



MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 2nd September 2013

Time: 7.53pm

Venue: NORTH WEALD LIBRARY, HIGH ROAD, NORTH WEALD

PRESENT:

Councillors (10) C Hawkins (Chairman), D Adams, B Bartram, N Bedford, T Blanks, A Buckley, B Clegg, B Eldridge, G McCormack, G Mulliner.

Also in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to the Council

Adriana Jones – Finance and Administrative Officer

Members of the Public (0)

Members of the Press (0)

P13.054 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (5)

NOTED that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Stallan, Collins, Mrs E Godwin-Brown, Mrs Grigg and Spearman.

P13.055 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

Members *NOTED* no other absences.

P13.056 MINUTES

There were two requested alterations:

- P13.044b – ‘there’ spelt incorrectly – should be their.
- P13.047 – Cllr Blanks reported that Mr Button was a property developer, not Cllr Buckley.

Subject to these two amendments, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2013 were *AGREED* and signed as a true record. This minutes of the Personnel Meeting held on 24th July 2013 were *AGREED* as a true record.

P13.057 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED there were no declarations of interest.

P13.058 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

P13.059 CLERKS UPDATE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Members *NOTED* the following Communications and Correspondence:-

From	Type of Document	Regarding
EALC	Monthly Mailings	<i>Various</i>
EALC/ECC	Magazine 7 Notification of AGM	<i>Making the Links & EALC AGM and Event Thursday 26th September – documentation enclosed- NOTED</i>

EFDC	Agenda & Minutes	<i>Various - NOTED</i>
EALC	Notification	<i>Various Training Courses - NOTED</i>
Resident	Letter	<i>Letter regarding Ragwort from Mr Hudson, the Parish Councils representative on such issues, stating this is particularly prevalent in Thornwood. The Clerk read the letter for members. Mr Hudson requested the Parish Council write to the Corporation of London asking that they address the issue. Cllr Bedford stated that he would be speaking with Marianne Frederick of the Corporation of London and will address this issue directly with her. Cllr McCormack reported that Ragwort is also being found on allotments, and that he understands there is an Act under which ragwort is covered. It was AGREED the clerk would look into the Prohibited Weeds Act to establish if this is covered.</i>

- Members **NOTED** that this year's two Play in the Park events were attended as follows:
 - Thornwood – 15-20 attendees
 - Queens Hall – 5 attendees (due to bad weather – rain)

P13.060 REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked those Councillors who attended last Tuesday's Hoppa bus photoshoot, together with the photoshoot over at the Airfield.

b) Vice Chairman's Report

Councillor Eldridge reported that local horse riders have been complaining about the speed of traffic through Hastingwood, and that a third accident occurred yesterday in which somebody was hit. The complainant was asked to put their complaint in writing to EFDC and the Parish Council. Fly tipping taking place near the Horn and Horseshoes together with the normal locations. There is a burnt car near Green Lane. Cllr Eldridge expressed his concern that no matter how many times he reports such issues to EFDC, they continue to leave fly tipping up to the farmers to deal with as EFDC are unable to. Cllr Clegg suggested this would be a good location for the Speed Watch initiative, however Cllr Bartram stated that due to the number of bends in the road, this would not be authorised. Cllr Clegg asked if anybody was aware as to if fly tipping was on the increase in the whole of the district. The Chairman stated that he did see a report in the paper last week which detailed a lorry dumping waste in the middle of the road. It was generally felt however the whilst fly tipping in Hastingwood was a serious issue, there had in fact been less reports concerning the remainder of the Parish.

c) District Councillors Report - No report.

d) Highways Reports

Cllr Blanks confirmed that ECC had now paid the cost of the damage to his car caused by a pothole.

e) **Councillors Reports**

Cllr McCormack reported on the Teddybears picnic run by a group of local mums who are trying to raise funds for new play equipment at Weald Common. The Environmental Committee have agreed to provide £1000 towards the cost of new play equipment. The Teddybears picnic raised £350 which is a fanatic start. Their target is £25,000 and they are actively looking for grants to help reach this target.

Cllr Bedford asked that his thanks were passed to the Parish Council staff for arranging the clearance of glass at Weald Common play are so swiftly. He also reported that there is a large pothole (3ft by 18inch wide by 5inch deep) in Rayleigh Lane just before the golf club. Cllr Bedford asked if the Parish Council would be addressing an article in one of the local magazines which complained about EFDC agreeing to go for option 3 regarding the future of the airfield as their preferred option. The suggestion was that a response should be made stating that the decision followed the correct democratic process. The Clerk expressed her concern that the comments in the publication were not necessarily those of the councillors. Cllr Clegg advised that it would not be appropriate to get into a battle via the press on this issue. This was **AGREED**.

Cllr Blanks stated that EFDC had reported that residents of both Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell had stated that houses would be better off placed on North Weald airfield as they have no more available land in their areas. In addition, Cllr Blanks stated he had received a call from a member of the Gazette, and that the reporter was asking for Cllr Blanks thoughts on Cllrs Grigg and Stallan. Cllr Blanks informed the reporter that both Cllrs Grigg and Stallan have been this Parish Councils representatives at EFDC for many years, were well respected by both the Community and by the Parish Council, and that he had nothing untoward to say about them.

Cllr Blanks added that he feels the decision of EFDC to go for option 3 should be built on as much as possible, and that he was hoping to ask a question at the next EFDC Council meeting along the lines of ‘now the future of the airfield is secure, what are EFDC going to do about improving the viability of it’?

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would relook at the role of the Forward Planning Committee in January, and ensure our Community Assets are appropriately identified, recorded and mapped.

Cllr McCormack reported that following the invitation sent by this Parish Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner to meet, there has been no formal response. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would chase again.

f) Environmental Issues

Cllr Mulliner reported that the latest play area inspection report is available, and that site visits would be taking place over the coming weeks. There had been a meeting with an allotment holder who has not been locking the gate of Queens Road allotments. Following the meeting, a solution had been reached and a new lock has been placed on the gate. The Environmental Committee are looking at the possibility of moving the fence and gate at the entrance to Queens Road Allotments to accommodate parking. The ongoing matter with the Hastingwood A allotment tenants who have not been tending to their plots has now been closed. The next Environmental meeting will be taking place on 20th September.

g) Neighbourhood Action Panel

Members **NOTED** that the Clerk had emailed the latest minutes to Members. Cllr McCormack reported that there should have been a meeting on 29th August, however Nick Dorras had received a phone call from Andy Cook stating that for operational reasons he couldn't attend the meeting, and as such it was cancelled. He is trying to reschedule the meeting.

Councillors also **NOTED** that there had been a serious incident of assault outside the village hall on 1st September in which somebody was injured and an ambulance called.

h) County Councillors Reports - None

P13.061 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

Cllr Blanks asked that the word 'refunded' should actually read 'reimbursed'. The Clerk confirmed that the Finance and Administrative Officer was currently being trained on the new Pear Technology software, and that all the work required to ensure this new software could be used had now taken place.

P13.062 DEREK COUSINS

Members **NOTED** the death of former Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council Derek Cousins who passed away in August. The Clerk had spoken to Mr Cousin's daughter who stated there was private funeral.

P13.063 EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

Members **NOTED** that a workshop is to be held on the 5th October as part of the Issues and Options Consultations. Only one place has been allocated for each Parish and Town Council, and Adriana Jones would normally attend this workshop as the nominated person and for continuity, however as she is away that weekend (as is the Clerk) Jo Tyler will attend in her place. It is understood that all District Councillors have also been offered a place on the workshop. It was **NOTED** that this is the same day as the Latton Priory Development event at Thornwood.

**P13.064 HEALTH AND SAFETY – THORNWOOD COMMON VILLAGE HALL
LEGIONELLA**

Members recalled that in accordance with H&S obligations, an inspection to establish the risk of Legionella within the Thornwood Common Village Hall was recently conducted. Members *NOTED* that the relevant works have now been completed. The Chairman informed members that three new heaters have been purchased following a donation by one of the hall hirers who gave the profit from an event she held to go towards something for the hall.

P13.065 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2013

It was *NOTED* that invitations for this year's Remembrance Sunday events had been sent out, and that confirmation had been received from North Weald Village Hall that the luncheon can be held in the hall. The hire charge for the hall is £5.00. Confirmation has been received that there will be a presence from Norway this year. The Clerk informed members that she had been informed that Cllr Collins would be stepping down as Chairman of the RBL at the next AGM, and that the Parish Council would be prepared to pick up the administration of the Church events should Cllr Collins be unable to.

P13.066 EFDC COMMUNITY DAY

Members were reminded that the Parish Council would be having a stand at Community day on Sunday 8th September, and that so far only five Councillors had confirmed their attendance to 'man' the stand at this event. Three members of staff would be available on the day. The Clerk invited all Councillors to attend, and asked them to inform her by Wednesday of this week.

P13.067 BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY

Members *NOTED* that an invitation had been received to attend the RAFA Service at the Cross of Sacrifice at St Andrews Church on Sunday 15th September at 11.15am followed by a Service in the Church. An invitation has also been received by the North Weald Airfield Museum to have a Stand at their Event at the Museum on the same day. Unfortunately, no Members of staff are available to 'man' the event that day, so it will be necessary for the stand to be set up and run by Councillors on the day if Councillors wish the Parish Council to have a presence at the Museums event. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would be laying a wreath at the event. It was *AGREED* not to have a stand at this event.

P13.068 DOG BINS

It was *NOTED* that the Clerk had received confirmation from EFDC Housing that the Dog Big can be installed on the grass verge at Bluemans. Also, confirmation has been received from Peer Group that the Dog Bin can be installed at Skips Corner, subject to the Parish Council agreeing the Licence. Cllr Bartram had noticed there was an error in the licence which had already been noted. Cllr Bedford suggested the notice period should be changed to 7 days. Subject to the two amendments, it was *AGREED* that both the Clerk and Chairman could sign the lease with today's meeting date.

P13.069 SPEED WATCH INITIATIVE

It was **NOTED** that a number of residents had now contacted the Parish Council and advised that they would like to be involved in the initiative and to undertake the training. PC Andy Cook has been contacted and advised of this. Details of the training dates are now awaited from PC Cook. Cllr Bedford stated that the police were in the village on Sunday morning near school green lane. It was also **NOTED** that PC Andy Cook had still not confirmed approved locations throughout the village at which the speed watch initiative could be run.

P13.070 EFDC COMMUNITY SAFETY CRIME AND DISORDER SURVEY

Members **NOTED** that copies of a survey were attached to the agenda for members to complete. Additional copies have been made available at the Parish Council offices and the Library for members of the public to complete. These need to be returned **direct** to EFDC by 15th September. Cllr McCormack confirmed he would be taking some over to the elderly persons home at Wheelers Farm Gardens and encouraged others to take some also to hand out.

Meeting closed: 21.00

Signed
Date