshments and mince pies at the Wheelers Farm Gardens Centre. Councillors were encouraged to attend.

#### **P13.106 STREET LIGHTING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CHECK**

Members **NOTED** that the Parish Council owned Street Lighting Maintenance check was due, and will be carried out in January 2014. The Clerk stated that the office staff were establishing which lights needed which type of maintenance check, and that as soon as this was completed the contractor would be informed. Cllr Eldridge reported that the street light recently replaced in Mill Street (the one hit by lorry, outside Mill Stream) has a terribly blinding light in the evening. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would liaise with A&J Lighting regarding this.

MINUTES

Members **NOTED** that 9th December was the original date set for the 12am-5am street lighting outage by ECC, however somebody was taking legal action against ECC so this may have been postponed.

Meeting closed: 9.20pm

Signed .....  
Date .....