



North Weald Bassett PARISH COUNCIL



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Clerk to the Council
Susan De Luca

10 March 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE



TO: MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

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 **Monday, 17 March 2014** at **The Library, High Road, North Weald** at **10.00 am** to transact the business shown in the Agenda below.

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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. **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.

4.  **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** 

To **CONFIRM** the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013, attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

5. **PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT** 

The quarterly play area inspection completed by ARD, took place on 10 February 2014. Councillors Hawkins, Mulliner, Bartram and McCormack met on Monday, 24 February 2014 to discuss the inspection report and any resulting actions/issues. Members are now asked to **CONSIDER** the report attached at **APPENDIX 2** and **AGREE** what action will now be taken with regard to the items highlighted in yellow.

6. **SCHOOL GREEN LANE PLAY AREA**

A request has been received from a resident asking if the Parish Council would consider placing a bench inside the School Green Play Area. Members are asked to **CONSIDER** this request.

7. **WEALD COMMON PLAY AREA SUB-COMMITTEE**

a) Terms of Reference

Following the meeting of the Weald Common Play Area Sub-Committee, held on Friday, 28 February 2014, Members of this Committee are now asked to **AGREE** the Terms of Reference attached at **APPENDIX 3**.

b) Additional Funding

Members of the Weald Common Play Area Sub-Committee attended a meeting of the North Weald Mums Group, held on 30 January 2014. The question of additional funding for 2014 from the Parish Council's Environmental Committee was raised. Councillors McCormack and Buckley stated that they would put the request to this Committee, on behalf of the North Weald Mums.

8. **WEALD COMMON HEDGEROWS**

Members may recall that Epping Forest Countrycare have drawn up a management agreement for the hedgerow maintenance work and management plan of work to be carried out on an annual basis at Weald Common. A copy of the management plan is attached at **APPENDIX 4**, for information. The laying of the hedges is a long-term project that will take place over the next 2/3 years.

9. **ALLOTMENTS**

a) Site Visits

The Allotment Sub-Committee commenced site visits on Wednesday, 5 March 2014. An update will be given at the meeting.

b) Hastingwood A

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** whether or not the Parish Council's Allotment Sub-Committee continues to carry out the role of warden at Hastingwood A for the forthcoming year.

c) Allotment Fees

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** a possible increase in allotment fees for 2015/16. An increase of 10% was agreed in March 2013 and Members are reminded that the Parish Council is required to give 12 months notice of any increase.

d) Annual Allotment Meeting

Members of this Committee are **REMINDED** that the Annual Meeting of Allotment Holders is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 30 March 2014, 9.30am for 10am start, at Thornwood Common Village Hall.

e) Bonfires

A request has been received from an allotment tenant on Hastingwood A site regarding extending the period currently granted for the lighting of bonfires. The Code of Practice currently states that “*bonfires **may not** be lit, under any circumstances, during the period 1st April to 31st October inclusive, out of consideration for other tenants and nearby residents*”. Members are asked to **CONSIDER** this request.

10. CEMETERY FEES

Members of this Committee are asked to **CONSIDER** a possible increase in cemetery fees for 2014/15. Last year it was agreed by this Committee that fees should be increased by 10% (rounded up to the nearest £1). A copy of the current fees is attached at **APPENDIX 5**.

11. BULB PLANTING

There are currently 1600 bulbs being stored at Happy Grow which require planting. Members are now asked to **AGREE** a date for planting. A suggestion has also been made to consider planting crocus bulbs.

Members are also **REMINDED** that the sum of £150 was agreed from the Precept to be used towards the purchase of poppies in commemoration of 100th Anniversary of World War I.

12. TALBOT ROUNDABOUT

Members will be aware of the comments made by residents in the local press and the suggestion that the roundabout should be tidied and planted with flowers. Members are asked how they would like to move forward with this matter, bearing in mind that the roundabout is not owned by the Parish Council.

13. GREEN LANE, KILN ROAD, NORTH WEALD

The Chairman of this Committee has asked Members to **NOTE** that a request has been made recommending that the Green Lane at the top of Kiln Road, North Weald, is downgraded from a Byway to a Bridleway.

14. ANY OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

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