



# North Weald Bassett

PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council  
Susan De Luca

14 October 2020

## 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 **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020** at **1.30pm** to transact the business shown in the agenda below.

There will be no physical meeting in line with current Government guidelines and therefore all communications will be conducted electronically via **ZOOM**. A link to the meeting can be accessed from the Parish Council Website [www.northweald-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northweald-pc.gov.uk) on the morning of the meeting after 10am.

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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, copies of which were circulated with the Parish Council Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**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. PLAY AREA ANNUAL INSPECTIONS** 

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** that the annual Play Area inspections were conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The annual inspections view risk of likelihood versus severity, with there being 5 resultant levels of Risk as follows: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High and Very High. The indication of Risk does not necessarily mean that remedial works are required. A copy of the play area inspection are attached to the agenda (sent out electronically only), and as a summary the results of the inspections are as follows:

<b>Weald Common Play Area – OVERALL LOW RISK</b>	
Risk Assessment	Number of occurrences
Very Low	4
Low	12
Moderate	0
High	0
Very High	0

<b>Memorial Playing Fields Play Area – OVERALL MODERATE RISK</b>	
Risk Assessment	Number of occurrences
Very Low	8
Low	17
Moderate	1 (basket ball court – not PC)
High	0
Very High	0

<b>Thornwood Play Area – OVERALL LOW RISK</b>	
Risk Assessment	Number of occurrences
Very Low	7
Low	20
Moderate	0
High	0
Very High	0

There are a number of actions that are required, which will be discussed during the meeting. Councillors will be asked to **APPROVE** these works.

**7. ANNUAL TREE RISK ASSESSMENT** 

Each year the Council undertakes a ground level risk assessment for all trees on land owned or managed by the Parish Council. This assessment is undertaken by a chartered arboriculturist and environmentalist. This assessment was undertaken on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and is a Level 1 arboriculturally assessment or hazard tree audit, undertaken to identify by way of visual inspection those trees exhibiting defects likely to cause a hazard within the next 12 months. Work priority is categorised into low, medium and high. The results indicate that there are 5 trees requiring remedial work, between low to medium risk. A copy of the full report is attached the agenda (sent by email), with the summary contained on page 9 of the report. Councillors are asked to **AGREE** the works they wish to undertake.

## 8. **ALLOTMENTS**

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** the following items which were reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020:-

### **a) General Report**

Councillors **NOTED** that the majority of Allotments are now rented out. A waiting list has been set up.

### **b) De Allotmentisation of Hastingwood B**

Councillors **NOTED** that work continues with this project. A report is attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **c) Community Allotment Garden at Thornwood on Charlie's Garden**

Councillors **NOTED** that work to the garden had started, with a substantial amount of clearance works. Some funding had been received via a donation from the now defunct Thornwood Residents Association. The Clerk confirmed that the donation amounted to just over £1600, which would benefit the project immensely. The person who had donated the funds, a former officer of the Residents Association, met with Cllr Mrs Hawkins and Elaine Davis and discussed the surplus funds. Between them, they had agreed that these funds should be specifically spent on this project as it would benefit all the residents in Thornwood. The Clerk confirmed that a Thank You letter would be sent to the person who provided the money.

### **d) Community Allotment Garden Wheelers Farm Gardens**

Councillors **NOTED** that EFDC Community Worker Victoria Robertson had advised that she hoped to begin the Community Allotment Garden for socially isolated residents who live in North Weald. The garden will be a great place to work together and develop a lovely educational space that can be enjoyed by the current people on our allotments and for a few more to join in. All would gain an increased working knowledge of plants, how they develop and different ways to grow them, using innovative ways including organic and modern. Every step of the way EFDC Community Workers would work with our Allotment Wardens to make sure the Council and the existing allotment holders are all happy. There would be no more than 6 people on the Community Plot at any one time. Councillors **NOTED** that the Clerk had approached County Cllr Anthony Jackson to see if grant funding could be obtained from the Locality Fund for this innovative project.

### **e) Works to Header Wall at Wheelers Farm Gardens Allotments**

Councillors **NOTED** that due to the creation of new homes on the Queens Road site adjacent to Wheelers Farm Gardens, strengthening works are required to the header wall

*located between the new development and the allotments. The Office Staff are liaising with EFDC, the allotment wardens and tenants regarding this matter. It was noted that staff have been advised that the works will be completed using hand tools with no disruption (other than noise) to the allotment tenants. Works are expected to begin mid October.*

**9. CEMETERY**

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** the following which was reported at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020:-

*Councillors **NOTED** that the contractor has completed the maintenance of the benches. It was noted that the works to replant the central gardens in the Gardens of Remembrance should start in October.*

**10. GARDEN BY THE PARADE OF SHOPS, NORTH WEALD**

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** that the on-going maintenance of the garden by the parade of shops in North Weald was discussed by the Chairman of the Parish Council in his report given at the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Chairman reported that, in conjunction with the Clerk, it had been agreed to spend £70.00 on initial work to cut back overgrown shrubs and tidy the area. Approximately £50.00 per month is to be spent on maintaining the area. Councillors were reminded that the Council has attracted five or six local businesses who sponsor the garden on an annual basis. The sponsorship monies help to meet the maintenance cost and the cost of new plants. It was noted that the Parish Council's Cemetery Groundsman would be undertaking the work.

**11. WOODLAND TRUST EASTERN CLAYLANDS LANDOWNER TREE PACKS 2020/2021**

Councillors are **ADVISED** that the Clerk has applied for two packs of trees from the Woodland Trust (approximately 100 trees). These will be picked up in February.

**12. ESSEX FOREST INITIATIVE** 

The Essex Forest Initiative is a project run by Essex County Council which involves a commitment to planting 375,000 trees across Essex within 5 years. They are currently looking to the planting season November 2021 to March 2022 and are interested in hearing from Essex parishes who could plant more trees on parish owned land, who have the volunteers to help plant the saplings and who are willing to look after the trees in the future. Essex County Council supply the trees. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if they would like to register the Parish Council's interest in this project.

**13. PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ADJACENT TO CEMETERY**

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** that despite the new gateway now in place, the Clerk is still receiving complaints with regard to bikes accessing the golf course. Members will be aware that the gate is not locked, therefore access to the site by the bikers cannot be stopped. The latest incident (which occurred on Sunday, 11 October) has been reported to the Police by a resident.

**14. CHRISTMAS TREE – VILLAGE GREEN** 

Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** what arrangements they would like to make this year.

Susan De Luca  
Clerk to the Council