



North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Parish Hall at Thornwood Common, Weald Hall Lane,
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Clerk to the Council.
Susan De Luca

2nd January 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 January 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 4th December 2023 and **NOTE** the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on the 18th December 2023, **both of which have been emailed to Councillors email addresses.**

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) Flooding to the Parish Council Office

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 1*.

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) Neighbourhood Plan – To note a date for the next Committee meeting has been set for **Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7.00pm** at the Thornwood Common Parish Hall

g) Highways

8. YOUTH PROVISION

At the November parish council meeting, Councillors discussed a request for youth club provision in the Parish. It was suggested this was placed on the Budget/Precept meeting for consideration, as well as asking 10 questions from the requester (ECC). Attached to the agenda were the responses to the 10 questions and the proposed costs for running this service. Councillors noted that the service would be run by Zinc Arts in conjunction with Essex County Council. Cllr Stroud raised a number of points, including the fact that the age range of 11-19 was too wide, and that after the age of 18 you are technically classed as an adult, so to have 11 year olds and 19 year olds at the same 'youth service' did not seem correct. It was suggested that there should be two different groups, perhaps 11-15 year olds and then 16-19 year olds at two separate sessions. It was also suggested that perhaps feedback should be sought on the success of the sessions that are run in Ongar from Ongar Town Council. Councillors agreed a provisional sum in the budget to run the service for the period up to March 2024, however this was subject to a representative attending the January meeting to answer questions about the service and the Parish Council being satisfied with those questions. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact Ongar Town Council to see if they knew how many youths attended the provision in Ongar, and how successful it was.

The Clerk subsequently contacted Ongar Town Council who do not have any input into the service currently, therefore they do not have any statistics that they can pass on. The Clerk has also contacted ECC Youth Service who have advised that they will be sending a representative to attend the 8th January Parish Council Meeting to answer any questions that the Council may have. Councillors will then be asked to **CONSIDER** if they wish to move forward with this project.

9. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2024/2025

At their 18th December meeting, the Financial and General Purposes committee considered the budget and precept for the 24/25 financial year. It was agreed to put forward a proposal for ratification at the January 2024 Parish Council meeting that the Parish Council precept for 2024/2025 should be set at £234,852, resulting in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax being £89.37/year for a Band D Property - an annual increase of just over **88p per year per band D property**. Councillors are now asked to **CONSIDER** this proposal for **RATIFICATION**.

10. NORTH WEALD BASSETT STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION

[Full details can be found at <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/consultation-starts-on-north-weald-bassett-masterplan/>]

Councillors will recall this site is allocated in the EFDC Local Plan (NWB.R1-R5) consisting of 5 different land ownerships, earmarked for a minimum of 1,050 new homes, 5 traveller pitches, and associated infrastructure and employment.

EFDC is currently consulting on the Strategic Masterplan Framework document for North Weald Bassett. This the purpose of this document is to provide a framework from which developers are able to shape their proposals which will come forward through subsequent planning applications for each of the allocated sites. The creation of this Strategic Masterplan Framework comes following a public consultation conducted by Vistry Group in June 2023, and since this time the Masterplan has evolved further and been submitted to the District council for consultation before it is finalised and endorsed by the District council.

The developer for the largest parcel of land in the Masterplan, held a briefing for Councillors on 20th November, at which they set out the changes in the Strategic Masterplan document since their consultation in June, and provided an opportunity for Councillors to ask questions or raise any queries. A full copy of the Strategic Masterplan documents can be found at https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SMF_North-Weald-Bassett.pdf.

The Masterplan includes:

- A minimum of 1,050 new homes
- New community facilities and land for healthcare facilities
- Improved access to St Andrew's Primary School and commitment to additional education provision either through a new primary school or the expansion of St Andrew's
- New and improved, fully equipped children's play spaces
- Better sports facilities including an additional junior / mini pitch and improvements to the Memorial Playing Fields as the central sporting hub, making it more of a focal point in the village
- Public open space for recreation and biodiversity
- Additional planting throughout the masterplan area, including a new community orchard
- New retail units to complement existing shops and services in the village
- A new roundabout on the A414 providing direct access to the masterplan area

EFDC held two public events in December at which any member of the public could attend. This matter was also briefly considered at the December Parish Council meeting. Councillors will be asked to **CONSIDER** the formal response to this consultation, a copy of which will be emailed to Councillors for review prior to the meeting.

11. POSITION STATEMENT

At the December Parish Council meeting it was **AGREED** that the Parish Council compile a 'Position Statement' and that it would be printed and delivered to every home in the Parish. A copy of the draft Statement (excluding the colour map of the parish which will be printed on the reverse of the position statement) is attached at **Appendix 2** for Members perusal and confirmation.

12. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see attached sheet, **Appendix 3**, for some dates for your diary. Please note other dates for other meetings will be sent to you either electronically or by letter, as they become available.

13. 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 item to be considered