



MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 3rd February 2020

Time: 8.04PM

Venue: NORTH WEALD LIBRARY, 138 HIGH ROAD, NORTH WEALD

PRESENT:

Councillors (11) A Buckley (Chairman), B Eldridge*, B Clegg, Mrs S Jackman MBE, T Blanks
A Tyler, Mrs A Grigg, A Irvine, Mrs S Hawkins, Ms D Wood, G Mulliner

** for part of meeting*

Officers in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to Parish Council

Adriana Jones - Principal Financial Officer (PFO)

Members of the Public (2) - Police

Members of the Press (1)

C19.150 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (3)

Cllrs Bedford, Stroud and Spearman had offered their apologies.

C19.151 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

None.

C19.152 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th January 2020 were **AGREED**.

C19.153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

C19.154 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed PC Edwards and PC Chalcraft to the meeting and invited them to address the Council. PC Edwards advised that he was the Community Policing Officer for Hastingwood, and PC Cook was North Weald's Community Policing Officer. He advised that the Police were rolling out a programme of improved community engagement with Parish Councils, and the Council could expect to see him more frequently in the future. He would like to give regular updates to the Council of crime in general in the area, advising that we could probably expect the same for North Weald from PC Cook. Every 9 days the PC could expect an update. With regard to current update in terms of Crime for Hastingwood, this is relatively low level with no thefts of motor vehicles in over a month and no burglaries, however there have been some in Matching Tye and Matching Green. With regard to North Weald, there has been a spate of burglaries with four actual confirmed and two attempted, all of which happened within a relatively short period of time. Somebody has been charged with at least one of the burglaries, and since this time there have been no further reports. One of the break-ins was due to somebody leaving their keys in the door. PC Edwards suggested that perhaps some sort of crime prevention workshop could be arranged for North Weald by PC Cook. PC Chalcraft confirmed that the North Weald NHW team were also thinking of this, and there are some simple things that people can do to protect

their properties. Cllr Tyler advised that there was definitely drug dealing taking place on Kiln Lane. PC Chalcraft stated that she had seen one social media report on this, and that if anybody sees this they should report it, if possible with vehicles registration numbers. The more reports there are, the more information and intelligence the police will have. Cllr Irvine asked what action the community policing team were taking in Hastingwood, to which PC Edwards advised that it is not only Hastingwood he covers but other areas too, and dependent on the information or intelligence received, they will investigate as needed. Ideally any crimes should be reported via 101, however the Clerk or PC Edwards could be contacted directly, but in times of annual leave it's better to go via 101. The Chairman asked how 101 reports are received, to which PC Chalcraft confirmed this goes through their control room, but that these reports do get seen by themselves, however she understood that the 101 reporting process can sometimes be time consuming. If this is the case, crime stoppers is always a good way to report crimes. The Chairman asked if there was a community support officer for Thornwood, stating that Thornwood has a bigger community than Hastingwood. PC Chalcraft stated that she believed PC Cook covered Thornwood in addition to Epping and North Weald.

Cllr Mrs Grigg praised the police following a recent incident in Hastingwood, and their prompt response following a 999 call. The Clerk advised she would email PC Cook to confirm that PC Edwards and PC Chalcraft had attended the PC meeting to report on Hastingwood, and that we were looking forward to seeing him soon. The Clerk also advised she would send to PC Cook and Edwards a list of the meeting dates.

PC Edwards asked if there was a NHW group or similar in Hastingwood, to which the Clerk advised she was not aware of any such group, but she would ask an active local residents whom she knew. Cllr Irvine reported on the recent community speedwatch activity at Hastingwood, stating that they were looking for more pitches. PC Chalcraft advised that speedwatch is actually managed by the fire service in this area, however they would be happy to support any additional location if it is deemed suitable and asked if Cllr Clegg could forward to PC Edwards the proposed location.

The Chairman thanked to two PCs for their time, and for providing a much appreciated update.

C19.155 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Councillors **NOTED** the Clerk's report which was attached to the agenda.

C19.156 REPORTS AND MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that he attended the quarterly meeting at Norway House at which thanks were offered to Councillors for their contribution towards the children's Christmas party, with monies donated going towards food for the children on the day. They are also looking at expanding their current garden area for the growing of vegetables, with the support of the Parish Council, and will come back to the Chairman with exactly what they are looking for.

The Chairman also reported that the football team who use Thornwood Common have had to cancel a few of their matches due to the ground being waterlogged. At the time of agreeing the use of the field for football, the organisation was advised that there had

been historic drainage issues on the field. On first look, it seems that a solution will be rather expensive, but that more details will be placed on the March agenda for formal discussion.

b) Vice Chairman's Report – Cllr Eldridge reported that he had spoken to Ian Almond about litter in Hastingwood Road and Mill Street, who had stated that EFDC do litter pick this area, however Ian would investigate and come back to Cllr Eldridge. The signage from the M11 as you enter the roundabout has now been removed due to safety issues. There had recently been a three car accident at the junction of Mill Street and Hastingwood Road. There has been some building work done by Poplar Cottages, and it seems the area on the way to the farm has been ruined. A complaint has been made before, and they are now parking their cars there.

c) District Councillor Reports – No report

d) County Councillor Reports –No report.

e) Parish Councillors Reports - Cllr Grigg reported litter being dumped in York Road, and confirmed she had reported this to EFDC (David Marsh). In addition, Cllr Grigg asked if North Weald still had a street cleaner, to which the Chairman confirmed it did, to which Cllr Grigg advised she would pursue the possibility of the Street Cleaner clearing some of the small paths by York Road. The Chairman advised that he believed the Street Cleaner was not present in the village every day.

Cllr Mrs Jackman gave a report on the recent public meeting held in Theydon Bois Village Hall at which members of the public could address any concerns they had regarding the Limes Medical Centre. The Clerk confirmed she had seen complaints on social media. Cllr Mrs Jackman gave a short summary of the meeting, advising that those representing the Limes Medical centre stated it was sometimes difficult to provide cover if people were off. Cllr Mrs Jackman asked what the current situation was in North Weald. The Clerk advised that when she saw there was going to be a meeting, she posted this on Facebook and encouraged people to attend, however as far as she was aware nobody from North Weald attended. Cllr Mrs Jackman advised that every opportunity was given at the meeting for members of the public to express their concerns. The Chairman advised that a few years back members of the Limes had attended a Parish Council meeting to provide an update on the North Weald Branch. Cllr Clegg advised that roughly 1 year ago he had no problems attending the Theydon Bois surgery for a routine appointment, and that although there was a wait for the appointment, the service when you arrived was very good. Cllr Ms Wood advised that from the social media reports she sees, people are upset because they cannot get an appointment the same day they call, but stated that the doctors have a duty of care to see you, and that this should be quoted during the phone call.

[Cllr Eldridge left the meeting]

Cllr Irvine advised that he had recently taken part in his first community speedwatch event with Cllr Clegg at the Horn and Horseshoe in Hastingwood. During this time, two motorists stopped to congratulate the speedwatch team on what they were doing. You may not catch people, but just being there will get the message out there. Cllr

Clegg advised they were present between 8am-9am, with 500+ vehicle movements during that hour, and only 1 speeder. Vans and cars mostly, in both directions.

Cllr Irvine advised that the Parish Councils current website was due to close on 31st March 2020, and that he had created a guide as to what was needed, which would be sent to 6 companies who provide websites to enable them to bid for the work. However, if Councillors know somebody local, they should let the Clerk know as they may wish to bid.

The Chairman advised that the Council had received notice that the HMRC lorry base at North Weald Airfield was not going ahead at this time. The Clerk tabled the notification for Members. This link to the notice would be placed on the Parish Councils website

Cllr Mrs Hawkins advised that a total of £864 was raised for St Clare's hospice following a charity event held at the Parish Hall. Cllr Mrs Hawkins thanked the Parish Council for allowing the hall to be used free of charge. In addition, a new fridge freezer and a couple of bins had been purchased for the hall in Thornwood out of funds raised.

f) Local Plan – Adriana advised that the District Council had updated its website with a trajectory of dates concerning the Local Plan, stating it hopes to complete a Main Modification consultation in the summer 2020.

g) Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Blanks stated that last Monday there was a meeting of members of the Masterplan Team for NWB, focussing on Transport. The consultant present advised their modelling showed an additional 3 vehicle movements per minute from North Weald going towards Epping in the morning rush hour. Cllr Blanks stated that as far as he could see, this didn't seem to align with the local plan which he reviewed earlier in the day, and it looks to him as though further works on this is needed. He was concerned and sceptical regarding some of the figures used in transport comments at this meeting. Cllr Clegg seconded this.

On 2nd May there will be a Neighbourhood Plan quiz night, the theme being all about the Parish. Further details will follow.

h) Queens Hall Report - Cllr Ms Wood advised that the hall was ticking along quite nicely. There will be a fees meeting later this week. It was looking like the hall would potentially need a new boiler, as over the years the boiler had been fixed again and again, and now it's probably no longer fit for purpose. Two quotes had been received, just under £3,000 each.

C19.157 FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a) **List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts** – Members *NOTED* the December financial report would be rolled over to the February meeting for approval, but would also be emailed out to members.
- b) **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** – The Clerk confirmed good progress had been made this month, with a further visit to the container, and they are now half way through the 54 plastic boxes of filing.

C19.158 ALLOTMENT ISSUE

Following on from the last meeting where the Clerk reported on an issue regarding problems associated with the District Council, their Contractor and Affinity Water, Cllr Blanks advised that he had attended a meeting on 24th January, together with the Parish Council's Maintenance Contractor, EFDC and STORM (EFDC's Housebuilding Contractors). The payment for £4000 was received at this meeting towards the damage and costs as a result of their work. Cllr Blanks had hoped for a written apology however this had not been received at this moment in time. Cllr Clegg asked if the £4,000 covered the loss to the PC, to which the Clerk confirmed it did.

C19.159 SOCIAL MEDIA

Cllr Irvine confirmed that a new Facebook group for the Parish Council had been set up. There are not many members at present, so the idea is about posting interesting items regularly, including photographs about what the Parish Council has one. Cllr Irvine confirmed he has also written to June Peachey at North Weald Village Life, asking if she can join the groups. This would be in discussion with June. Cllr Irvine asked Councillors on Facebook to join the group and invite other local people to join it. The Clerk confirmed that this evening's visit from the Police was being tweeted and would also be placed on this Facebook page.

C19.160 VE DAY

Members **NOTED** that the Parish Council is looking to undertake a Parish Map Project for VE Day listing local historic areas and their wartime connections in the Parish which will also include some of the Norwegian connections. The Clerk would also be trying to secure some funding for this via EFDC. In addition, there may also be a Tree Planting to commemorate VE Day. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted EFDC to see what celebrations are planned on North Weald Airfield, and she had been advised there were no plans at present. It is a case of watch this space, and a further update would be given at the meeting. The Chairman advised that he had spoken with Cllr Richard Bassett regarding this, and that it was possible a character dress concert / evening would take place in the Squadron. The Clerk advised that the Thursday before VE day was election day for some Councils. Cllr Mulliner referred to the Happy Wanderer who had details of the pill boxes in the area, however the Clerk advised that this was Cllr Goody's husband. This may be a source of useful information.

C19.161 CCTV AT PARISH HALL IN THORNWOOD

Members **NOTED** that there were continuing problems with vehicles (lorries) mounting the pavement at the entrance to the Parish Hall (this land belongs to the Hall). It is becoming a Health and Safety hazard and also costly to repair as lorries are often mounting the pavement. There is also a continuing problem with vehicles parking illegally within the hall car park. Repairs to the drain, which is located within the pavement area and is very deep, is constantly ongoing. The installation of CCTV would not only cover this but would also have an overall coverage of the Car Park and part of the Play Area. Cllr Alan Buckley provided an update stating that himself and Cllr Spearman had met with Barron Security regarding possible options. A quote from Barron had been received, which the Chairman went through at the meeting. After further discussion, including the possibly security options for the hall, it was **AGREED** that a further quote should be obtained from Essential Security. An amount of up to £2,050 to supply this CCTV was **AGREED**, however it could be left to the Clerk and the Chairman

to agree which company to go for. It was **NOTED** there was money available from S106 funding if Members felt that they would wish to go ahead with this project. The Clerk advised that the Office was fully aware of all the cars which had permission from the Parish Council to park in the hall car park.

C19.162 PARISH COUNCIL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Members were reminded that nominations were necessary as soon as possible for the Annual Citizen of the Year Awards. Details of the Awards will be advertised as usual. A small working group (one Councillor from each Ward) is usually set up to discuss and pick the award winners, approximately a week before the awards ceremony. There were no further nominations that were put forward at the meeting. Cllrs Mrs Jackman, Cllr Mrs Hawkins, Cllr Buckley and Cllr Mulliner agreed they would be part of the working group. Copies of the Nomination Form were included within the pack for Members. The Clerk advised that members of the working group would be receiving an email from the Senior Administrative Officer in due course.

C19.163 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Following recent Meetings with ECC local Highways Officer Sarah Alcock at which a number of items and roads regarding highway matters were discussed, the Clerk has chased these matters on two occasions, however a response is yet to be received. A further chaser was sent prior to this meeting.

C19.164 PLAY EQUIPMENT

Councillors **NOTED** that the two new pieces of play equipment have been installed in the Play Areas at Thornwood and School Green Lane. Overall the comments from Members of the public have been positive. The Clerk has contacted the donors of the grant funders to advise of the installation.

C19.165 DEBT OF HONOUR

A visit to check the safety of the Debt of Honour was made shortly after the Remembrance Service event. Confirmation regarding the necessary works are still awaited from EFDC. The Clerk had chased Tom Ellwood of EFDC.

C19.166 DIARY DATES

A list of Meeting Dates was included in Members Packs for Members information.

Meeting closed 9pm

Signed

Date