

# North Weald Bassett Parish Council

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*Clerk to the Council.* Susan De Luca

1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

# NOTICE OF MEETING

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30 pm to transact the business shown in the Agenda below. This meeting will be held in the Thornwood Common Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood.

Susan De Luca Clerk to the Council

Members of the public and press are invited to attend this meeting

AGENDA

# **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To NOTE any apologies which have been received.

# 2. OTHER ABSENCES

To NOTE any absences for which no apology has been received.

# 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 🖑 🗎

To *AGREE* the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  $3^{rd}$  March 2025, and to *NOTE* and therefore *RATTIFY* the increase in *FEES* within the Minutes of the Environmental Meeting held on  $31^{st}$  March, all as attached as attached at *Appendix 1*.

# 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 🖑

To *RECEIVE* any Declarations of Interest by Members.

A Member with a personal interest in a matter must consider whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary, Non Pecuniary or Other Pecuniary Interest, and declare it accordingly. A Member who is unsure as to how to declare their interest should seek independent advice.

# 5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To **RECEIVE** questions from members of the public for a period determined by the Chairperson of the Meeting. *Please NOTE if the Clerk has not been previously notified of the Question Council may have to note questions and respond to them after the Meeting.* 

# 6. REPORT OF THE CLERK

To *RECEIVE* a report or update from the Clerk on Parish Council matters that staff have been working on.

- a) Various Planning Training
- b) Planning & Enforcement Matters
- c) Cemetery Matters
- d) EV Charging Liaison with EFDC Transport Officer)

- e) Continuation of Office Move
- f) Wayleave
- g) Annual Meeting & Civic Awards Held on 10th March
- h) Neighbourhood Plan
- i) Shared Rural Prosperity Fund Grant Bid

# 7. REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS 🖑 🗎

Councillors are reminded that, if possible, members reports should be submitted in written form for noting only, this enables the meeting to flow smoothly and allows adequate time for discussion of matters appertaining to the Parish. Written reports, if available, will be reproduced at *Appendix 2*.

- a) Chairman's Report
- b) Vice Chairman's Report
- c) District & County Councillors Reports District Councillors are invited to submit a written report if they are unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting
- d) Parish Councillors Reports
- e) Queens Hall Charity Report
- f) Highways Various Reports received regarding a number of Road closures

# 8. FINANCIAL REPORTS 🖑

- a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts up to 31st March 2025
- b) Investments Latest available report will be given

# 9. UPLAND ROAD - RED LINES - JUNCTION WITH HIGH ROAD THORNWOOD COMMON

At the meeting in September 2024 the above matter was discussed where it was agreed that this matter should be monitored for 6 months, and as long as the Parish Council did not receive any further objections from numerous residents then this matter would not be pursued any further. A copy of the earlier Minute is detailed below

C24.070 regarding double red lines on the corner of Upland Road, asking Councillors if they were happy that this matter be brought forward for discussion at this point, with any agreement recorded under this agenda item. This was unanimously agreed. The member of the public stated that they fully understood there was a parking issue at the corner of Upland Road, and that in the past he too had tried to address the problem by speaking with the organisations that were using this area to park in, as per the appendix that was attached to the agenda. He had previously put in a request for yellow lines at this location, and the only difference now is that these have been upped to red lines. The issue with red lines is that there is absolutely no stopping at all, which means currently Royal Mail are unable to stop and empty the post box, you cannot empty the rubbish bin, and you cannot stop to place anything on the notice board. It has been stated that the opposite site of the road has no restrictions so you could park here, however this would be very dangerous. The resident then suggested that the red lines should be downgraded to yellow lines to allow a very short time period where people could stop and post a letter for example. He stated that he accepts the parking there was awful, but yellow lines would be a better option. - A second member of the public stated that this area of Upland Road had suffered parking obstructions for quite a while, and the tipping point was when gym users starting parking there and residents were knocking on his door asking if something could be done about it. When he contacted the authorities he was advised to put in a TRO, but advised that he would need 75% support from local residents. He had asked the authorities if all properties should be canvassed and was advised of the specific properties that needed to be consulted. Thus, he approached these properties, and gained enough support for the project with almost all the properties being in support. He also contacted NEPP who visited site to view the issue, and it was their suggestion that the TRO be upgraded to red lines as it was a serious road safety and traffic movement issue. He stated that when he found out about this meeting, he canvassed a number of residents for their views, all of whom stated they were still in full support of the red lines. He also stated that the opposite side of the road had no restrictions. The meeting Chairman thanked both parties for their comments. The Clerk read out an email she had received from a resident just beyond the Parish boundary which was in support of the red lines. Cllr Blanks stated that he had never lived in Upland Road, and whilst he had no faith in ECC Highways whatsoever, especially considering the number of speed limit changes along the B1393 and their failure to liaise with developers on a collective basis, on this occasion he fully supported the decision to install red lines. Cllr Spearman stated that the Royal Mail were clearly picking up the post, and as long as we don't receive any complaints there really wasn't an issue. Cllr Spearman PROPOSED monitoring the situation, and reviewing it again in 6 months. Cllr Blanks SECONDED this proposal, and it was unanimously AGREED to monitor and review again in March 2025.

Members are asked to CONFIRM that this matter is now finalised.

## **10. NORTH WEALD MODEL FLYING CLUB**

Members will recall that, at the last meeting, representatives of the North Weald Model Flying Club attended the Parish Council Meeting and voiced their concern regarding the possibility of losing their position on the Old Golf Range, North Weald Airfield. The Clerk was asked to write to the Acting Chief Executive: Andrew Small regarding this matter. This action was duly carried out, the response is detailed below:

#### Dear Susan,

Apologies for the delay in responding.

*I have now spoken with Daren Goodey to better understand the current position with regards to the Model Flying Club at North Weald.* 

Firstly, I would like to emphasise that we have always been supportive of the Model Flying Club and will remain so, as far as circumstances allow.

I understand that the Model Flying Club is aware that we are looking into alternative arrangements and that we are currently awaiting a report which will inform viable options. We have informed the Flying Club that we will update them on the findings once the report has been received. We expect to receive this soon and will be in touch with them as soon as we have considered its contents.

I suggest we await that report, but I reiterate that we recognise the long-standing nature of their activity and that we will do what we can to accommodate their existing use, but note that some adaptation and compromise may be necessary from all parties to enable this.

Happy to speak further when the results are known. Kind regards

Andrew Andrew Small Acting CEO

Members are therefore asked to *NOTE* the above response, which the Clerk has also copied to the Model Flying Club.

## 11. VE DAY CCOMMEMORATIONS & MEMORIAL SEAT AT DEBT OF HONOUR "

As Members are aware the UK will commemorate VE Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> May this year. No commemorative events have been agreed to be organised by the Parish Council with the exception of the Chairman of the Parish Council to read The Proclamation and the lighting of the Ruby Red Lamp of Peace at the Debt of Honour. Detailed below from the Official VE Day Website Town and Parish Councils are also encouraged to play the Hymn I Vow To Thee My Country, if they have the facility to do so. A copy of the Official Proclamation is attached for Members.

"We are encouraging all those taking part in VE Day 80, and indeed, the whole country, to come together at 9.30pm as the Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace are being lit, by playing and singing the wonderful, uplifting British Hymn – 'I Vow To Thee My Country', bringing the peoples, families and communities of our great Nation together at this one special moment in time in celebration/commemoration of the 80 years of peace that so many members of our local communities fought for so many years ago"

- 4 -

Both to take place at 9.30 pm. It was agreed that a small amount of funding be put aside to commemorate this event. Therefore one thing that is suggested is to place a commemorative seat at the Debt of Honour. This could be engraved with the date of VE Day, and also to commemorate Arthur Moreton who passed away this year and was a great ambassador for the North Weald Airfield and the link between North Weald and the Royal Norwegian Airforce. A suitable engraved phrase will be presented to Councillors at the meeting for their consideration. The Seat could be unveiled at the same commemorative event. If this is *AGREED*, then the event could start earlier with a gathering at a time agreed by Councillors.

# 12. HASTINGWOOD VILLAGE HALL 🖑

Members are advised that the Clerk has received an Invitation for Councillors to Visit Hastingwood Village Hall, to see the renovation works to the hall. The proposed dates will be advised to Councilors at the meeting.

# 13. NORWEGIAN COMMEMORATIVE STONE ON REVETMENTS AT NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD

Members will have seen in the Environmental Minutes that a discussion was held regarding the Revetments and the commemorative stone. The Revetments have fallen into considerable disrepair. The suggestion from the Environmental Committee is that the Commemorative Stone placed there by the Norwegians in 2012 should be moved adjacent to the Hawker Hurricane (Gate Guardian) at the new entrance to the airfield when this is constructed, together with an explanatory plaque as to the reasoning why it was moved. Members are asked therefore to *CONSIDER* their *SUPPORT* for this move.

# **14. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Throughout February, questionnaires were delivered to homes in the Parish asking residents to provide an update on matters of importance to them, and to establish if the community still feels the same as it did at the time of last survey. This information in currently being analysed and will be fed into the Regulation 14 Draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation. Councillors will receive an update on this matter.

## 15. QUEENS HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS 🖑

Meetings between Vistry Group and Queens Hall Community Centre have been held with regard to the redevelopment of the area which includes the Memorial Playing Fields, and the Queens Hall. The Parish Council has made contact with Solicitors well versed in Charity Law, to further progress the necessary matters. Members will be given an update at the meeting.

# 16. FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THORNWOOD VILLAGE HALL – TUESDAY $28^{\rm TH}$ OCTOBER '25

Members were advised that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thornwood Village Hall will be celebrated on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Shirley Hawkins continues to liaise with local Thornwood resident Jimmy Waters regarding a commemorative event.

# 17. NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD MARKET TRAFFIC 🖑

The Clerk has been contacted by a number of local residents in relation to the traffic that has started to build up around the local roads close to the market. Also, the fact that many residents in roads adjacent to the market are unable get in or out of their roads on a Saturday. One resident has also advised that large 4 x 4 vehicles are accessing the grass triangle at the end of Church Lane where the bollards are, and driving into the High Road this way just to cut out the traffic. As Members will recall, the Market Manager had agreed to meet with the Parish Council prior to Easter. The Clerk has asked for a meeting but currently no response has been received. Another email has been sent with a copy of this item, as detailed in the Agenda, Darren Goodey has also been copied in , so that he is aware of this Council's concerns. It is understood that Cllr Andy Tyler has submitted a Councillors Report voicing his and Residents' concerns.

# **18. ECC LOVE YOUR BUS GRANT APPLICATION**

At the time of compiling this Agenda, the Clerk received notification that the application she had submitted had been successful for funding. The amount applied for was  $\pounds 50,000$ , confirmation as to the whether or not the total amount of  $\pounds 50,000$  is to be received is still awaited,

# 19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS $\$

In the event that the Agenda contains Exempt (pink) pages, or an item needs to be discussed confidentially, to *CONSIDER* the following motion to be proposed by the Chairman:

"That the public and the press be excluded from the meeting, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed. However an item may be placed in the Confidential part of the meeting so long as it is accordance with the Statutory Guidance.

There are currently **NO** confidential items to be considered