



North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Parish Hall at Thornwood Common, Weald Hall Lane,
Thornwood, Essex CM16 6NB comments.

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Clerk to the Council.
Susan De Luca

2nd April 2024

TO: ALL COUNCILLORS

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on **MONDAY 8th APRIL at 7.30 pm** 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

Members of the public and press are invited to attend this meeting

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To **NOTE** any apologies which have been received.

2. OTHER ABSENCES

To **NOTE** any absences for which no apology has been received.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 🖐

📄 To **AGREE** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th March 2024, and to **NOTE** the Minutes of the Environmental and Open Spaces Committee as attached on **Appendix 1.**

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 for a period determined by the Chairperson of the Meeting. **Please NOTE if the Clerk has not been previously notified of the Question Council may have to note questions and respond to them after the Meeting.**

6. REPORT OF THE CLERK

To **RECEIVE** a report or update from clerk on Parish Council matters.

- a) Vandalised Notice Board at the Talbot – Now Replaced
 - b) Various Cemetery Matters
 - c) Update on Sensory Garden – Installation of Flower Boxes and seats was set to commence week commencing 18th March, however this was been delayed due to bad weather
 - d) Youth Club – Please see separate item on the Agenda
 - e) Civic Awards
 - f) Annual Report
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7. REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillors are reminded that if at all possible, members reports should be submitted in written form for noting only, this enables the meeting to flow smoothly and allows adequate time for discussion of matters appertaining to the Parish. Written reports, **if available**, will be reproduced at *Appendix 2* .

a) Chairman's Report

b) Vice Chairman's Report

c) **District & County Councillors Reports** - District Councillors are invited to submit a written report if they are unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting

d) Parish Councillors Reports

e) Queens Hall Charity Report

f) **Highways** – An invitation for Councillors to attend a meeting organised by Cllr Holly Whitbread & the PFCC Roger Hirst to discuss various matters relating to Highways and Policing and Anti Social Behaviour Matters was sent to all Parish Councillors.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) **List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts** – Up to 31st March 2024

b) Investments

c) **Internal Audit** – The Internal Auditor has confirmed that he will attend in June

d) **External Audit** – Members are advised that notification has been received from the External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn.

9. EFDC RURAL REGENERATION STRATEGY

Members are advised that the clerk received an email from EFDC regarding the above. EFDC received some funding, post pandemic which enabled them to look at what was hindering economic development. They now have some funding for to look into Rural Regeneration and have appointed consultants Deyton Bell to do this. They have approached 6 rural areas including North Weald, Abridge, Theydon Bois, Roydon, Nazeing and Chigwell. They have sent out a survey trying to contact small businesses, and from this they hope to be able to compile how small businesses are coping during these trying times of troublesome economic development, the lack of any skilled staff, the lack of staff, access to markets, as well as understanding what issues these businesses face. EFDC advise that Deyton Bell are the leading company in this type of market, who will go on to organise one to one meetings with business, councillors and clerks. Deyton Bell will be looking at barriers to growth, contacts, business owners, business groups, also details of any businesses that are seemingly struggling. The end goal would be recommendations to tackle issues on how businesses can stay afloat and a new strategy to take them forward in the coming years. The Clerk and the RFO had a Teams Meeting to discuss this matter with EFDC Officer – Richard Schunemann who is the Lead Officer on this project – and the person who asked if the Parish Council could reach out to Local Businesses and or Community Groups via Social Media. This action was carried out via Facebook with very little success, and with mainly negative comments. However the Clerk has reached out to June Peachey who is part of a group of local businesses, and she has advised that she will try to assist if she can.

10. HIGH ROAD THORNWOOD – 30MPH

The Parish Council has been made aware that the Reserved Matters planning application for Rosario has now been approved and as such the progressing of a detailed design is subsequently being tendered for, with the aim of commencing in the summer. Within this application will be the introduction of a 30mph zone within Thornwood along the High Road as part of the development. The company involved have produced the attached signage plan for the TRO application.

They understand some Councillors have expressed an interest in the extent of the 30mph zone but not provided comment to date, and are therefore asking if the Parish Council has any comments prior to them submitting their application for the 30mph zone. To briefly outline what the plans show and their thought process behind design decisions, they have positioned the north boundary of the 30mph zone just after you pass Camfaud and reach the section of the High Road with Rosario and development opposite. This has been placed so it is not in conflict with access arrangements shown on the planning application for the opposite development. There is already a northern gateway feature to the village just as you pass Texaco. They didn't want to take this down to erect a new gateway feature further south because this would give the impression the extent of the village has shrunk, and they considered the Parish Council and residents might not appreciate that. They therefore propose the signage to the northern extent of the zone is a simple 30mph speed sign.

They have positioned the south boundary of the 30mph zone so it is approximately 60m south of the Woodside junction, stating they felt this was a sensible position encouraging traffic to slow down as they enter the main built up area of Thornwood. There is no gateway feature indicating you enter Thornwood from the south, so they propose a 'Thornwood Commo - Please drive carefully' sign in that location with the speed limit displayed on it. A schematic is attached at **Appendix 3** for Members to note. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if they wish to comment on the proposals.

11. NORTH WEALD YOUTH CLUB

Members will recall that a number of meetings and numerous correspondence has taken place with representatives from North Weald Youth Club following agreement from Members that the funding agreed by the Parish Council to offer the Youth Club. An offer letter was therefore sent which advised the following:

It has been confirmed that all the Questions that Councillors asked have now been responded to, the last ones being:

- *The monies can only be spent on a Youth Club, and no other facility.*
- *The Youth Club will be held in the Queens Hall Community Centre which is located within the Parish of North Weald Bassett, and any change to this must be agreed with the Parish Council.*
- *The Age Range is 11- 16 for an 'On Site ' Youth Club, & the 17 – 19-year age range will be catered for on an 'Outreach Basis'.*
- *This Service will be for Youth within the Parish of North Weald Bassett.*
- *The Service will be run by Zinc Arts.*
- *If it cannot be run within the Parish of North Weald Bassett, any unspent funds must be returned to the Parish Council.*
- *If so requested, Zinc Arts will provide the Parish Council with Statistics and Data on the service (the Parish Council fully understands that Zinc Arts will not be able to give details of names and addresses of attendees).*
- *No monies should be transferred to any other Youth Facility that is not within the Parish of North Weald Bassett.*
- *In view of the above this funding of £2,453 is now offered and must be used between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. If not spent, the funds must be returned to the Parish Council. The Parish Council may wish to see a spreadsheet of how the funds are spent, therefore we ask that records are kept.*

Following the letter, a representative from Zinc Arts (who are providing the Service) asked to meet with the Parish Council, and this meeting took place where the offer was declined, initially because the representative advised that they could not accept as they could not fulfil the terms due in the main to the final bullet point, and that the funding offered by the Parish Council would not cover a whole year. The Clerk advised that the final bullet point did not state that the Youth Club HAD to be run for a whole year. The Clerk advised the

representative that instead of simply declining the offer straight away perhaps they should take some advice and take some time to think about it. She also advised that the money was held in the Parish Council Budget until 31st March 2024 before any decision had to be made by this date. A few days later an email was received formally declining the offer: the content of the email as detailed below:

Good Afternoon Susan,

Many thanks for your email confirming the offer of the funding and its conditions of acceptance. As i said during our meeting, Zinc were unable to accept the grant, with these conditions and expectations. Please see detailed below;

- £2453 for the period 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025, works out at £60 per session. This would cover hall hire and some materials. We could not run weekly youth hub for that sum*
- As you discussed in the meeting, expectations of Zinc Arts are to run youth hub for that 12 month period and that, we were responsible for obtaining further funds, if no funds were sourced then it would be down to Zinc Arts to fund the sessions.*
- Zinc Arts is a not-for-profit charity and is dependant on funding, fees and commissions to operate. We would not be in any position to fund sessions at our expense.*
- I don't think that the Parish Council completely understands the nature of a youth hub ? Youth hubs/clubs are very different now days, especially since the pandemic, where young people missed out on a lot of social interaction and thus feeling the effects with poor mental health. We run youth hubs across Essex and with the fallout of pandemic and the cost of living, our youth hubs are very different to how they used to run. We offer positive interaction, developing social and communication skills, we also offer mental health support in terms of one-to-ones and referrals to appropriate services and support. Our youth hub in Ongar, sees a member of staff just providing one-to-one sessions, with the young people, this highlighting the need to provide 3 members of staff. The cost of living crisis has also seen the need for us to provide hot healthy meals. Yes, i agreed with you Susan, that isn't everyone, but we cant just feed those most in need and single them out.*
- We work closely with many Parish Councils, who are addressing the need for more positive interaction for the young people of the their community. We have recently seen huge success in Sheering. Sheering Parish Council are extremely supportive of what we do, attending our Youth Hub and helping us to secure further funds. We have been so shocked by the negative and at times acquisitional, rude communication.*
- We will continue to fundraise for Positive Interaction activities in North Weald, I hope that the Parish Council are aware of the recent £4,000 we were able to secure for projects in North Weald. Zinc Arts staff are North Weald residents, and are invested in supporting and helping young people achieve and discover their full potential and become positive members of the community.*

We will keep the Parish Council updated on our successes and positive effects on North Weald Young People. I'm sure Dawn from Queens Hall will also keep you updated, she has extremely supportive of our work and visits regularly.

Yours Sincerely

Sonia

Following the receipt of this email, the Clerk contacted Sheering Parish Council who advised that they do not fund the Youth Club, and it is indeed funded by the Village Hall which is a Charity. The Clerk then contacted Essex County Council who advised that they fund one Youth Worker for the project. Following these

communications, the Clerk received notification from Essex County Council that they will not be going forward with a Youth Club/Hub in North Weald. Members are asked to **NOTE** the above.

12. PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Members are advised that the Annual Report will be available for Councillors to fold the week commencing 15th April. The report will be available for distribution initially at the Annual Parish Assembly, and then for distribution throughout the Parish following this meeting. Those Councillors who agreed to fold the Magazine are asked to confirm to the Clerk their availability for the week commencing 15th April and the staff will ensure that the boxes of magazines will be delivered to those councillors who have agreed to fold them.

13. PARISH COUNCIL CIVIC AWARDS

Members are advised that a meeting has taken place to select the recipients for the Citizens of the Year Awards. The Awards will be handed out at the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 22nd April.

14. TOUR OF NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD

Due to the unavailability of Members for previous tour dates the Clerk has contacted Darren Goodey who has advised that he would be available to provide a tour of the Airfield for those Members who would like to have this and familiarise themselves with the new layout of the airfield. The dates that he currently has available are on a Thursday evening starting at 6pm. Members are asked to check their diaries and advise the Clerk if they have any dates in May or June which could be suitable.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

In the event that the Agenda contains Exempt (pink) pages, or an item needs to be discussed confidentially, to **CONSIDER** the following motion to be proposed by the Chairman:

“That the public and the press be excluded from the meeting, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed. However an item may be placed in the Confidential part of the meeting so long as it is accordance with the Statutory Guidance,

There are currently **NO** confidential items to be considered