



MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 3 February 2014

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: THORNWOOD COMMON VILLAGE HALL, THORNWOOD

PRESENT:

Councillors (9) C Hawkins (Chairman), B Eldridge, B Clegg, B Bartram, P Collins,
N Bedford, Ms D Adams, T Blanks, A Buckley

Also in Attendance (2)

Joanna Tyler – Administrative Officer
Sammy Wix - Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public (0)

Members of the Press (0)

No Members of the Press were present.

P13.107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (6)

NOTED that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G Mulliner,
D Stallan, R Spearman, Mrs E Godwin-Brown, Mrs A Grigg, G McCormack

P13.108 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

No other absences were recorded.

P13.109 MINUTES

Members **NOTED** that the minutes for 2 December 2013 were not available for
approval.

P12.110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

P12.111 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

P12.112 CLERKS UPDATE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Members **NOTED** the following Communications and Correspondence:-

From	Type of Document	Regarding
Epping Ongar Railway	Email	<i>The General Manager of EOR will be leaving to take up a new appointment at a railway on the South Coast.</i>
RCCE	Email	<i>Our Place programme – offering to support Areas working to transform local public services.</i>

North Weald Bassett & District Rural Preservation Society	Magazine	<i>Newsletter January 2014</i>
Village Life	Magazine	<i>Monthly Newsletter</i>
EALC	Email	<i>New Training Courses and Calendar of Events 2014</i>
EFDC	AGENDA & MINUTES	<i>Various</i>

P12.113 REPORTS AND MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that it had been a difficult two weeks at the Parish Office due to a breakdown of the central heating system. This has resulted in the photocopier ceasing to work because of the cold and damp conditions. The staff have attended the office to check the answer phone and post and have then taken work home to complete due to the cold conditions. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Parish Office Staff. Councillor Bedford suggested that it should be investigated whether an extension could be built alongside the storage room at the library.

The Chairman reported that he had attended Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan Workshop on Saturday, 25 January 2014, which was held at North Weald Village Hall. The Chairman stated that he had asked the representative assigned to his table if he had seen the Parish Council's document submitted to EFDC, to which he stated that he had not, however, the representative assured the Chairman that he would look at the document and contact him in the near future. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the workshop. Cllr Collins mentioned that he had expressed a concern at the last planning meeting regarding the timescale for the completion of the Local Plan, the Chairman stated that he had asked Epping Forest District Council's Chief Executive this question and was informed that they had not run out of time as a date has not been set.

b) Vice-Chairman's Report

The Vice-Chairman asked Members if anyone had any knowledge of who owns the land that the benches are located on at Mill Street (Parish Office staff will try and ascertain who the owner is). Complaints have been received from residents in Foster Street regarding Priors, in particular noise from vehicles at all hours, however, this problem has now been resolved. One of the street lights in Mill Street (opposite Glovers Lane) is not working (the Administrative Assistant will report this). Members were advised that the telephone lines are not currently working in Hastingwood, many metres of cable have been stolen, hopefully the lines will be reinstated later this week.

c) District Councillors Report

No report.

d) Highways

Councillor Bedford reported that there was a large pot hole at Rayley Lane (heading towards the golf course), the road is breaking up badly at the approach to the roundabout from the Talbot and there is also a large pot hole outside the chemist's in North Weald High Road. Cllr Eldridge reported a pot hole located at the Foster Street/Mill Street t-junction. The Administrative Assistant stated that she had, this morning, reported the pot holes located in Church Lane, Waterman's Way and the junction at Coopersale heading on to the Epping Road.

e) Councillors Reports

Councillor Bedford reported that he had been given a copy of a petition sent to Epping Forest District Council by residents of Beaufort Close, North Weald. Residents were expressing their concern regarding the felling of two large trees located on the green in the middle of the close. Residents had not been consulted and had been informed by EFDC contractors that the trees were being felled due to a complaint from a resident who's garden backs on to the green. Residents were too late to halt the felling of one of the trees, however one is to remain for the time being. Following discussion, Members requested that the Parish Office contact EFDC to establish what their policy is with regard to complaints from residents in relation to trees.

Councillor Clegg reiterated the Chairman's earlier comments with regard to the Parish Office staff and expressed his thanks for the assistance the Administrative Officer had given in responding to the Planning Inspectorate with regard to the Woodside Appeal. He stated that both the Administrative Officer and Assistant had, taking into account the current staffing issues, gone beyond what is expected of them.

f) Environmental Issues

No report.

g) Neighbourhood Action Panel

No minutes were available, however, the Chairman and Cllr Bartram attended last week's meeting and reported that the main topic of the meeting was regarding parking issues around the parish.

h) County Councillors Reports

No report.

P12.114 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts

Members **APPROVED** the list of cheques, which were signed up to 31 December 2012 and 31 January 2014, however, Members **NOTED** that the summary of income received and the account balances were not available due to the absence of the Finance and Administrative Officer.

P12.115 ESSEX YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The Chairman read out a statement received from Mr Nick Dorras, Chairman of North Weald Village Hall, advising that a concert by the Essex Youth Orchestra is to take place at North Weald Village Hall on Friday, 21 March 2014 at 8pm. Members **NOTED** that the Chairman had originally pledged a contribution of £100 to assist with transport costs, etc., however, the statement from Mr Dorras mentions a donation of £200 from the Parish Council. Mr Dorras has stated that it is very unlikely that the donation will be required. Any assistance/ideas from Members would be greatly appreciated.

P12.116 EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL'S 2014 PLAY IN THE PARK PROGRAMME

Correspondence had been received regarding Epping Forest District Council's 2014 Play in the Park Programme. The charge for each session has been increased to £65.00 to cover staffing costs, van hire, petrol and equipment. Members **AGREED** to continue to support the programme for 2014.

P12.117 WEALD COMMON HEDGEROWS

Members **NOTED** that Epping Forest Countrycare have completed laying the hedgerows at Weald Common and commented as to how nice they now look. Councillor Collins asked if Epping Forest Countrycare would be laying the hedgerow on the second field as he recalled that there was an agreement with them. The Chairman stated that he would ask the Environmental Committee to look at this.

P12.118 TOUR DE FRANCE 2014 – Local Authority Planning Group (LAPG)

The Administrative Officer read out a verbal report from Councillor Mulliner regarding the LAPG Committee Meeting that he attended on 27 January 2014. Members **NOTED** that there will be a "sprint point" in Epping High Road (all traffic furniture will be removed). All Parishes will be encouraged to make the whole event feel welcome. A charity event is being planned prior to the Essex stage of the tour, enabling members of the public to ride part of the route. Councillor Mulliner hopes to give a more detailed report following the next meeting, when information regarding road closures should be finalised.

P12.119 STAFFING MATTERS

Members discussed the current circumstances regarding the absence of the Clerk to the Council and the Finance and Administrative Officer. Councillor Clegg **PROPOSED** that Compassionate Leave be granted for and for the matter to be reviewed at the next Parish Council Meeting to be held in March, all Members **AGREED**.

Meeting closed: 8.23 pm

Signed
Date