



MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 13 June 2022 **Time:** 7.00PM

Venue: PARISH HALL, THORNWOOD COMMON

PRESENT:

Councillors (8) A Buckley (Chairman), T Blanks, R Spearman, A Tyler*, Cllr Mrs Hawkins, Cllr Mrs Grigg, Cllr Clegg. Cllr Ms Wood

** for part of meeting*

Officers in Attendance (1)

Susan De Luca – Parish Clerk

Adriana Jones – Principal Financial Officer

Members of the Public (1)

Members of the Press (0)

C22.024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (4)

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Etherington, Cllr Mulliner, Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE, Cllr Bedford.

C22.025 OTHER ABSENCES (2)

Cllr Irvine and Cllr Stroud.

C22.026 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th May were **APPROVED** and duly signed.

C22.027 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Spearman declared a pecuniary interest in any item concerning the Local Plan. Cllrs Mrs Grigg declared a personal interest in agenda item 24 by virtue of being a previous member of the Bowls club.

C22.028 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed the member of the public present, however there were no questions.

C22.029 REPORT OF THE CLERK

Councillors **NOTED** the report of the Clerk as detailed within the agenda, which included the following updates:

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee** – The Clerk confirmed she had attended two events over the course of the weekend, both of which were very successful. The Parish Council offered its wholehearted thanks to all the people who have organised the very successful events in North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood, namely Dawn Wood, Colin Kinnear, June Peachey for events at the Queens Hall & Memorial Playing Field - Shirley Hawkins, Elaine Davis and their team at the Parish Hall at Thornwood - George and Margaret Mulliner at North Weald Village Hall - Jacky Kelly, Lynn Austin, Sue Rolfe, and Jacky Blayne and their team at Hastingwood. It was **AGREED** that a formal letter of thanks be sent to each.

Cllr Wood advised that she had received requests to hold a similar event on an annual basis, however had suggested if this took place it should be more of single parish summer event to ensure there would / should be sufficient help with organisation both before and on the day. It was noted that costs were broadly on budget, however the Memorial Playing Fields event had received enough income from the stalls that it was expecting to be able to donate some funds to both St Clare's Hospice, and the Foodbank.

[Cllr Tyler Arrived]

- **Public Footpaths** - EFDC Airfield Masterplan / Green Infrastructure – details of footpaths to link up between networks are still being sought by EFDC, and this Council had today received the maps from EFDC onto which these routes should be marked. The Clerk advised that this was as a result of the recent meeting held with members of EFDC and this Council to discuss the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the District and what this meant for this Parish. The Clerk confirmed she had asked Mrs D Lodge, Cllr Irvine and the Senior Administrative Officer to complete the maps. Cllr Blanks asked if this was pertaining to the Airfield Masterplan, as if so it was premature given that there hadn't been any update on the Masterplan at this time. The Clerk said it was relevant but covered more than just the Airfield Masterplan, and it was concerning the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the whole Parish, not just the Airfield. Cllr Blanks stated that historically it has always been very difficult to 'stop' a footpath, and you would normally need a very good reason to do so. The Clerk advised that it was her understanding this was about improving the public areas where people could, and do walk, advising that the question asked was 'where do your residents walk that aren't perhaps listed on the maps', to which Cllr Blanks stated that he is always concerned if an outside body wants to amend a footpath route, and that we needed to know why, especially considering there were lots of new houses coming to this parish. The Clerk advised that if instructed by the Council she would be more than happy to ask why EFDC needed that information. The Chairman stated that he was also present at the meeting at which this was discussed and felt it to be more of an exercise about identifying where used footpaths are located. The Clerk gave an example of the Byway near St Andrews School, briefly explaining the problems there. The Clerk stated that she didn't feel there was anything sinister in the request. After further discussion it was **AGREED** that the concerns of Cllr Blanks regarding this matter would be formally noted.
- **Weald Common Tree Project** – Office staff and the Chairman continue to work on this project. The Clerk advised that documentation has now been submitted and Tom Moat, ECC, and that he has been liaising with her regarding the grant funding. It was noted that trees could not be planted before November. Cllr Tyler advised that if this Council spoke to the Airfield Team, we may be able to use the fire engine to water the trees, however the Clerk explained that there may well be access issues. It was noted there would be around 3,000 trees, and the area is quite clay heavy so does retain the water. The Chairman advised that even so, the Copper Beech tree that was recently planted is struggling, with some leaves becoming dry and brittle, and at this stage it was unclear if the tree would survive. The Parish Councils contractor had been watering this with 56 litres of water every 3 days.
- **Rededication Norwegian Memorial and Parish Memorial 19th June** – It was noted that the Clerk and Senior Administrative Officer had undertaken a considerable amount of admin regarding this matter following the receipt of the emails from the Chairman of the Royal British Legion, North Weald Branch on the 6th June, RBL, (NWB). Members were advised that all the plans and arrangements were in place for this event. Revd Jaimee Summers is

undertaking the Service at both the Parish War Memorial and Norwegian Memorial, and invitations had been sent out along with reminders. The invitation list is expected to be widely the same as the dignitaries that are invited to the Remembrance Sunday Events. Wreaths will be laid at the Parish War Memorial and flowers at the Norwegian Memorial, as agreed by Councillors as the Service at the Norwegian Memorial is a service of Thanksgiving. Afternoon Tea for 50 has been arranged in the Parish Hall at Thornwood following both services.

The Clerk has received two queries in regard to laying Wreaths at the Norwegian Memorial. Members had previously agreed that it would be more appropriate for flowers to be laid at the Norwegian Memorial, however Members were asked whether or not those wishing to lay a wreath should be directed to lay them on the Debt of Honour instead of the Norwegian Memorial. This was **AGREED**.

The Council had also received notification from the Chairman of the Royal British Legion (North Weald Branch) regarding various matters which he feels somewhat unhappy with, details of which were attached to the agenda identifying the various concerns and subsequent explanations. The Chairman of the RBL (NWB) was concerned at the late notification of the event, however Members had previously agreed that a Save the Date would be issued at the Remembrance Sunday Event last year, and would be placed in the service sheets for those attending at the Norwegian Memorial. In addition to this Save the Dates were published at the Parish Council Community Day, the Annual Assembly and within the Annual Report. Members **NOTED** that an invitation was sent to the Chairman of the Royal British Legion on the 20th May at the same time as all other invites. Members noted that the Council was unable to send formal confirmation prior to that date as it was awaiting confirmed times of the Services from the Vicar, which were not received until the morning of the day that the Invitations were sent out. The Clerk explained that she was hoping a member of the RBL would have attended this meeting which would have enabled them to express their concerns directly, and also because they had expressed an interest in taking part.

Pamphlets had been created and were being proofed. The Clerk asked if the Council wished for any wine to be served at the tea, to which Councillors agreed only soft drinks, tea and coffee should be served. Cllr Grigg had already offered her apologies for not attending this event. It was noted that Colin Quilter had completed much of the renovation work for both memorials free of charge, however there may be a charge for the new Bronze plaque.

With regard to publicising the events, it was agreed that in addition to notices being erected on notice boards, this should be placed on the Council's social media platforms over the coming week.

- **Audit** – The Financial Officer has been dealing with Internal & External Audit including submission of documentation electronically and getting all other documentation ready for the Internal Auditor who was in attendance for one day on Wednesday 18th May at the Parish Hall in Thornwood. Details of the Internal Auditors visit, and External Auditor Matters were included later in the agenda.
- **From Last meeting - Question to John Philip Regarding EFDC Accounts – To Cllr Phillip / Cllr Hadley**

Councillors noted that as requested, an enquiry had been sent to EFDC concerning the delay in Deloitte completing the audit of EFDC accounts for year ending 31st March 2021. A full copy of the response from Cllr John Phillip, Cabinet Member for Finance and Economic Development was included with the main body of the agenda.

- **From Last Meeting: Subject: Re: North Weald Airfield Masterplan sent to Cllr Bedford and Nick Dawe, EFDC**

Councillors noted that as requested, an enquiry had been sent to EFDC concerning an update on progress of the North Weald Airfield Masterplan. A full copy of the response from Christine Norton of Soundings was included with the main body of the agenda. The Clerk confirmed that this was the same response that had been published by EFDC a few days earlier by way of a public statement on this matter. Cllr Blanks asked if there had been any direct response from either Cllr Bedford or Nick Dawe, as these were the two individuals to whom the enquiry had been sent, stating that if not does that mean that the plan isn't going ahead. The Clerk advised that Soundings were the communication consultants appointed by EFDC regarding the Airfield Masterplan.

C22.030 REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

- Chairman's Report** – The Chairman's report was regarding the Copper Beech which was given earlier in the meeting, as well as advising that works had been undertaken to fill the ditch in Mill Street, Hastingwood, where lorries had caused large ruts, and that he would visit site the following day to inspect the work.
- Vice Chairman's Report** – Cllr Mrs Grigg reported that she too had attended one of the Jubilee celebration events – Hastingwood – and there was a good turnout from the village, with beautiful cakes and refreshments which all seemed to enjoy. Cllr Mrs Grigg also stated that it was mentioned earlier in the meeting by the Clerk about the Byway near St Andrews School, and that historically she recalled that the Parish Council had tried to get this downgraded, and an inspector did visit site and walked the Byway. At that time there was a gate from the Byway to the school field and that this access gate was one of the reasons why the request to downgrade was historically refused. Cllr Ms Wood advised that she was aware the 4x4 drivers use this Byway at least once per month, taking photo's when they do, just to show it is still being used by vehicles. Motorbikes also use this route regularly, and it would be nice if there could be a bollard placed in the middle of the Byways to try and deter such use. It was noted that the field gate to the school was no longer used. Cllr Ms Wood advised that this byway was extremely overgrown with nettles and vegetation, and that she had in the past been down there and strimmed it herself given that no organisation wanted to take responsibility for its maintenance.
- District & County Councillors Reports** – The Clerk advised that Cllr Bedford had asked that she advise Council that following the road traffic accident that had occurred the previous day in which a motorbike driver was injured near Kiln Road, he would be speaking with Cllr Chris Whitbread today to request a speed study be completed through not only North Weald but the whole of the Parish. It was noted that on the same day of the accident there were over 200 bikers over the airfield travelling at speed, so it was possible that this biker had been at this event.
- Parish Councillors Reports** – None.
- Queens Hall Charity Report** – None.

- f) **Neighbourhood Plan Report** – No update.
- g) **EFDC Local Plan Report** – Councillors were advised that there was an update on the Local Plan website dated 24th May 2022 from the new Inspector which advised that from his consideration of all the examination material, including the responses to the main modifications consultation, he felt it would be very unlikely that he would be recommending further large scale substantive changes to key aspects of the plan, including the general amount of development, the spatial strategy, or the choice of allocated sites, and that at this point he did not envisage holding any further hearings. However there would be some minor changes which would be consulted upon.
- h) **Highways Report** – The Clerk advised that the office staff had been trying to obtain information as to why there was a road closure sign along Weald Hall Lane given as the ‘OneNetwork’ website didn’t have any such works recorded, however there had been no luck so far.

C22.031 FINANCIAL

a) **List of Cheques and Monthly statement of Accounts**

Councillors **NOTED** the cheque lists for both April and May 2022, and the bank balances as at 31st May 2022. Cllr Spearman advised that the heater in the Parish Hall extension seemed to be on continuously, to which the Clerk advised she would look into this.

b) **Internal Audit**

Councillors **NOTED** the final 2021/2022 Internal Audit Report which was attached to the agenda.

c) **External Audit (AGAR) 2021/2022**

Each year the Councils Accounts and Practices (known as the Annual Governance and Accountability Return - AGAR) are reviewed by an external auditor appointed by the Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd. The following dates apply for this Council:

- The requirement for the public inspection period (to include the first 10 working days of July) will start 15th June and will end 26th July.
- The AGAR must be approved by 30th June 2022 and submitted to PKF Littlejohn by 1st July 2022.

This Council is subject to an Intermediate Review as part of the limited assurance review. Council completed the following:

- a) Recalled it had already reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal control of this Council (this was completed at the May Meeting)
- b) Recalled the findings of this review (This was completed at the May Meeting)
- c) Prepared the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)
- d) Approved the Annual Governance Statement by way of **RESOLUTION. PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Grigg, SECONDED Cllr Tyler. Unanimously AGREED.**
- e) Considered the Accounting Statements (Section 2)
- f) Approved the Accounting Statements by way of **RESOLUTION. PROPOSED Cllr MRs Grigg, SECONDED Cllr Tyler. Unanimously AGREED.**
- g) Ensured that both the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements was signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting.

C22.032 MEMORIAL TREE AT HAMPDEN CLOSE

The Clerk advised that she had been informed it was necessary to submit a Planning Application for this tree as it was subject to a TPO, and that the District Council's tree officer would not allow any works to be carried out whatsoever, not even minor works, without a full planning application being submitted. Therefore the relevant application is now in the process of being submitted by the Tree Surgeon, and this Council is awaiting confirmation of the application to undertake these works which are to cut back from over the neighbours garden, and also remove dead wood.

C22.033 RIDE LONDON EVENT – 28th and 29th MAY 2022

Members recalled the event which took place in the Parish of North Weald Bassett on the 28th & 29th May. As at the date of compiling the Agenda the Clerk had not received any negative reports or comments from residents. It was the Clerks understanding that there was a Survey on EFDC/ECC Website which is open to residents to complete regarding feedback from the events. Cllr Ms Wood advised that she had received a number of complaints regarding access to the Garden Centres, specifically Art Nursery which although open, the signage displayed by ECC did not clearly explain that Vicarage Lane West was open to traffic and as such discouraged members of the public from using this part of the A414. Cllr Ms Wood further explained that this was the busiest weekend for garden centres following the Chelsea Flower Show the previous weekend, suggesting that there should have been a sign stating that the A414 was only closed after the Talbot so as to be clear and so that local businesses did not lose trade. Cllr Tyler stated that generally he felt the event was well organised, but agreed the organisers needed to consider what damage was being done to local businesses. It was noted that somebody from Toot Hill ended up in hospital as their carer was not allowed through. Cllr Clegg asked if anybody could explain why the Street Signs had been moved from left to right, with a lot of cost for the excavation, stating that these are now demountable signs. The Clerk explained that this issue had been raised at the public event at the Methodist Church, and that any street structure needed to be removed for the event would be done (and replaced) at cost to the race organisers, i.e. Ride London. It was her understanding there wouldn't be any financial burden on the taxpayer for this. Members **AGREED** that if there were any queries, residents should be directed to the Ride London feedback Website to log their comments.

C22.034 PARISH WAR MEMORIAL

Councillors **NOTED** that the Clerk had received a call from David Lodge asking for his thanks to be expressed to the Parish Council for the refurbishment of the Parish war memorial.

C22.035 NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD ALTERNATIVE MASTERPLAN

Members were advised that the Parish Council had received correspondence via the North Weald Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group from a company called Relight Group regarding a possible alternative plan for North Weald Airfield. The Clerk read out the full content of the email for members information. The Clerk advised that the Airfield Masterplan was an EFDC Strategic Plan, and that this Parish Council had already made its comments known following the consultation earlier this year. Together with the fact that this Council is still awaiting a response to the Masterplan. Members may actually feel that those who have written in will be contacted in due course, in light of Christina Norton's comments above. Cllr Mrs Grigg asked if the Relight Group consisted of local residents, to which the Clerk advised that she understood this to be a company based in Kent. Cllr Tyler stated that whilst he understood this was EFDCs plan, it would affect the people in the Parish, and was concerned that seemingly EFDC had not acknowledged this possible alternative plan. The Clerk stated that this Council could pass this on to EFDC District Councillors asking them why EFDC had not responded and suggesting they may wish to respond directly. Cllr

Mrs Grigg stated that the last time she looked at the inspector's comments on the Local Plan he had indicated he would be reviewing the previous inspectors comments, so this email seems a little late, asking why hasn't it been sent to EFDC. The Clerk confirmed that the email was specific to the Airfield. The Chairman also suggested this matter should be passed up to the relevant District Councillors.

Cllr Blanks expressed his concern that EFDC had not responded to this company. Cllr Tyler stated that he would like to invite the company to meet with Councillors, as he has concerns regarding EFDCs Masterplan, in that they own the land, they are the clients, and they are developer, and as such they have full control over what goes on at this site and he feels this is unhealthy. Cllr Tyler continued stated that if the Council met with this company, at least the residents will know we are looking at it fairly. Cllr Blanks concurred, stating this Council has a duty to its residents, and if this Council does not take every opportunity to look at every opportunity, it will be failing in its duty. Cllr Tyler **PROPOSED** that this company should be invited to meet with Councillors, and that all relevant District Councillors should also be invited to attend, and that Councillors should listen to what they have to say. Cllr Blanks **SECONDED** this proposal. Cllr Tyler suggested the EFDC Chairman should also be invited to attend. A vote was taken, the results of which were as follows:

- 6 – For
- 1 – Against
- 1 – Abstention

It was therefore **AGREED** that Councillors should offer to meet with this company to hear what they have to say, and that the relevant District Councillors and EFDC Chairman should also be invited to attend. Cllr Clegg stated the invite should be worded to show that this Council felt it had more or less been forced into this situation as a result of the lack of direct response from EFDC.

C22.036 INVESTMENTS

Cllr Terry Blanks, the Councils Senior Finance Officer, the Clerk, and the Auditor have been discussing the best way to move forward with Investing and protecting the Councils finances. Cllr Blanks stated that some years ago the banks became worried that people would withdraw their money and as such introduced a clause that if the bank did suffer harm, they would protect £85,000 of funds and pay within 7 days if anybody suffered a loss. This is a capped amount. It was noted that this Council had in excess of this amount, all held with one bank. This leaves the Councils funds at risk, and as such it makes financial sense to spread the risk. Cllr Blanks advised he had looked at a few banks and building societies and was surprised to discover that some were not interested, and also that some would consider opening accounts as a result of himself being a valued customer, which is stupid given the circumstances. Cllr Clegg asked if these two or three new accounts would be dormant, as banks have a habit of closing dormant accounts, to which Cllr Blanks stated they would be deposit accounts and the parameters agreed directly with the bank. After further discussion, it was **AGREED** Cllr Blanks and the Clerk should look into what options are available to this Council and present it at a future meeting.

C22.037 ENFORCEMENT MATTERS AT EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Clerk had been asked to contact a number of Councillors at EFDC with regard to the problems being experienced in relation to various enforcement matters. The main concern discussed was the problems at Chase Farm and the Taxis, and the length of time between the application for Planning Approval being turned down and when the subsequent Enforcement Notice being issued - a time lapse of approximately 6 months between the two. The Clerk has been advised that this was due to Staffing Resources. This was **NOTED** by Councillors, however Cllr Blanks asked how long this

was Council was going to sit and accept such poor service, stating we have been asking about this issue for months. The Clerk stated that she felt there was very little more she could do and didn't have another response she could offer. Cllr Blanks stated that everybody pays their Council Tax, and EFDC staff get paid a fortune yet have staffing issues, stating he felt something should be done about it. The Clerk stated that she felt this matter really needed to be resident led, with individual parishioners expressing their concerns directly to EFDC. Cllr Blanks stated that if residents thought we were not taking up such matters on their behalf, they would be very upset. The Clerk advised that she had not had another resident approach her about such matters. Cllr Blanks again expressed his dissatisfaction, stating that you could bet that if this had happened in Theydon Bois, you can guarantee something would have been done about it. It was accepted that the Clerk acted on behalf of the Council as a body corporate and not individual Councillors, and that if the Council wanted her to take further action then she would. Cllr Spearman asked for further information on the matter, which the Clerk gave and mentioned that she had been advised that the reason for the delay in issuing an Enforcement Notice was that the EFDC Enforcement Staff were dealing with a large enforcement issue in Theydon Bois. Cllr Blanks stated he felt it was totally inept how EFDC had dealt with this matter. After further discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllr Blanks would be given an appointment at the District Councillors surgery on 24th June so he could raise this issue directly with Cllr Chris Whitbread. The Clerk stated she felt she had exhausted every avenue open to her. Cllr Blanks confirmed he would send a meeting to Cllr Chris Whitbread and the Chief Executive outlining what he wanted addressed at the meeting.

C22.038 QUEENS HAL – NEW TRUSTEE

Councillors **AGREED** that Mrs June Peachey should be appointed as a Trustee for the Queens Hall Charity. Councillors felt that Mrs Peachey was a well respected member of the community and very hard working for the North Weald Community.

C22.039 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The Parish Council has been advised that there will be a review of Electoral Boundaries. It is understood that this will affect the Epping Forest District in some way and that it will mean District Councillors will probably represent approximately 15,000 residents in each area which will include various Parishes. The Clerk advised that she had received very limited information with notices, and that these will go up on the boards on Wednesday, however residents were also able to visit the Parish Office and obtain a copy of the news release from the Clerk.

C22.040 COFFEE WITH COPS

The Coffee with Cops session was very successful. It was held on a Tuesday Morning in the Methodist Church Hall between 10am – 12pm and a number of local residents were in attendance - one District Councillor, two Parish Councillors and 8 residents - along with two Members of the Police. The Police have indicated they would like to hold another event in North Weald and one in Thornwood during the Summer, the Thornwood event being 20th July 10am-12pm.

C22.041 TO DIVERT THE TOTALITY OF (FPs 26, 27) OR SECTIONS THEREOF (FPs 20, 24, 25) OF FOOTPATHS 20, 24, 25, 26 & 27 NORTH WEALD BASSETT

Essex County Council would welcome the Parish Councils thoughts on the above diversion proposal, a copy of which was attached to the agenda. This is an informal consultation only and no Order has yet been made and as such this informal consultation is not a statutory requirement on the Highway Authority. Its aim is to enable the principal stakeholders to comment on the proposed changes; feedback which is then considered by the Highway Authority and provided to the applicant. It is not intended as a public consultation. The public are informed and invited to respond

if they so wish at the formal, Made Order consultation stage via on-site notices and plans, and the newspaper advertisement for the order. It is proposed to divert the totality (FPs 26, 27) or sections thereof (FPs 20, 24, 25) of Footpaths 20, 24, 25, 26 and 27 North Weald Bassett away from their current routes, as indicated. Cllr Blanks enquired as to the reason why these proposals were being made, to which Cllr Mrs Grigg advised that she had walked this area, as well as many other areas, and often such proposals are made for reasons of security as some people - especially if they or their property are isolated - can feel unsettled by people walking often right past their front door. Cllr Spearman stated that he felt this was an improvement and would not object. Cllr Blanks said as long as there was a clear understanding of the reasons why the changes were being proposed, and that he would object to something that was simply being forced upon the Council by ECC / EFDC, and that he would see this as very suspicious. It was **AGREED** there would be no objection to the proposed route changed. Cllr Blanks abstained.

C22.042 HASTINGWOOD SPEEDWATCH

The Clerk has been advised by Cllr Irvine that a number of Residents who originally had their name recorded to assist with residents Speedwatch are no longer able to assist. Cllr Clegg advised that he could not recall receiving an email from Cllr Irvine advising him of this. Cllr Clegg provided an update on speedwatch, stating that at a recent event in Upland Road, Thornwood, the Police were in attendance and a black van went past at 50MPH, after which the Police issued them with a fine. The Police person in attendance was quite surprised that 40% of vehicles were doing over 36MPH, and half of these were over 40MPH. Cllr Clegg advised he was disappointed to hear via a third party of the safety measures and speeding event near the Primary School in North Weald the prior week, stating that he would have hoped that somebody from the Speedwatch Group would have contacted him to advise this was taking place as he would have liked to have been a part of this. The Clerk advised she was not aware of this speed event.

Cllr Ms Wood advised about the shocking speed of vehicles in the village and asked if anything ever came of the Parish Council liaison with the school. The Clerk confirmed she look at this again. Cllr Ms Wood advised that off the back of the Cycling Proficiency, there were complaints about the driving, and feels that to have had a liaison would have been helpful.

Cllr Tyler advised that he too was becoming appalled by the speed of drivers through North Weald Village, and suggested a sign could be made up asking residents to watch their speed. The Clerk read out for members the speed measures that had been agreed at the recent Local Highway Panel Meeting, which included traffic calming measures for Woodside, and deer signs along the Lower Forest, sight lines at Forest Glade. The Clerk also reminded members of the report of Cllr Bedford given by the Clerk earlier in the meeting. Cllr Tyler stated that we don't remind people enough about the speed they do. The Clerk advised that she had a query with regard to the funds via the HMRC IBF that were set to go into the LHP budget, stating that she would investigate this. Cllr Spearman stated that he felt the VAS signs which have the smiling / sad faces were very effective in reducing peoples speed. Cllr Ms Wood agreed, stating that she felt the Gateway signs were also very effective suggesting these could perhaps be placed near where the North Weald sign is by Skipps Corner. The Clerk advised that the suitability of Gateway signs was dependant on space, and that she was not sure there was enough space at this location. The Clerk advised that Cllr C Whitbread would be asking the LHP Liaison Officer to meet with this Council.

With regard to Hastingwood, Cllr Grigg advised she believed Mr Grigg was happy to assist. Cllr Clegg advised himself, Mr and Mrs Waters were also happy to do so. The Clerk advised she would liaise with a local Hastingwood Resident who periodically published a local magazine asking if she

could include an article about speedwatch to try and gain interest. Cllr Clegg stated that so far to date there hadn't been any real evidence that there was a speed issue along the stretch near to the Horn and Horseshoes pub. Cllr Clegg advised that Cllr Irvine was also a qualified member of Speedwatch.

C22.043 HASTINGWOOD ALLOTMENTS

Members recalled that Hastingwood allotments and the possible de-allotmentisation had been discussed at two previous meetings, and during these meeting it had been agreed that the Council would prefer the Allotment to remain as an Open Space. The Clerk has received a number of enquiries once again regarding the possibility of renting or buying the Allotments. As six months has now passed since the decision was taken, this matter is able to go back on an Agenda and ask if Members would like to re-consider the decision or for the status quo to remain. One of the possible renters was for small horses, however there were concerns about the safety and security of this. Cllr Spearman expressed his concern regarding insurance if there were horses on this land. It was noted that the site was extremely overgrown. Cllr Spearman advised that the income that could be generated from this site could well be needed in the future. Councillors advised they would like more time to consider this matter, and it was **AGREED** to place this on the July meeting agenda.

C22.044 JULY MEETING

Members were reminded that the date for the Parish Council Meeting to be held in July is **MONDAY 11th JULY**, to be held in the Parish Hall, Thornwood Common.

C22.045 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The public and press were 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.

C22.046 NORTH WEALD METHODIST CHURCH

Due to the confidential nature of this subject, these minutes are not available for public inspection as they contain or relate to exempt information within the meaning of the Paragraphs indicated of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C22.047 NORTH WEALD RADIO STATION BOWLS CLUB

Due to the confidential nature of this subject, these minutes are not available for public inspection as they contain or relate to exempt information within the meaning of the Paragraphs indicated of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Meeting closed 21:36

Signed

Date