



**MINUTES**

**Meeting:** PARISH COUNCIL

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Time:** 7.30PM

**Venue:** PARISH HALL, THORNWOOD COMMON

---

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors (7)** Cllr Clegg (meeting Chairman), Cllr Spearman, Cllr Mrs Hawkins, Cllr Mrs S Jackman MBE, Cllr Tyler\*, Cllr Mrs Etherington, Cllr Irvine.

*\* for part of meeting*

**Officers in Attendance (1)**

Adriana Jones – Principal Financial Officer (PFO and Meeting Clerk)

**Members of the Public (3)** – Inc PC Andy Cook and EFDC Monitoring Office Lynne Ridley

**Members of the Press (1)**

Given the Chairman and Vice Chairman had both offered apologies, the meeting Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman for the meeting. Cllr Irvine **PROPOSED** Cllr Clegg, which was **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Hawkins, followed by a unanimous vote. Cllr Clegg was therefore elected as Chairman for this meeting.

**C22.165 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (5)**

Apologies received from Cllr Ms Wood, Cllr Bedford, Cllr Blanks, Cllr Buckley, and Cllr Mrs Grigg.

**C22.166 OTHER ABSENCES (1)**

Cllr Stroud.

**C22.167 MINUTES**

Councillors **AGREED** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**C22.168 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Spearman declared a pecuniary interest in any item concerning the Local Plan. Cllr Mrs Hawkins declared a non pecuniary interest in the agenda item concerning the Thornwood Hall Hire Fees, confirming she would not vote on this item as she was a user of the hall.

**C22.169 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman welcomed the public present, and invited PC Cook to address Councillors. PC Cook reported on the crime figures for last month, stating that they remain low. Crimes included one dwelling burglary, theft from motor vehicles, damage to fence in Station Road, the Station door itself being damaged, vehicle damage, damage to gates, and the vandalism to the Higham View Bridge. PC Cook advised that he could not attend the March meeting but would arrange for the crime figures to be sent over. Cllr Jackman asked if PC Cook had the figures for those charged or arrested as requested at the January meeting, however PC Cook advised he did not but would endeavour to obtain them. The Chairman thanked PC Cook for his report.

The Chairman welcomed Lynne Ridley, Monitoring Officer from EFDC, to the meeting. Lynne advised that she was present to observe the meeting and would not be making a contribution,

however did invite all Councillors to introduce themselves after the meeting as it would be nice to put names to faces.

[Cllr Tyler Arrived]

#### **C22.170 REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The meeting Clerk provided the following report, which was **NOTED** by Councillors present:

- Higham View Bridge was damaged by vandalism, which had been reported to the police via the 101 reporting tool. Following inspection, it was deemed necessary to close the bridge as a result of a damaged slat that could be dangerous, however when doing so both the grounds maintenance contractor and the PFO were verbally abused by members of the public who ignored the closure and walked over the Bridge. This ignoring of the closure happened on a few occasions and resulted in the bridge having to be removed to ensure the safety of those who continued to use it. The bridge was replaced earlier in the day (6<sup>th</sup> February), and Councillors were reminded that it was always intended to replace the bridge but that works were brought forward as a result of the vandalism and damage.
- Latton Priory Consultation Response submitted – consultation now closed. Date for follow up meeting where 10 questions are going to be asked set for 27<sup>th</sup> February Evening meeting via Zoom
- Parish Council Elections – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Information concerning nomination papers is expected to be released by EFDC this month. Councillors were reminded that everybody wishing to vote would need for the first time to show identification at the polling station.
- Weald Common Tree Project – The main works now complete. Donation of 7 oak saplings from a local resident were planted 2 weeks ago, plus donation from a resident in Nazeing of a 5 year old oak tree now planted. A new gate has been installed to access the common from the track. Chairman and office staff will be meeting in March to agree a management plan for Weald Common going forward, together with progressing the installation of benches, information boards, corner fencing, etc. Tom Moat, ECC, will be progressing the grant funding receipt in February.
- Staffing Matters – Clerk expected to have a phased return to work mid February and the new temporary Admin Officer had been employed.
- CCTV Monitoring Contract with EFDC for the shops in North Weald extended for three-year period.
- Liaising with PC Cook and NWVH to try and secure an evening date for hall hire for an evening Coffee with Cops event. Expected to be a Friday evening in March, however awaiting details from PC Cook in terms of availability. To be held in the NWVH.
- EFDC formally sent precept demand as agreed at January meeting.
- Letter to EFDC sent expressing concern regarding reduced funding for EFDC appointment Police officers.
- Letter received from resident adjacent to allotments, which had been passed to Clerk and Chairman.

#### **C22.171 REPORTS AND MEMBER REPORTS**

The following reports were **NOTED**:

- a) Chairman's Report – No report
- b) Vice Chairman's Report - No report
- c) District & County Councillors Reports – No reports

d) Parish Councillors – The meeting Clerk advised that Cllr Blanks had submitted a written report which had been emailed to Councillors, and a hard copy was tabled at the meeting. The Chairman stated that he had read the report and found it rather disturbing, and asked what the next action was. Cllr Mrs Jackman asked if this would be passed to the District Council for comment, to which the meeting Clerk advised that at present it was a report submitted for noting, and that the comments contained within the document were those of Cllr Blanks and not of the Council as a body, and as such it would be for Cllr Blanks to ask the Clerk if he would like this put forward as a formal agenda item for discussion at the March meeting. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested this goes onto a future agenda for full discussion.

Cllr Spearman stated that he remembered the road along the B1393 was resurfaced around 5 years ago, but that the cats eyes were never reinstated to the centre of the road, and at present there were no street lights in this area and collectively this is making for a very dangerous road. Councillors asked if the meeting Clerk would raise this with Cllr Holly Whitbread.

e) Queens Hall Charity Report – Cllr Wood had submitted a written report stating that the Queens Hall was ticking along nicely, with no major issues. They are having some bits sorted with additional storage and confirmed that funding had been received for the electrical works / alarm / new climbing frame for nursery which they are looking to have in place over half term if possible. There are some issues with the back area and the grass being mud most of the time but they hope to address this in the coming weeks.

f) Neighbourhood Plan Report – Will be considered further after Clerk returns to work.

g) EFDC Local Plan Report – No update. The question was asked as to if a decision would be made before the election, to which the meeting Clerk advised that this could not be known however the district would like a decision as quickly as possible.

h) Highways Report – No report.

## C22.172 FINANCIAL

- a) **Payments** – Councillors formally **APPROVED** the list of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Cllr Irvine asked how the income and expenditure on the cheque lists compared to budget, to which the meeting Clerk advised that a quarterly review was conducted and everything was as expected at this time with no anticipated surprises..
- b) **Investments** – It was agreed at the January 2023 meeting that a sum of £100,000 would be transferred into a CCLA Account for a period of 12 months. Councillors **NOTED** that a couple of signatures were still required on the paperwork, after which it would be submitted to CCLA to open this account, after which the transfer of funds will be made.
- c) **Signatory** – Councillors **NOTED** that Cllr Mulliner had been removed as a signatory. Councillors **APPROVED** the removal of Cllr Sheila Jackman as signatory for the Councils bank accounts, and **APPROVED** the addition of Cllr Shirley Hawkins as a signatory.
- d) **George Mulliner** – Councillors **AGREED** a donation of £50 to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Cllr George Mulliner who passed away just after Christmas after serving over 11 years as a Councillor.

- e) **Lost cheques** – Councillors **NOTED** that Unity Trust Bank had lost 15 cheques submitted in December. The PFO has contacted all individuals and organisations who's cheques were lost, explained the situation, and monies have started to come in. The Clerk is expected to write a complaint to Unity regarding this matter.
- f) **Paying in Cash** – Councillors **NOTED** that from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 this Council will no longer be able to pay cash into its account via the post office, and instead will have to use Natwest. Council may wish to consider discouraging the receipt of cash where possible.

### C22.173 NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD WASTE DEPOT

Councillors were reminded that contained within the EFDC Cabinet Agenda for this evening (6<sup>th</sup> February) was an item which will be held in closed session, the only supporting text stating 'To agree to proceed with this project to develop a Waste Depot at North Weald Airfield'. Councillors were reminded that items were held in closed session on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, and that the if members of the public were present during that item, confidential information would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence.

Since the publication of the agenda, a supplementary draft budget document had been published which stated that £4.167m is being budgeted by EFDC for the next financial year for a vehicle depot for the waste management service at North Weald Airfield, along with £9.2m for the replacement of the waste vehicle fleet. Councillors recalled from the January meeting that it was agreed a further request for information concerning the future of the HMRC be submitted to EFDC Cllr Bedford, however at this stage it was unclear if the proposed waste depot would be on this site. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the Chairman issued a statement to EEF on behalf of the Council advising as follows:

*North Weald Bassett Parish Council is extremely concerned to see an item included in the Cabinet Agenda for the EFDC Cabinet meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February considering the possibility of a Waste Depot on North Weald Airfield. The Parish Council has previously raised concerns with EFDC about the future of the HMRC site, and is yet to receive a satisfactory formal response, however it is unclear if the possible Waste Depot is being considered for the same site. Unfortunately there are no details of what is being considered and/or proposed, and what the Waste Depot would consist of, however the Council will again be raising this matter directly with the Leader of EFDC, and will scrutinise in detail any proposals being considered as to how they may affect the Parish and its residents, for example waste will undoubtedly attract birds and what does this mean for the future operation of the Airfield and residents. The Parish Council has not been formally consulted or advised on any plans for a Waste Depot on the Airfield.*

The Chairman stated that there had been a lot of scaremongering about this matter on social media, and that a few days after publication of the agenda a press release had been issued by EFDC stating the following:

*Epping Forest District Council has clarified its exploration of feasibility options for a new depot at North Weald Airfield. A council spokesperson said: "Contrary to social media speculation, there are no plans, studies or suggestions that we would locate any form of recycling centre, waste transfer station or indeed, incinerator at North Weald Airfield. We are simply looking at feasibility options for parking and maintaining of our empty refuse trucks when they are not on the road, plus washing and parking facilities for the crews."*

*The spokesperson continued: "Having our own depot puts the Council in a better position when we procure the new waste and recycling contract. It opens the field and potentially brings down costs for more companies to bid, knowing that there is a central council-owned place to park trucks over-night. It should not add significantly to truck movements since our refuse fleet by its nature is already on the road across the district collecting the rubbish." The spokesperson added: "You can't collect the rubbish without trucks and they don't last forever. That is why we are also making budget provision to buy new trucks to replace the current ageing fleet."*

The meeting Clerk explained that the lack of information contained within the EFDC agenda had led to different assumptions about what the wording 'Waste Depot' actually meant, and that the Clerk had been liaising with Tom Carne, EFDC Press Officer, which had in part led to the press release from EFDC.

Cllr Tyler stated that he would always be respectful of our District Councillors, but reminded the Council that a few months ago the future of the HMRC had been discussed and the matter raised with one of our District councillors, but that there seemed to be a lack of transparency at EFDC, and that he actually didn't believe a word they say, and felt that this Council should give EFDC a hard time about this. It was his understanding that in days gone by there used to be a synergy between the District Council and this Parish Council, which seems to have totally disappeared. Cllr Tyler continued, stating that he was not confident that EFDC could do the job of waste contractor as effectively as other professionals in this field, as they simply do not have the same resources or expertise these other organisations have. Cllr Tyler stated that he expected in time this would fall under the Quails banner and so become less transparent and a lot of money paid for nothing, and that he was starting to find the whole situation rather demoralising.

Cllr Irvine stated that he felt the sums were quite extraordinary and a very big number, stating that £4m for a car park and washing facility seems very high, and that if EFDC was unhappy with Biffa they should go out to tender to find another contractor who could do the job. Cllr Irvine stated that the question of what these costs actually meant should be asked of the District Council.

Cllr Mrs Jackman stated that she felt some form of consultation should have taken place and was extremely disappointed it hadn't. Cllr Tyler agreed, and advised that most companies actually lease these large trucks and don't purchase them, and expressed concern that the cash would actually be used for something else, for example a new head office for Qualis.

Cllr Etherington stated that the heading 'Waste Depot' could mean absolutely anything from simple storage of waste lorries to a fully operational waste site, and that who knows what it could morph into in a few years time. Cllr Etherington stated this Council would be very foolish to simply believe what was being presented by EFDC, and that this Council needed to watch this matter very carefully. Cllr Tyler fully agreed, and stated that what he could not understand was how you can have waste or rubbish so close to an airfield runway, both attracting birds and the wind disturbing rubbish which would be blown around causing a danger to aircraft, or perhaps this is part of the plan.

Cllr Spearman stated that if there was any truth in the report from Cllr Blanks, EFDC clearly couldn't manage money, but that he could understand why EFDC were considering parking lorries at the site given the lorries from the HMRC, however the word 'Depot' caused him great concern as this could mean absolutely anything.

The Chairman stated that the wording had confused him, in that EFDC had used the word 'our' when referring to lorries, and he was unsure why this was, and that buying their own lorries and using their own council workers to do the waste clearance was a little concerning. Cllr Mrs Jackman stated that EFDC seemed to be hiding things, however the Chairman stated that the meeting Clerk had explained why something would be held in closed session earlier in this agenda item. Cllr Tyler stated that the felt if it had got this far then it was already a done deal.

Councillors expressed concern that when asked at previous Parish Council meetings, Cllr Bedford Deputy Leader of EFDC, had stated that he could not provide any information on this matter, but stated that whatever the future was it wouldn't be as bad as people thought.

The meeting Clerk explained that Cllr Bedford had arranged for EFDC Cllr Nigel Avey to meet with Councillors to provide an update on this matter, potentially being able to provide further information after EFDC's meeting earlier that evening, and had provided meeting dates. Councillors **AGREED** they would like to meet with Cllr Avey for an in person meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February mid afternoon, and that the meeting Clerk should make the relevant arrangements. The question was raised as to if this meeting was open to the public, to which the meeting Clerk advised it would not be as it was a meeting with Councillors, not a Council meeting. Cllr Mrs Etherington expressed concern that this Council was upset with EFDC for not being transparent, yet were doing the same thing by holding a meeting behind closed doors and that as many people as possible should be involved. Councillors expressed their concern that even after asking District Councillors directly about what was happening, they could or would not divulge any information.

#### **C22.174 REVIEW OF THORNWOOD HALL HIRE FEES FOR 2023/2024**

Councillors were reminded that during the 2-year period of COVID where there was no increase in fees, it had been agreed at the March 2022 meeting that the 2022/2023 hire fees for Thornwood Common Parish Hall would be increased by 10%. This was mainly as a result of the huge increase in electricity costs. A copy of the current hire fees, together with other similar hall fees in the locality were attached to the agenda, and Councillors were asked to consider the fees for 2023/2024. The meeting Clerk tabled for Councillors example figures of what various increase in fees would look like, and reminded Councillors that at the January 2023 meeting the budget for the hall was set that the hall would run at a loss, which was not particularly unusual for a Parish Hall as it is subsidised by the Precept. There was considerable discussion as to the merits of increasing the hall fees in order to close the gap between income and expenditure, however it was noted that even a 10% increase would only make a small dent, and could have the counter effect of pushing current hall hirers elsewhere which would make the gap even larger. Cllr Irvine stated that perhaps there should be a different focus, suggesting that perhaps the hall fees should remain as they are but a program of promoting the hall for use should be embarked upon to try and increase hall use. This was supported by a number of Councillors present. Cllr Mrs Etherington stated she fully understood why a nil increase would be considered but that when you are accountable to parishioners and elements of the Councils operation run at a loss it needs to be clearly recorded why this is. Cllr Irvine stated that one way to reduce the deficit would be to increase the number of hires and improve the types of classes and events on offer, and was concerned that raising the fees would have the opposite effect of decreasing hires. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested the fees should remain as at their current rate, with an increased publicity campaign to try and increase hires, but it should be made very clear that it was expected the fees would increase next year.

It was noted that the hall was fairly old, and that the cost to heat the hall was significant given its age and that much of the heat was lost due to the design of the building, however without the heating the hall would be too uncomfortable to use. Cllr Spearman stated that with all the development coming to the Parish it was highly likely there would be S106 monies that could be used to improve the hall which would help in this regard.

Cllr Spearman stated he supported Cllr Mrs Jackmans suggestion and formally **PROPOSED** that the hall hire fees remain the same for 2023/2024 however it is clearly explained to current hall users that it is expected to go up next year when the fees are reviewed again, and as per Cllr Irvines suggestion the hall should be promoted more to try and increase bookings. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Jackman. A vote was taken as follows:

6 – For  
0 - Against  
1 - Abstention

#### **C22.175 RIDE LONDON 2023**

Councillors **NOTED** that on 28th May 2023 this years Ride London Event will be taking place. This event is a partnership between ECC and London Marathon Events, with an estimated 25,000 cyclists expected to take part. These two bodies have now agreed the route, which will remain the same as that for 2022 with the addition of a range of enhancements and improvements developed from the feedback and engagement process. A map showing the agreed route was attached to the agenda. Cllr Spearman stated that in his opinion the route should be changed each year, advising that some businesses are very seriously financially affected by the event. Cllr Mrs Etherington asked if this was a 5 year agreement, to which she was advised that it is reviewed each year. The meeting clerk advised that after the Clerk complained to the Ride London organisers that no public feedback event was held in North Weald, this had now been arranged and would take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February in the North Weald Village Hall between 6-9pm. This will be advertised on social media.

#### **C22.176 CIVIC AWARDS 2022**

Councillors noted that the 2022 Citizen of the Year nominations were now open. The nomination may be for a single act of outstanding courage or bravery, or might encompass work carried out within the Parish, good-neighbourliness, commitment to a sporting or educational goal or to improve community facilities to name a few. The individual/group may be nominated by any person who lives or works within the Parish of North Weald Bassett. Nominees must live or work within the Parish of North Weald Bassett. Nominations can also be made for the Young Citizen of the Year award (for nominees aged 18 or under). Attached to the agenda was a nomination form. Completed forms should be submitted to the office staff no later than Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023, with the winners announced following the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Details are on the Parish Council website and social media.

#### **C22.177 MEETING DATES**

Councillors **NOTED** the following meetings dates:

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Planning Committee 7pm start
- 27<sup>th</sup> February – Zoom session with developers of Latton Priory. Cllr Tyler took this opportunity to remind Councillors that at the last meeting he expressed his deep concern about the lack of healthcare facilities being proposed, and advised councillors that the leader

of the opposition, Sir Keir Starmer, had recently visited Princess Alexandra hospital stating that it was the second most over subscribed hospital in the country.

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Parish Assembly 7pm start
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Annual Allotment Holders meeting 10am
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Personnel Committee meeting 10am
- Not likely to be until May – Meeting with developers of NWB Masterplan Area

Councillors noted that in order to allow the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, they would need to agree to suspend Standing Orders. The reasoning behind this is that both Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May are bank holidays (the latter only being recently confirmed), however legislation states that in an election year the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council must be held within 14 days of the election, the election date being Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Unfortunately, the hall has a prior booking for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors **AGREED** to suspend standing orders, and that the Annual meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **C22.178 KINGS CORONATION WEEKEND 6-8 MAY 2023**

Details have now been released regarding the Kings Coronation, which will span a 3 day period and include a new one off bank holiday. The actual Coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, followed by a special Coronation Concert broadcast live from Windsor on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May which is also the date of the Coronation Big Lunch at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together. This is expected to be the date when most community / social events are held. This is followed by a special bank holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May where members of the public are invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which encourages people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. Councillors were reminded that it was **AGREED** at the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 meeting to budget £1,000 towards any community Coronation events being held within the parish, and that applications for funding from this pot should be sent to the Parish Council for consideration, the suggested deadline being 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Parish Council is not intending on organising any public events. Cllr Mrs Hawkins advised that following the huge success of the Queens jubilee event in 2022, she would be holding a Kings Coronation event on the Sunday on similar lines to the event held last year. She further stated that attendees at the Queens event had asked that this was made into an annual event as people really enjoyed getting to meet other people from the village. Further details would be made available in the next couple of months.

#### **C22.179 NORWEGIAN MEMORIAL NEAR SQUADRON**

Councillors recalled from the January Parish Council meeting that the sum of £500 was precepted for the possible maintenance of said memorial which is located at the revetment near the Squadron subject to the memorial being moved to a different location on the airfield, given the poor state of the current memorial and surrounds and the cost to maintain it, and that the meeting clerk had been asked to contact EFDC Airfield to ask if it was possible for it to be moved. The meeting clerk confirmed she had done so, and the response was read out as follows:

Q. Is there a specific reason why this memorial is located at this specific site?

A. The Norwegian Stone is placed at the revetment used by the Norwegian Squadrons, 331 & 332 during WW11 hence the location.



- Q. If so, is there anything that precludes it from being moved to an alternative location on the Airfield?
- A. Bearing in mind the significance of the location I don't think it would be suitable to relocate the Norwegian Stone.
- Q. Would EFDC consider the possibility of moving the memorial to a more prominent position on the airfield, perhaps somewhere near the Hurricane - a location where it is more likely to be seen by interested parties and the public, and an area that would be easier and less costly to maintain?
- A. No, on the basis that the Stone marks the location of the Norwegian Squadrons in WW11.

Cllr Tyler stated that it was possible the stone could not be moved as it was a specific location where individual(s) had died, however felt that EDFC should trim and maintain this area so that everybody can see it but that if this Parish Council had agreed £500 to maintain it, then it should be spent. The meeting clerk advised that at the January 2023 meeting it was agreed that the £500 would only be spent if EFDC agreed to move the stone, as the cost to maintain it at its current location was thought to be considerably more than £500, to which Cllr Tyler stated that out of respect he still felt that the money should be spent to maintain it, and that he could see himself going over there with his strimmer to do it himself. He agreed that the cost to maintain the brickwork was significant, but the memorial itself should not be that much and that it simply needed strimming about 4 times a year so people could see the stone. Cllr Mrs Etherington agreed, stating that out of respect this should be maintained and suggested the decision should be revisited.

Cllr Spearman asked why EFDC do not maintain this memorial, to which the meeting clerk advised that the squadron had agreed to maintain it but had asked the Parish Council to provide a financial contribution, and that she had not asked the question as to why EFDC was not paying towards its maintenance. Cllr Tyler suggested he had a word with a friend of his who worked for the war graves commission to see if he could offer any advice. The Chairman stated that with regard to EFDC's response, he could not see why if it was sensitively managed the memorial could not be removed. After further discussion it was **AGREED** that the meeting clerk would ask EFDC if they were financially contributing to its maintenance or maintaining it, and that Cllr Tyler would speak to his contact at the war graves commission.

## **C22.180 STREET LIGHT HASTINGWOOD**

Councillors noted that for the past 18 months or so the Clerk had been liaising with this Council's street lighting contractor regarding a broken street light in Hastingwood Road. This street light is located on a telecommunication pole at the junction of Hastingwood Road and Mill Street, however the pole has broken with the street light no longer visible or operational. The advice received from our contractor is that UKPN has confirmed they are not responsible for the wooden pole and that a replacement wooden pole would need to be installed by the relevant telecommunications company. In addition, UKPN have a strict policy of not allowing power supplies on new wooden poles and they have also completed a local area search and say that they have no electrical connection availability to connect a feeder pillar which in-turn would service a brand new steel column and light. As such, the only option available to the Council at this time is for a solar powered column. There would then be no need for electrical cables and no future running costs other than maintenance, but permission of the land owner would be needed to install the column. The cost of a 30w Solar light fitting is £2,250 plus VAT.

Cllr Irvine confirmed he had visited site and reviewed the junction, advising that the junction is extremely tricky anyway because of a bend and steep hill, and that he felt there continued to be a need for the street light and would support the installation of a solar powered light at this location, and if necessary would support using funds from the S106 money held for Hastingwood. The meeting clerk advised that the council held an earmarked reserve for the replacement of street lights, but in this situation it wasn't necessarily about funds but about the suitability of a solar powered street light and the need to obtain the permission and possibly a licence from ECC who own the land to install a light at this location. The meeting clerk also advised that the cost of a solar powered light was seemingly much cheaper than a traditional post, so this may be something the Council wishes to consider going forward for the replacement of all future lights. The Chairman stated that there were a number of locations throughout the Parish where street lighting was needed. Cllr Tyler expressed caution stating that it was his understanding there was a certain specification as to the luminance that is required for street lights and the way which this light falls onto the road, and that it may be that you cannot use a solar powered light at a junction. It was **AGREED** that the meeting clerk would investigate this matter, liaising with ECC and Cllr Tyler, but that in principle they would support the installation of a solar powered light at this location.

#### C22.181 GRANT FUNDING

Councillors **NOTED** that the Clerk, in conjunction with Cllr Mrs Hawkins, had been successful in securing £1,000 in funding via the ECC Locality Fund, and £410 in funding via the EALC towards the Over 70s Youth Club keeping warm over winter and for food and drink for their events.

Meeting closed 20.43

Signed .....

Date .....