



North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

2nd February 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME OF THIS MEETING

This Meeting is open to any other North Weald Bassett Parish Councillor who wishes to attend

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE** which will be held on **Wednesday, 23rd February 2022** at **10.00am** to transact the business shown in the agenda below.

This meeting will be held in the Thornwood Common Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council

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 held on 22 November 2021, as previously distributed with the Parish Council Agenda dated 24 January 2022.

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. REVIEW OF ALLOTMENT FEES

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** if there is a need to increase allotment fees for 2023/4. As Members will know, the Parish Council is required to give 12 months' notice of any increase in fees. For the new financial year (2022/2023) there was no increase.

The current fees, and the fees for 2022/2023 are:

- Under 50sqm = Extra Small £23.00
- Between 51sqm & 100sqm = Small £25.00
- Between 101sqm & 150sqm = Average £26.00
- Between 151sqm & 200sqm = Large £30.00
- Over 201sqm = Extra Large £32.00

Members are asked to note the following Minute Reference E21.10 from the Environmental Meeting held on 19 July 2021:

b) Upkeep of Allotment Sites

Members were reminded that the upkeep of the allotments is ever increasing. The Rental received from tenants does not cover the yearly running costs. It was noted that following a visit to the Wheelers Farm Gardens site on Saturday, 26th June, the Clerk had received several requests for works to be considered, which included:

- *Running new pipework to rectify the low water pressure*
- *Regular cutting of the grass in the communal areas*

*The Clerk referred to her report attached to the Supplementary Agenda and suggested that Members may wish to consider whether the rents should be increased to cover the extra costs. The PFO advised that any increase in fees would not be until 2023 as 12 months notification had to be given to tenants. The Clerk said that she is looking at all avenues with regard to the availability of any grant funding. Following lengthy discussion, Cllr Clegg **PROPOSED** that the Clerk and PFO undertake a financial investigation, the findings are then presented at a meeting in September, any increase can then be agreed and implemented by a date determined by the Clerk and PFO. All Members **AGREED**.*

7. REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** a possible increase in cemetery fees for 2022/23. Members are reminded that for 2021/22, fees were increased as follows:

- *The purchase of a plot in either the Hedges Section or Meadowbrook Section of the Lawn Cemetery to be increased by £25.00*
- *Interment in either the Hedges Section or Meadowbrook Section of the Lawn Cemetery to be increased by £25.00*

Members are asked to note the following Minute Reference E21.36 from the Environmental Meeting held on 30 November 2021:

d) Price Increase for 2022

Councillors NOTED that the Clerk had received notification of price increases from the supplier of plaques, boulders and spikes for 2022. Members AGREED that the increases should be taken into account when reviewing the Cemetery Fees for 2022.

Councillors NOTED that the Clerk had been notified that the cost for Grave Digging was also to be increased. Members AGREED that any increase should be taken into account when reviewing the Cemetery Fees for 2022.

The Clerk has received confirmation that the costs for Grave Digging are to be increased with effect from the 1st April 2022 as follows:

- Full Burial £400 (increase of £40.00)
- Cremated Remains £130.00 (increase of £10.00)

A copy of the current Cemetery Fees is attached to the Agenda.

Susan De Luca
Clerk to the Council