



DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 1st March 2021

Time: 7.00PM

Venue: IN LINE WITH CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT:

Councillors (14) A Buckley (Chairman), Mrs A Grigg, T Blanks, Mrs S Jackman MBE, A Tyler, B Clegg, R Spearman, Mrs S Hawkins, G Mulliner, Ms D Wood, A Irvine, Mrs P Etherington, Ms C Coop-Rodia, N Bedford*

*For part of the meeting

Officers in Attendance (3)

Susan Deluca - Clerk

Adriana Jones – Principal Financial Officer

Joanna Tyler – Senior Administrative Officer

Members of the Public (1)

Members of the Press (1)

C20.215 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1)

Apologies received from Cllr Stroud too late to be reported to the meeting

C20.216 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

C20.217 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st February 2021 were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Environmental Committee held on the 22nd February 2021 were **NOTED**.

C20.218 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mulliner declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda items 10 and 11.

Cllr Mrs Grigg declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item no. 10, as secretary of the Bowls Club.

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

C20.219 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the public present. Members agreed that the question could be asked under agenda item no. 10.

C20.220 REPORT OF THE CLERK

Councillors **NOTED** that all staff have been working on all items within the Agenda.

Councillors were asked to **NOTE** the Clerks concern as she had received in excess of 43 emails in relation to the HMRC site since it had opened. The Clerk referred to the meeting notes that had been included with the agenda and advised that she had sent Members an additional set of notes from the meeting which had taken place on

Thursday, 25th February. The Clerk stated that although these meetings are with EFDC Officers, who do receive reports back from HMRC, some of the answers to questions asked were not very satisfactory, and some questions had not even been responded to.

C20.221 REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that he had recently had a meeting with the Manager of Norway House. They are happy to have the Sunflower Growing Competition this year and it is hoped that this will start around the first two weeks of May. The Chairman advised that Cllr Tyler had offered to start sowing the seeds and will provide 30 plants, plus extra for anywhere else. It is hoped that judging will take place around August / September.

The Chairman referred to the meeting that he and the Clerk had attended with Trevor Baker (EFDC's Principal Engineer for Environmental Protection & Drainage) at Weald Common. The Chairman advised that Trevor is discussing the issue with another inspector and it is hoped that a response will be received within the next few weeks, with regard to the most cost effective solution.

b) Vice Chairman's Report - The Vice Chairman referred to previous reports regarding the rubbish in the ditch at the Hastingwood Allotment site. The Vice Chairman advised that the water had drained sufficiently enough for her to be able to start clearing the rubbish.

c) District & County Councillors Reports – Councillors **NOTED** that ECC Cllr Jackson had advised that repairs to the potholes would be taking place in Bassett Gardens and Silver Birch Avenue. The Chairman referred the pothole list and said that he had checked most of them, however asked if the Hastingwood Ward Councillors would check the potholes listed in Hastingwood. The Clerk advised that there are a number of potholes that have been marked in blue in York Road and the High Road and said that she hoped that they would be next on the list for repair. The Chairman said that he would check any repairs outstanding and pass the information on to the Senior Admin Officer, who would then be able to update the list.

d) Parish Councillors Reports – none received.

e) Queens Hall Report – no major issues to report.

f) Neighbourhood Plan Report – The PFO reported that the draft plan had been submitted to Navigus who will now put this into a planning document. Once completed the document will come back to Full Council for formal consideration. The PFO said that this will be the first time that Councillors will see the plan in its entirety.

g) EFDC Local Plan Report – Cllr Bedford informed Members that the main modifications would now not be submitted until after the Local Elections. Cllr Bedford mentioned the National Model Design Codes Testing Programme (which would be referred to in more detail under an item later in the agenda). He also gave a brief update regarding EFDC's Air Mitigation Strategy.

h) Highways Report – The Clerk advised that ECC Cllr Whitbread had said that he would look to try and get the extra white lining from the Library up to the Talbot. The Chairman said that he would look at the outstanding items.

i) Notes from Meeting with Soundings/EFDC – **NOTED**.

j) Notes from Meeting with HMRC/EFDC, together with notes from NEPP meeting between Chairman and NEPP Officer – **NOTED**.

Cllr Mrs Hawkins referred to items (i) and (j) expressed concern that any questions asked by the Parish Council were met with the same answer of ‘being looked into’.

C20.222 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of Cheque & Monthly Statement of Accounts

Members **APPROVED** the list of payments (these were emailed to Councillors prior to the Meeting) which were made up to the 28th February 2021. Members **NOTED** the account balances at the end of the month.

b) Bank Reconciliation

Members **NOTED** the bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2021.

C20.223 NATIONAL MODEL DESIGN CODES: TESTING PROGRAMME

Councillors noted that the Government is currently undertaking a programme of testing aspects, processes and content of the National Model Design Code (NMDC). The purpose of the NMDC is to provide detailed guidance on the production of local design codes, guides and policies that lead to the successful design of places. The NMDC provides advice to local planning authorities on the process for producing codes, the design parameters and issues that need to be considered and tailored to their own context when producing local design codes and guides. It includes methods to capture and reflect the views of the local community through the process. It was noted that the Government has asked for expression of interest from 10 Local Authorities to take part in this testing. Taking into account the work already carried out by this Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in terms of the creation of Design Guidelines and a Heritage and Character Assessment, EFDC has approached the Council to see if it would be interested in taking part in this testing process.

Councillors were asked to **NOTE** the following:

1. This is an entirely separate process to the Neighbourhood Plan.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had always hoped that its Neighbourhood Plan could include Design Codes, however whilst the Plan will contain design guidelines, these fall short of actual codes.
3. The Timeline set by the Government is very short, with expressions of interest needed to have been made by 22nd February. The decision by Government as to which authorities will be selected is being made by 1st March.
4. The design guidelines / policies in the draft Neighbourhood Plan have been created as a direct result of the feedback from local residents and using the Design Guidelines and Heritage and Character Assessment documents created to support

the plan. Any Design Codes created by way of this testing will be expected to support the design guidelines / policies in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Any design codes created as a result of this testing scheme would be related to the North Weald Bassett Masterplan site only.

It was noted that the types of issues that can be addressed in Design Codes include, but are not limited to, landscape and open space, housing density, building heights, identity and character of buildings and public spaces, reflecting local character and heritage and materials used.

Councillors **NOTED** that due to the very tight timescales, there had been insufficient time for this issue to be placed before the Council, however, the Clerk had met with Officers at EFDC and had discussed this matter with both Cllr Bedford (Planning Portfolio Holder at EFDC) and the Parish Council Chairman. A delegated decision was made to support the District Council submitting an expression of interest to the Government that the North Weald Bassett development site could be used as a location to test the National Model Design Codes. The benefit being that this Council would have a strong influence in ensuring new development at this site respects the character and heritage of the current village of North Weald.

The PFO commented that it is important to note that, in terms of design codes, this is something which, traditionally, is funded and created by developers themselves. The PFO said that this is a fantastic opportunity for the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the local planning authority to look at it in a different perspective and create design codes which are right for the village on a background of development. The Clerk said that what she took from the half hour meeting with EFDC is that by signing up to this, the parish would definitely not get another Blenheim Square. Cllr Bedford mentioned a very supportive letter received from Countryside Homes. He said that he believed that this would be an ideal opportunity for partnership working and hoped that Members agreed and he believed that it would be a 'win, win' for the Parish Council. The Chairman said that, as a Parish Council, he believed that Members should feel grateful that our planning team, under Adriana's guidance, put such good cases forward and conduct investigations in such a way that EFDC have chosen this council out of all the other parishes to participate in this. The PFO said that, both herself and the Clerk had discussed the matter with much trepidation, as to whether or not the council should join forces with EFDC. The PFO said that they have taken great strides to separate the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The PFO advised that this is a separate process to the Neighbourhood Plan albeit linked in some way. Cllr Clegg referred to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and said that he did not want the group's members hard work to be ignored.

The Chairman asked if there had been any indication as to when a decision would be received. Cllr Bedford advised that the results had been delayed due to the large number of applications. Cllr Bedford referred the Chairman to the timeline that had been included with the paperwork. Cllr Mrs Grigg referred to the Clerk's earlier comment regarding Blenheim Square and informed Members that the development had been put through on appeal and said that the inspector had positively encouraged the building of high rise blocks of flats. The PFO said that one of the things that the design

codes can do is specify the heights of buildings. The Chairman asked Members to raise their hands if they were in agreement to the decision being ratified. All Members **AGREED**.

C20.224 LETTER FROM PEER GROUP – ONGAR PARK ESTATE ACCESS ROAD REPAIRING OBLIGATIONS

Councillor Mrs Grigg left the meeting for this item.

Councillors noted that the Parish Council had received a letter (a copy of which was attached to the agenda) from Peer Group regarding repairing obligations. It was understood that other users had also been sent letters, however, confirmation from Peer Group was still awaited with regard to this and with regard to how many other organisations had been contacted. Councillors noted that the Clerk had looked at the original agreement and the Parish Council does have an obligation with regard to the Weald Common Parking Spaces and the use of the access road and those using these. The Parish Council has 10 Parking Spaces, 2 of which were gifted to the North Weald Village Hall. These parking spaces belong to the Parish Council for ‘perpetuity’ which is in fact 80 years as detailed in the legal agreement. It was suggested that Members should look at the fact that any contribution should be **‘commensurate with use’**.

It was noted that the Parking Spaces are designated for the following:

- Residents who wish to visit the Play Area
- Residents who wish to visit Parish Council owned land on Weald Common
- Both of these areas should not be used during the hours of darkness

Added to this, there are a number of other organisations that use the access road, which includes visitors to the Veterinary Surgery who park in both the Village Hall and the Parish Council parking spaces. Therefore, a contribution should be sought from the Vets otherwise this would be unworkable. Also, large tractors go to the farm and vehicles go to the Bowls Club during the Bowls Season and to the Fishing Lake during the Fishing Season. Epping Forest District Council owns the Redoubt and has land there also. It was suggested that before making any decision with regard to this matter, any Parish Council contribution should be commensurate after taking all of these factors into account. The Clerk stated that she believed it would be necessary for the Parish Council to seek legal advice with regard to this matter.

The Chairman invited the member of the public to speak. The member of the public confirmed that she was speaking on behalf of the Bowls Club and advised that a letter had been circulated to the Parish Council prior to the meeting which was self-explanatory. The member of the public asked whether the Parish Council could speak to Essex County Council to speed up the application. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council had not seen any application from Peer Group other than a letter asking for contributions towards the upkeep of the road. Cllr Mulliner confirmed that the Village Hall had received the same letter from Peer Group but was not aware of an application to Essex County Council. The member of the public commented that she was in receipt of a letter (from Peer Group) which stated that Essex County Council had some responsibility. Cllr Mulliner said that it was his understanding that this could be referring to Essex County Council’s responsibility for the bridleway which runs from the gate at the end of the Village Hall car park, up to the Bowls

Club. Cllr Blanks expressed his concern with regard to the matter. He said that there appeared to be a certain amount of confusion in how Peer Group had written the letter and commented that there is no definition as to what a user is. Cllr Blanks said that he agreed (with the Clerk's previous comment) that this should be a legal matter. The Chairman commented that he also agreed that the Parish Council should seek legal advice before making any decision. Cllr Blanks mentioned the issue of drainage on Weald Common and suggested that legal advice should be sought with regard to any restrictions which may have been put in place, as per the agreement with Peer Group.

For information, the PFO shared an aerial view of the area in question on screen. The PFO referred to Byway 87 and mentioned Essex County Council's responsibilities, one of which is to repair surfacing. The member of the public stated said that her concern was that if the road is not repaired very soon, there would no longer be a Bowls Club as members will not be able to get there. The Clerk suggested that the member of public should approach ECC Councillors Chris Whitbread and Anthony Jackson with regard to the matter and confirmed that she would send an email to the member of the public regarding the matter. *Cllr Mrs Grigg re-joined the meeting.*

C20.225 NORTH WEALD VILLAGE HALL LETTER FROM TRUSTEE REGARDING POTHOLES

Councillors **NOTED** the contents of a letter attached to the agenda which had been received from one of the Trustees of the North Weald Village Hall. The letter was in relation to concerns regarding part of the road surface and the potholes. The letter was requesting funding from the Parish Council from the £50,000 initially given from the District Council from funds from the HMRC Site. As discussed under the previous agenda item, Members **NOTED** that the road surface is very bad and has numerous large and deep potholes.

Cllr Clegg referred to the previous agenda item and said he believed that, as the Parish Council is to seek legal advice, the request is a bit premature. Cllr Mulliner stated that the Village Hall could not afford not to have the road repaired and mentioned a recent claim that had been made. Cllr Mulliner asked if, once legal advice had been received, would the Village Hall be able to claim a retrospective payment to cover the costs (to repair the road surface). Cllr Mulliner referred to the trustee who had written the letter and said that the trustee thought that the Parish Council, as it has 8 car parking spaces, should contribute towards the repairs. The Chairman asked Cllr Mulliner if the Village Hall had the funds available to carry out the repairs. Cllr Mulliner confirmed that they did, however, he said that, like other community halls, they had not received much income over the last 12 to 13 months. The Clerk asked Cllr Mulliner if he knew how much the repairs would cost. Cllr Mulliner said that he believed the cost would be between £5,000 to £8,000. Cllr Irvine asked Cllr Mulliner if the Village Hall had considered leasing spaces to the Veterinary Surgery or having a 'pay by phone' system in place for charging for car parking. Cllr Mulliner said that it would be very difficult to lease parking spaces to the vets as there are a number of local businesses that use the car park and they would not have enough spaces available to allocate them and ensure that spaces are available for hall users to park in.

The Chairman said that he believed the way forward is for the Parish Council to

seek legal advice and to await confirmation from Peer Group as to the names of the other users who have also been sent letters. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should bear in mind the letter from the trustee once legal advice has been received. Cllr Mulliner repeated his earlier question and asked if a retrospective payment from the Parish Council could be claimed. The Clerk said that legal advice would need to be sought before any decision could be made and recommended that Cllr Mulliner waited for that advice before going ahead with any repairs. Following further discussion, the Chairman reiterated that he believed that the Parish Council needed to seek legal advice. Cllr Blanks suggested that when the Clerk contacts the solicitors she mentions that there is a 'risk to life and limb' through any delay (with regard to their response).

C20.226 FOODBANK GRANTS

Councillors **NOTED** that the Parish Council had been successful in securing two grants for food parcels throughout the Parish of North Weald Bassett. It was noted that the project also allowed for 'cross border' parcels to be delivered. The projects are being jointly administered with the Queens Hall Charity. Cllrs Ms Wood and Ms Coop-Rodia are involved with this. It was noted that a total of 30 parcels had been delivered and a number of favourable thank you messages had been received from the recipients of the parcels. The grant funding must be spent by 31st March 2021. Councillors noted the contents of a short report which was attached to the agenda and also a verbal report given by Cllr Ms Coop-Rodia.

Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE queried the 'cross border' parcel delivery and said that she thought the scheme was for North Weald residents only. The Clerk confirmed that the scheme had been funded entirely from grant funding received (£2000 from Cllr Whitbread's Locality Fund and £260 from the EALC) and it had been agreed that the project could be used for 'cross border' deliveries. Cllr Clegg asked what responsibility London Borough of Redbridge had with regard to the people that have been housed by that authority in the Phoenix Hotel. The PFO relayed a message from Cllr Ms Wood. Cllr Ms Wood said that she had tried, without success, to contact a representative from London Borough of Redbridge and advised that only four parcels had been delivered to families residing in the Phoenix Hotel. Cllr Ms Coop-Rodia mentioned the 3 Food 4 U scheme and advised that if an enquiry is received, she refers people back to the contact for that scheme. Cllr Ms Coop-Rodia expressed concern that a long-term solution would need to be found and suggested that there should be somewhere signposted in the village directing people to schemes which are not means tested. Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE suggested that people could go to the Epping Forest Food Bank. Cllr Tyler said that he would like to express his thanks to Cllrs Ms Wood and Ms Coop-Rodia for all that they have done. He commented that it is very sad that in 2021 people have to rely on food parcels and said that charity is charity no matter where people live. The Clerk advised Members that the Scheme had responsibility only for the food parcel scheme and no responsibility whatsoever for any authority who were housing any person in any hostel or as to the reason why they were being housed. The Project was there only to help.

C20.227 TREE PROJECT

Following on from a meeting of the Environmental Committee on 22nd February, Members had noted the 200 free trees that the Clerk had been able to secure. Cllr Buckley had advised as to where the planting would take place. Two of the areas which would take the largest amount of planting were on Weald Common. One being on the site of the old wooden play area and one being in between the small football pitch and the Weald Common play area. It was noted that Cllr Tyler had suggested that both areas be named after Cllr Brian Eldridge who sadly passed away in 2020 and who had been an avid supporter of more trees in the Parish. The suggestions were as follows:

- Eldridge Wood
- Eldridge Thicket
- Eldridge Grove
- Eldridge Coppice

The Chairman advised that 90 trees had been planted in the old play area, with a further 50 planted in the smaller area. Cllr Mrs Jackman MBE recommended that the two areas be named as Eldridge Wood and Eldridge Coppice. All Members **AGREED.**

The Chairman asked Councillors to consider having temporary fencing installed around the two areas to allow the trees to become established. It was noted that the cost of this would be in the region of £500.00. The Chairman confirmed that there were funds available to cover the expense from the Handyman Fund. All Members **AGREED.**

C20.228 CYRIL HAWKINS CLOSE

Councillors were advised that the new housing development adjacent to Queens Road Allotments was officially opened on Monday, 22nd February 2021. The development has been officially called Cyril Hawkins Close after the former Parish Council Chairman: Cyril Hawkins. It was noted that the opening was attended by Cllr Mrs Shirley Hawkins and the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cllr Holly Whitbread. The naming of this road in honour of Cyril Hawkins, joins with other eminent Councillors who have had roads named after them and did so much for the community. These roads, which include Emberson Way and Watermans Way, will be there for posterity. Councillors agreed that it is indeed an honour for the Parish Council to have one of its 'own' honoured in this way.

C20.229 FLOODING AT THORNWOOD

Councillors noted that there had been a number of issues in relation to flooding along the High Road at Thornwood. The Chairman advised that a survey of the area in question had been undertaken by Cllr Clegg and a local resident, a copy of which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, at the request of Cllr Clegg.

Cllr Clegg referred to the survey and reported that it had taken 3 whole days to clear the ditch, with more than a dozen full bags of rubbish removed. Cllr Clegg said that he had been disappointed with the response received from EFDCs Principal Engineer for Environmental Protection & Drainage, who had visited the area 5 days after the initial report of the flooding issue. Cllr Clegg advised that he had also been in contact with Cllr Whitbread with regard to clearing the ditch. Cllr Clegg

mentioned the riparian responsibility for the ditch and said that he had now established who shares that responsibility. Cllr Clegg said that he would like to commend the BIFFA operatives who took away the rubbish that had been collected within 12 hours. Cllr Clegg advised that he has an appointment booked with District Cllr Holly Whitbread, who is going to visit the area to look at the footpaths and the drainage problem.

Cllr Clegg referred to the photographs that had been included with the survey and mentioned the volume of rubbish which had been discarded at the back and to the side of the garage. Cllr Clegg advised that he had initially reported this to EFDC around 12 months ago and it was supposed to have been cleared by the owners of the car wash by 31st July 2020. Cllr Clegg said that there is now even more rubbish and he hoped that Councillors would study the photographs as 'every picture tells a story'. The Chairman thanked Cllr Clegg for his report.

C20.230 PARISH HALL AT THORNWOOD – COVID TESTING CENTRE

Councillors **NOTED** that the testing facility is only operating 4 days a week: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. It was noted that the Clerk is unsure as to how long the facility would continue to operate, however an email had been sent to one of the operating officers at NHS/MCHLC as the number of people visiting the site had drastically reduced.

The Clerk advised that she had found out, via the Clerk's Network, that some halls in other areas, although not necessarily in Essex, are being paid for having a Covid Test Centre. The Clerk advised that, subject to no changes in Government Guidance, it is hoped that the hall will reopen in June. The people who run the test centre would like to keep operating for at least 2 days a week. The Clerk asked Councillors how they would like to proceed with this matter. Cllr Spearman said that he believed that it would depend on if there was any money available and if Councillors think that it would be safe to reopen. The Chairman said that he had been liaising with the Clerk regarding this matter and would suggest that the people who operate the test centre are reminded that the Council, at the beginning, had no hesitation in providing the facility for free, which included taking on board the responsibility for cleaning, etc. The Chairman suggested that as the hall is not in receipt of any income from hall users, a contribution towards cleaning expenses and overtime for the Caretaker should be looked for. Cllr Spearman agreed that they should cover the Caretaker costs at least. Cllr Mrs Grigg also agreed with this suggestion. The Chairman asked Councillors to raise their hands if they were in agreement. All Councillors **AGREED**.

C20.231 GOING FORWARD – PARISH HALL AT THORNWOOD

Councillors **NOTED** that following on from the Prime Minister's announcement on the 22nd February, it is expected that the Parish Hall will reopen on Monday, 12th April, subject to there being no changes in Government Guidance. It was noted that Parish Council will operate from the hall from this date. The Opening Hours for the Parish Office will be 10am to 1.00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It was noted that the Clerk will be writing to all of the regular users to advise that the hall would reopen from this date. Notices will be placed on the Website and on the Noticeboards advising of the same. However the Clerk would keep Councillors

updates as to any changes made by the Prime Minister if there is a suggested later starting date for people to return to work.

C20.232 PURCHASE OF IT EQUIPMENT & COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

Councillors recalled from the February Parish Council Meeting that the issue of Council supplied IT equipment for use by Councillors was discussed, the purpose of which was to strengthen the steps taken by the Council concerning the protection of data. The Principal Financial Officer confirmed that all Councillors had now been issued with Parish Council specific email addresses. It was noted that the PFO had sent out to Councillors a summary sheet which should have answered many queries raised by Councillors concerning data protection. This document also set out the rationale for the proposed supply of Parish Council owned and managed IT equipment for Councillors. Following lengthy discussion, Councillors were asked to vote by raising their hands if they were in agreement to support the provision of Parish Council purchased, owned and supplied IT equipment for Councillor use.

The vote was recorded as follows:

- 3 Against
- 1 Abstention
- 8 For

Councillors agreed that they would respond to the PFO, via email, with regard to their preference by Friday, 5th March.

C20.233 OFFICE SPACE IN NORTH WEALD – HIGH ROAD

Councillors *NOTED* that the Chairman had made approaches in relation to two properties which had been available in the vicinity of the High Road, North Weald. The Chairman reported that he had viewed both properties, neither of which were deemed to be suitable. The Chairman said that there was nothing else available in North Weald at the present time. The Clerk reported that the Queens Hall Committee Room is available for use by the Parish Council, should it be needed at any time. The Clerk said that it could possibly be used on a Wednesday as an outreach for people in North Weald, however this would need to be given further consideration.

C20.234 SALT BINS

Councillors *NOTED* that, during the recent inclement weather, the Clerk had been contacted by a number of people with regard to why there were no Salt Bins / Salt or Grit available or indeed had not been spread along the pavements in the Parish. It was noted that the Clerk had explained that this was something that was not carried out by the Parish Council and was no longer carried out by EFDC or the County Council. It was noted that one resident had said that as the Parish Council had previously taken part in the ECC Salt Scheme we should be salting all the pavements. The Clerk had explained that as the rules had changed and taking account that the Parish Council did not have the facilities to:

- Store Salt
- Train Volunteers
- Have the resources to do any of the above

the Parish Council no longer took part in the scheme.

Councillors *NOTED* that as there were a few left over supplies from a previous year, the Clerk had arranged for some supplies to be left at strategic points in the Parish,

which included the Parish Hall at Thornwood, North Weald Village Hall, Queens Hall Community Centre and Hastingwood Village Hall. It was noted that the areas in front of the shops in North Weald were de-iced by the Parish Handyman. Councillors recalled that the Parish Council paid for a Salt Bin to be provided and installed in St Andrews School and some salt to be provided a few years ago, and volunteers were trained how to spread the salt.

The Chairman asked Members to consider the following:

- if they wish to purchase any additional Salt/Bins throughout the Parish
- if so, where would they like these located
- and would they like to take part in the Salt Scheme this year.

Cllr Tyler said that he would not recommend purchasing Salt Bins as he believed that they were a great place to ‘hide things’ and expressed concern that they could end up being used as ‘portable urinals’. The Chairman asked Members if they agreed with what Cllr Tyler had said. All Members raised their hands and agreed that the Parish Council would not participate in the Salt Scheme this year.

C20.235 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Due to the nature of the item to be discussed, the press and public were asked to leave the meeting and were excluded, 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.

Councillors **NOTED** the contents of the confidential report attached to the agenda in relation to 3Food 4 U and **NOTED** that no further action is deemed necessary.

Meeting closed: 9.01pm

Signed

Date