



MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 13th January 2020

Time: 7.30PM

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

PRESENT:

Councillors (9) A Buckley (Chairman), B Clegg, Mrs S Jackman MBE, T Blanks
A Tyler, R Spearman, N Bedford, M Stroud, Mrs Hawkins

Officers in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to Parish Council

Adriana Jones - Principal Financial Officer (PFO)

Members of the Public (1) - EFDC Cllr Richard Morgan MBE

Members of the Press (1)

C19.138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (5)

Cllrs Eldridge, Mulliner, Mrs Grigg, Irvine and Ms Wood had offered their apologies.

C19.139 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

None.

C19.140 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Members **NOTED** there had been one application for the position of Councillor for the Thornwood Ward, details of which were attached to the agenda. The Chairman asked Mrs Hawkins and members of the public to leave the meeting whilst Councillors discussed her application. After discussion, Mrs Hawkins and members of the public were invited to return, and Councillors **AGREED** that Mrs Hawkins be co-opted to the position of Councillor for the Thornwood Ward. Cllr Mrs Hawkins read out and signed her declaration of acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

C19.141 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd November 2019 were **AGREED**. Councillors also **AGREED** the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16th December 2019, at which a recommendation had been put forward to full council for the precept for 2020/2021. Councillors formally **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** this proposal, and the Precept for 2020/2021 was **AGREED** at £222,545 equating to a reduction of £0.05p per band D property on 2019/2020 (based on the figures supplied by EFDC in December 2019 - Tax Base 2590.50, 2119 electors, 2737 properties). **PROPOSED** Cllr Tyler, **SECONDED** Cllr Mrs Jackman.

C19.142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Spearman declared a pecuniary interest in any agenda item concerning the Local Plan.

C19.143 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

C19.144 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

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

C19.145 REPORTS AND MEMBERS REPORTS

- a) **Chairman's Report** – No report.
- b) **Vice Chairman's Report** – No report.
- c) **District Councillor Reports** – Cllr Bedford advised that he wished to raise a couple of items that came up over the Christmas period. Firstly, the Epping Ongar Railway (EOR) had been notified of a crack in the bridge over Kiln Road. EFDC Officers had attended, and EOR had been advised that they are not to keep their rolling stock stored in this area, and were asked to address the issues of trees on the bank. EOR were instructed to complete some weather proofing of the crack, however it was not deemed to be a serious H&S concern. A further crack was noticed on the other side also.

Cllr Bedford advised that he believed the leak in the road by Skipp's Corner was now fixed, and he understood that a 6m length of pipe had to be replaced following the discovery of a willow tree root in excess of 150mm in diameter which was blocking the pipe.

With regard to the VE day celebrations, Cllr Bedford advised that he had an idea of planting 41 trees on the Airfield to commemorate the 41 soldiers buried in St Andrews Churchyard. These trees would be planted in the shape of an aeroplane that would be visible from the air. At the EFDC Cabinet meeting the prior week, John Houston (EFDC's lead officer on Climate Change) was pushing the Green Arc project, and Cllr Bedford felt this was a great idea for VE Day. The PFO advised that thought needed to be given to the potential bird hazard to the airfield that new trees may bring, to which Cllr Bedford advised he was considering this. The Clerk stated that VE Day would be an agenda item at the February meeting, and it was agreed to include this suggestion. Cllr Tyler reminded Councillors that the first pilot killed in WWII was buried at St Andrews Church. The Clerk advised that she was also considering the creation of a VE day pamphlet, and that Arthur Moreton, local airfield historian, was already speaking with people about how to commemorate this event. Cllr Bedford advised that he would find out exactly how many people had died.

Cllr Bedford stated that somebody has hit the wall by the shops in North Weald, to which the Chairman advised that he was aware of this, and that there had in fact been three incidents, the first of which himself and the Clerk were currently dealing with Kingsmill's insurance for.

Cllr Bedford advised that with regard to the railings outside the Chemist in North Weald that had been damaged some time ago, he had been advised that getting these railings replaced was not as simple as one may assume. The Clerk stated that she had spoken with Sarah Alcock regarding this, and that there was a further meeting later this week when this will be addressed.

Cllr Bedford advised that there was a sign in the Church Cemetery that needed replacing and asked the Clerk if she could deal with this. In addition, there is a hole that has been created in the hedge by the lychgate, to which the Clerk stated she felt this was probably made by those using North Weald Golf Course with their quad bikes. The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to the Police and Safer Communities regarding this matter, however there is limited action that can be taken at this time.

d) County Councillor Reports – Highways report had been previously circulated.

e) Parish Councillors Reports – Cllr Spearman reported that the manhole outside the Parish Hall at Thornwood had been upturned again. The Clerk confirmed she was aware of this, and a protective yellow safety cover had been installed that day. The Clerk advised that after much investigation and time, it had been established that this manhole was the responsibility of the Parish Council as it is on Parish Council owned land, however when herself and the Chairman meet on Thursday, they will discuss the possibility of having raised granite kerbs as suggested by Highways. Whilst it is understood these are not particularly good for vehicles, some action needed to take place as the manhole keeps being broken which is costly. It is thought that this was a lorry of some description that had caused the damage. The Clerk also advised that both herself and the Senior Administrative Officer had discussed the possibility of looking into CCTV for the hall, and that this may in fact catch the number plates of any vehicles which cause damage, as well as allowing the Parish Council to monitor the car park. Cllr Bedford suggested an ‘upside-down bell’ could be installed, as per those installed in London, as this would stop any problems. Cllr Tyler stated that thought did need to be given to other highway users.

The Clerk read out a report that had been submitted by Cllr Irvine as follows:

1. **Facebook/Social Media** – Clerk and Cllr Irvine meeting Thursday to try and move things forwards. Update to be given at the next meeting.
 2. **Hastingwood Community Fibre** - Cllr Irvine now has 11 potential participants including two businesses. This is enough for one £5,000 voucher, however he would like to try a mailshot to get more traction and potentially more vouchers.
 3. **Speedwatch** – Cllr Irvine has suggested some days to Councillor Clegg, to which Cllr Clegg advised that he hadn’t seen anything, however if it came via email he would possibly not have seen it yet.
- Highways** – Cllr Irvine asked if it was ok to send some photos to Sarah Alcock regarding the Hastingwood roads?

Cllr Tyler asked the Council if they wished for him to complete the Norway House Sunflowers this year, to which the Council agreed they did. Cllr Tyler also asked that it be recorded that we must be one of only a few Parish Councils who have three Councillors representing it whom have been recognised by Queen and Country.

f) Local Plan – Councillors noted the Consolidated and Updated Viability Evidence pre-consultation draft that was recently sent out for consultation, the deadline for responses being 6th January 2020. The PFO had gone through this

document which looks at how viability will be measured and managed as part of the planning application process. This was a very technical document, with further work that was needed on it. The Parish Council had not issued a response to this consultation.

g) Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors *NOTED* the three very successful public consultation events that were held in December. Whilst the full figures and analysis had not yet taken place, it was thought that over 100 local residents attended. The consultation is also available to complete online along with details of all the presentation material until 31st January. This has been tweeted, detailed on Facebook, and on the NP website.

Councillors recalled that prior to the December Parish Council meeting, Councillors had met with members of the masterplan team to discuss progress to date, however had requested another meeting where more time could be spent and questions asked. The proposed date was 17th February, however many Councillors were unavailable on that date. Another proposed date would be obtained.

Cllr Blanks advised that at the end of January, the Steering Group would be meeting with members of the masterplan team to discuss transport, however it was his contention that this was really only a tick box exercise. Generally, developers are only interested in their development, and ECC (who is responsible for Highways) say they don't have any money to do anything anyway. Cllr Blanks stated he was concerned that transport and infrastructure will not come forward and he would be strongly addressing this with developers at the meeting. The general principle is that people should be encouraged to move towards getting around on bikes, which is not a suitable solution for all. Cllr Blanks had proposed to the developers that they should arrive at the meeting by using public transport and not cars, so that they have first hand experience of how difficult it currently is, let alone when the 2000 homes are built, to get around by public transport. Cllr Blanks emphasised that he felt it was essential the developers were truly focussed on how important addressing the issue of transport was, and that this issue must be addressed early on in any process when it comes to housing. Cllr Blanks advised that it seemed nobody was interested in thinking about how people will travel by car, advising that the new St John Road development will not have any parking either. Cllr Bedford stated that he had every sympathy with what Cllr Blanks was trying to do, however it was important to recognise that the Plan is up to 2033, and infrastructure is the first thing that had to be created. If that doesn't happen, then the development will not go ahead. Cllr Bedford also stated that in addition, at present development in Epping Forest is constrained by the Epping Forest SAC, and the local plan is basically tied with its hand behind its back. Cllr Blanks stated that there isn't going to be any new infrastructure, so he could not understand how the development would be going ahead. Cllr Bedford gave the example of upgrades to the Waltham Abbey turnoff and Junction 6 of the M11.

Cllr Tyler stated that when all this development was planned, there was a criteria as we are at the end of a commuter belt, however we now have busier platforms and less trains, and with all the development coming this will only get worse. Cllr Bedford stated that he took on board what Cllr Tyler was saying, however TFL state

they have severe issues with rolling stock, and it not scheduled to be replaced until 2033. TFL is doing an overhaul at the same time as replacing the engines on the trains. This work has an impact on the number of trains and services they can provide which is why they are reducing the service at this time.

h) Queens Hall Report - No report.

C19.146 FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a) **List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts** – Members *AGREED* the list of payments, receipts and balances for December 2019 which had been circulated by email earlier that day.
- b) **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** – The Clerk confirmed good progress had been made this month. Cllr Bedford advised that if sending an email to a list of Councillors, these email addresses should be placed in the BCC box.
- c) **Internal Audit** – A copy of the report from the Internal Audit which was completed in November was attached to agenda. Members *ACCEPTED* this document, noting that one of the issues raised was the creation of Councillor email addresses. The Clerk advised that she would be looking at all the required actions in the coming weeks. Cllr Blanks stated that there were a number of issues that have appeared twice which need to be addressed.

C19.147 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, the Clerk advised that she had received a telephone call on the 20th December from a District Council Housing Officer where it was suggested that the Parish Council would be receiving the sum of £4000 towards the Invoice that the Parish Council had received. Councillor Blanks also spoke to the Officer during the same telephone conversation, Councillor Blanks has also suggested that a full apology should be given by EFDC/STORM, as well as being asked to admit that they had actually used the water that belonged to the Parish Council and give an assurance that they will not do this in the future. In addition, they should also be asked to confirm that they have mended the pipes to the water tanks competently. The Clerk stated that at present, this is only verbal, and nothing has been received in writing. Cllr Blanks stated that EFDC/STORM broke the Parish Councils equipment and stole our water, and that the Parish Council should simply sue them as it has been dragging on for ages with EFDC being unable or unwilling to do anything about it. The Clerk confirmed she had liaised with Affinity Water, and the Parish Council has until 27th January to pay the bill. Cllr Spearman stated that as the construction is not yet finished, EFDC should withhold this money from the contractor until this is resolved.

C19.148 SOCIAL MEDIA

This issue was addressed earlier in the meeting under Members Reports.

C19.149 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Cllr Bedford advised that he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda, stating that the origins of this came from the fact that he is heavily involved in the setting up of a memorial, which has now been agreed to be located in Loughton. North Weald was considered as a possible location at one time. Monday 27th January 2020 is

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Holocaust Memorial Day, and Cllr Bedford had asked the Clerk if this should be commemorated in the Parish somehow, possibly by the raising of a flag. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Pat Segar at EFDC about this, and the EFDC Chairman does commemorate this day by the lighting of a candle, however it has only just come to light that there is a specific flag available for this day. Cllr Bedford advised that normal protocol would be for the Union Jack to be raised, with the Holocaust Memorial Flag raised below it. Cllr Bedford stated that it was part of our history, and that the raising of a flag would provoke the thoughts of the younger generation and remind them of our history. An event could be made of it, with the Parish Council chairman being photographed by the flag. Cllr Tyler stated that he would support this. Cllr Blanks advised that he wasn't particularly keen on such things, stating that the Parish doesn't celebrate days such as St Georges day, etc, to which Cllr Bedford stated that perhaps the Parish Council should. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council should purchase both a Holocaust Memorial Flag and a St Georges Day Flag, and that other Councillors should contact the Clerk directly if they felt any other day should be recognised.

Meeting closed 8.27am

Signed

Date