



## ***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

26<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**TO: ALL COUNCILLORS**

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### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on **MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> September 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*

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#### **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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 together with **NOTING** the Minutes from the Remembrance Sunday Meeting and the Parish Hall Liaison Meeting 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 the Clerk on Parish Council matters that staff have been working on.

- a) Parish Hall Matters
  - b) Developers Working Group
  - c) Numerous Responses to Consultations for Developments in the Parish
  - d) Allotment Matters
  - e) Tree Matters
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- f) Planning Matters – Including Constitutional Changes at EFDC
  - g) Cemetery and Burial Matters
  - h) PROW
  - i) Grant Applications
  - j) Battle of Britain Sunday
  - k) Remembrance Sunday

## 7. REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

**Councillors are reminded that, if 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

## 8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

**a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts** – Up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

**b) Investments** – Members are asked to **NOTE** that we now have **£150,000** invested with the CCLA

## 9. STREET LIGHT REPAIRS

Members are asked to **NOTE** that the following the annual inspection a thorough examination and inspection was conducted by the Parish Council Contractors and any relevant risks were identified as such the council has carried out the necessary repairs on the normal: red, amber and green basis. Members are advised that the relevant repairs have been actioned

## 10. STREET LIGHT IN QUEENS ROAD – DAMAGE BY VEHICLE

The Clerk has been advised that a resident has damaged his vehicle on a Streetlight which has been cut down and made safe after a vehicle accident, by the Councils Streetlight Contractors. The resident concerned has been provided with the relevant insurance details. The Clerk will advise Members further at the meeting.

## 11. NEW STREET LIGHT AT HASTINGWOOD

Members are advised that for approximately three years plus the Clerk and the RFO, in conjunction with the Council's Lighting Contractors, have been trying to replace a new Street Light in Hastingwood at the Junction of Mill Street and Hastingwood Road. The original streetlight and old SOX Type Lantern, attached to a BT Telegraph Pole, failed and could not be replaced in its original format. BT would not allow a replacement on its pole. We could not put a new standard type of metal lam column in situ as there were no near services that could be wired into. Essex County Council had not been particularly helpful on this occasion, even with the assistance of Cllr Whitbread. We therefore have had to work on our own auspices on this one and it has left us with only one alternative and that was to place a solar powered streetlamp in that location. It was not the perfect solution, but it was really the only solution for the rural area. It provides light when someone walks close to it. We understand that the resident is disappointed with the solution, however we have not had any other complaints. Members are therefore asked to **NOTE** this situation.

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## **12. MEETING BETWEEN EFDC, MARKET OPERATOR AND CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL – NORTH WEALD MARKET TRAFFIC REPORT**

Members will recall they have previously been advised of this meeting which took place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May between the above named parties to discuss the traffic problems associated with the market. The Clerk has now been contacted by Gary Saunders the Market Operator, who advised that he was due to have a meeting with Essex Highways during the week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> August. As soon as he has had the meeting, he will contact the Clerk and advise of the outcome of that meeting. It is hoped that a substantive report will be produced.

## **13. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS 2024**

Members are advised that the meeting to discuss the above took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July at 10am, detailed Notes from that meeting have been circulated with this Agenda. A verbal report will be given at this parish council meeting. We are still awaiting confirmation with regard to whether attendees from 56 Squadron will be attending. Details of the Day are shown in the detailed report.

## **14. RURAL PROSPERITY FUND**

Members are asked to *NOTE* that this Council has been successful in securing funds from the Rural Prosperity Fund for new windows in the main Parish Hall at Thornwood. The Clerk put in a grant application for the windows due to the Health and Safety implication as the windows are very difficult to open, with hall users having to stand on chairs to do this. The grant was for £8,000. The Parish Council have to pay 20% of the cost of the window replacement.

The Clerk also assisted the Management Committee in their grant application for a new wooden floor at the Hastingwood Village Hall, which was also successful. The grant was for £32,000, with Hastingwood Village Hall also having to pay a 20% contribution.

## **15. MEETING WITH QUALIS DIRECTOR – SIMON RUTTER**

In early July the Clerk was contacted by Simon Rutter's Office at Qualis and asked to attend a meeting in relation to North Weald Airfield, unfortunately this meeting was cancelled twice by Simon's Office. The Clerk has since had a telephone conversation with Simon who advised that he would expect to be able to arrange a meeting with the Clerk to have 'relative' matters to discuss early in October. After the initial meeting he would like to hold meetings every three months to keep the Parish Council 'up to date' with what is going on at the Airfield.

## **16. SHED ON THE ALLOTMENTS AT WHEELERS FARM GARDENS SITE**

Members will recall that a recent meeting of the Parish Council a resident voiced her concerns in relation to a shed being constructed on the Wheelers Farm Gardens site and which was at the rear of her garden. The Clerk would like to report that this matter has now been concluded, with the shed being constructed, with a slightly different style roof and some trees having been cut back slightly.

## **17. PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – JOINING UP OF TWO FOOTPATHS WEALD COMMON**

The Clerk has sent an email to Alan Roscoe the ECC Public Rights of Way Officer and is awaiting further information from him on how to proceed on this matter. Quite a number of residents have contacted the Clerk in relation to having used the footpath between the Village Hall Car Park and Weald Common. As soon as the Clerk hears back from ECC as to whether formal submission or forms are necessary, the Clerk will contact the residents and advise.

## **18. BENCH ON WEALD COMMON**

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Following the theft of the Eco Warriors bench on Weald Common, a new bench was ordered and installed. Members are encouraged to visit and view the bench in situ.

### **19. ECC BUS SHELTER CONSULTATION**

Members are advised of a collaborative scheme that ECC has put together, and which is shown in the enclosed documentation, at **Appendix 3**. A brief resume is shown below:

#### **Bus Shelters in Essex**

Key issues:

- Over 40 different organisations previously owned shelters in Essex
- No income received by any Council from advertising on them
- No funded nor planned maintenance/cleaning regime
- No long-term funded replacement programme
- Third party Contracts that Districts had are due to lapse/have lapsed

#### **Therefore, Certain changes are now necessary**

- Timeline of events so far:
- Cabinet Paper approved February 2020
- Project on hold over two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Legally binding Collaboration Agreement signed June 2023 with 10 of 12 District Authorities
- Tender issued July 2023
- Contract Award January 2024
- Mobilisation February to June 2024
- Contract Commencements 1 July 2024

Members are asked to read the documentation from ECC and advise of any comments that they may have,

### **20. TRIP TO AIR AMBULANCE STATION ON NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD**

Members are reminded of the trip to the Air Ambulance Station for Councillors, which will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm. Any Councillor who wishes to attend and has not already advised the Clerk if they are able, or unable to, would they please let the Clerk know asap.

### **21. INVITATION TO ATTEND GREENACRES LIVING MEMORIAL PARK**

Members are invited to attend Greenacres Living Memorial Park in Kiln Road on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm. The invitation is from the Managing Director of the Park, who will advise on the changes to the park.

### **22. BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY**

Invitations have been sent out for Battle of Britain Sunday. This event is now being organised, for the third year by the Parish Council, after we were advised that there was no one from RAFA who was able to organise the event. Commemorations will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, at 3.00pm at the Cross of Sacrifice in the grounds of St Andrews Church, North Weald. Details of the attendees will be given at the Meeting.

### **23. RED LINES CORNER OF UPLAND ROAD & JUNCTION OF HIGH ROAD THORNWOOD COMMON**

The Clerk has received a complaint from former County Cllr Anthony Jackson regarding the placing of red lines at this location. She has been asked to circulate details of this complaint to all Councillors, as such this

is attached at **Appendix 4** for Members attention. Members are asked if they wish to make any comment on this matter.

#### 24. COUNTRYCARE VOLUNTEER DAY

Members are advised that EFDC have once again carried out a Volunteer Day at Thornwood Common. The works carried out were as follows:

##### **Conservation management on Thornwood Common Nature Area:**

The meadow areas cut and raked into habitat piles, woodland pathway cleared, and trees uplifted. Additional works to the pond to increase biodiversity.

During the works it was found that there was a tree emanating from a neighbouring property which is leaning on to the fence of the nature area. It is causing some damage to the fence however it is not a health and safety hazard. The owners of the tree have been contacted. A verbal report will be given at the meeting.

#### 25. REQUEST BY DEVELOPERS TO SITE PORTACABINS ON WEALD CABINS IF AND WHEN BUILDING WORKS TAKE PLACE (TUDOR HOUSE DEVELOPMENT)

The Clerk received an initial request from the developer for soil to be placed on the Nature Area on the Common during building works, she advised that she did not feel that this would be appropriate. However, a second request was then received to request if a Site Compound could be created which would be an area 40m wide x 30m deep. A schematic diagram is attached at **Appendix 5** for Members perusal. Members are asked for their comments on this matter.

#### 26. BUS SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN THE PARISH

The Clerk has received a communication from EFDC Sustainable Transport Officer – Stephen Lloyd-Jones. Detailed below is an extract from two emails sent from him regarding sustainable transport services in the parish. Members are asked to **NOTE** the comments below and pass on to any parishioners they know who use the relevant transport services.

- *Some important bus service changes with renumbering, route/frequency changes – most significantly the changes to Vectare’s commercial services between Harlow, Epping and North Weald & Ongar with a big improvement for Ongar in terms of evening as well as daytime services. There was an ECC bus liaison meeting a few weeks ago which certain parishes attended where some of this was hinted at, but not confirmed. That meeting also had coverage of ECC’s bus stop improvement programme including the advertising deal with ClearChannel which will see some bus stops get new live arrival display boards (note the ones in Epping are funded by Qualis S106)*
- *Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) active in Waltham Abbey, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell – ECC’s online consultation is imminent in a week or so*
  - *EFDC funded the Waltham Abbey study using UK Shared Prosperity Fund last year and ECC have now been doing a joint LCWIP covering the other areas*
  - *LCWIP is the only way to secure Active Travel England funding for actual infrastructure and whilst physical work may yet be years off, it’s an important start in areas that all border London Boroughs that all have fully segregated cycling routes that often stop dead at the Essex border*
- *EV charging infrastructure has improved significantly in our District recently, due in no small part to the EFDC partnership with Instavolt in selected EFDC car parks and Podpoint at Cottis Yard multistorey (Qualis) – since January there have been >1,000 EV charging sessions per month and our area remains top in Essex in terms of EVs per 100k residents*
- *We have been active in ECC’s on-street EV charging strategy pre and post their consultation last Summer – for now there are zero on-street chargers in our part of Essex, but a small number of ECC pilot sites may be progressed this year with LEVI scheme funding in Loughton, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill*

- *I have been testing market demand from EV charging operators or land agents on their behalf in certain EFDC assets like redundant lockup garages and other plots unsuitable for Council Housing. If parishes are interested in dialogue with operators and/or ECC re their car parks or other assets, please let me know.*
- *I am setting up a quarterly EFDC/TfL liaison meeting starting in October so EFDC Members can log questions or requests, primarily re Central Line issues, but potentially TfL bus services in our area. If you want to table questions, please let me know.*
- *I continue to follow the emerging Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) market which potentially offers a way to retain rural areas within the public transport mix as ECC's ability to subsidise conventional rural bus services declines – the Digigo service in Braintree and now Uttlesford is a success on many levels; Transport East is the lead Sub-National Transport Body that leads on rural transport solutions, including DRT and better utilisation of other public sector fleets like ECC's Ugobus, SEN home to school transport and NHS transport. I am in contact with them on these matters*

*All – after more digging than should be necessary given the recent ECC bus liaison meeting for Harlow & EFDC areas, I can now confidently say there have been positive bus service changes for North Weald and particularly Ongar residents with more to come in September. If any of you knew this already, I will be interested to know how/from what source.*

*Key changes to Vectare's commercial services in July (ie needing no ECC subsidy):*

- *420/A services renumbered to 20/21/22*
- *The new 20 service goes to Ongar from Harlow/Epping/NW across a much wider timespan than before, including a last service back to Ongar from Epping station at 9:20pm*
- *The new 21 service runs Harlow to Epping Station via Thornwood*
- *The new 22 service runs Harlow to Epping Station via North Weald (diverting on A414 from Hastingwood M11 roundabout)*

*This grows service coverage but also stabilises the core Harlow to Epping Station leg which Vectare tell me is the absolute cornerstone leg of this network in financial terms. Further good news is likely in September regarding the 13 service from Waltham Cross with extra runs to North Weald via Epping/station and St Margarets Hospital.*

*Vectare have continued to invest in and support our area as other large players withdraw (eg Arriva en masse from Harlow town services). ECC need in my opinion to improve their communications on bus services and give equal focus to commercial services as subsidised ones as the public rightly sees no difference.*

## **27. VISIT TO NORTH WEALD CEMETERY**

Members are asked to **NOTE** that prior to the next meeting of the Environmental & Open Spaces Committee a Visit to the Cemetery and the Rear area of the Cemetery will be held for all Councillors as there will be a discussion of the Environmental & Open Spaces Committee which will be specific to certain areas of the cemetery. Members are advised that the date for the Cemetery Visit will be **CONFIRMED** at the Parish Council Meeting and will also be circulated to Members electronically.

## **28. VE DAY 80 – A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION**

Following on from the enormous success of D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024, in which the UK commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, through the lighting of over one thousand beacons and five hundred lamp lights of peace throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK overseas

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territories that night, the UK is now focusing all its efforts on the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8th May 1945, in a similar way.

On **Thursday 8th May 2025** we are all being encouraged to undertake the lighting of **Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace** at **9.30pm**, the raising of a unique VE Day flag at **9am** and, where possible, holding parties of celebration throughout the day in the streets, gardens at home, churches, villages, town halls, pubs, clubs, hotels and all manner of locations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. Members are asked to **NOTE** this date for your diary for 2025

## **29. 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