



# North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Parish Hall at Thornwood Common, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, Essex CM16 6NB

Tel: 07572 507591

Website: [www.northweald-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northweald-pc.gov.uk)

Email: [clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk)

*Clerk to the Council*  
Susan De Luca

7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME OF THIS MEETING**

*This meeting is open to any other North Weald Bassett Parish Councillor who wishes to attend*

---

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** which will be held on **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at **7.00pm** in the **Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood Common** to transact the business shown in the agenda below.

Susan De Luca  
Clerk to the Council

---

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 🖐️

To **RECEIVE** any apologies for absence.

**2. OTHER ABSENCES**

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

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** 🖐️

To **APPROVE** as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, as attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

**5. 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.*

**6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

To **RECEIVE** questions from members of the public.  
*In accordance with an agreed procedure, the time allocated for public questions shall be limited to 15 minutes or such other period determined by the Chairman of the Meeting.*

7.  **ALLOTMENTS** 

a) **BEE KEEPING** 

Councillors are asked to recall the decision made at the Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 regarding a request from a Wheelers Farm Gardens allotment tenant to keep bees on their plot. Attached at **APPENDIX 2** is an extract from the Minutes of that Committee Meeting, together with information from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. The allotment tenant has asked to speak directly to the Committee regarding their decision.

b) **BOUNDARY HEDGE - HASTINGWOOD B ALLOTMENT SITE** 

Councillors are advised that the Clerk received a complaint from a resident regarding a cyclist who hit their eye on the hedge fronting on to the road at the disused Hastingwood B Allotment site. The resident contacted the Clerk after observing the cyclist ride past the hedge and being hit in the face by overgrown vegetation. The Clerk immediately made arrangements for the Parish Council's contractor to cut back the vegetation encroaching on to the road. However, the resident has again contacted the Clerk and asked if the height of the hedge could be cut back for aesthetic reasons. Councillors are reminded that the hedge in question borders the disused allotment site and is on the opposite side of the road to the properties. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** this request and advise what action they would like to be taken.

8. **CEMETERY** 

a) **Letters to Heaven Post Box**

The Clerk has been approached by a cemetery plot holder who has asked if the Parish Council would consider installing a Letters to Heaven Post Box at the Cemetery. These special post boxes enable people to write messages to loved ones who have passed away. The post boxes have been installed in many cemeteries and crematoriums throughout the country. The idea was originally inspired by a 9 year old girl who wanted to write to her grandparents. The initiative has received the support of King Charles, the Prime Minister and Bereavement Charities. Anyone would be welcome to post a letter. It is suggested that a post box could be installed on the wall of the entrance to the Cemetery. Costs for the post boxes start at £145.00. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** this request.

9. **EPPING FOREST COUNTRYCARE**

The Clerk has received notification that Epping Forest District Council are increasing the charge for volunteer days at Thornwood Common Nature Area from £420.00 (+VAT) to £450.00 (+VAT) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Councillors are reminded that Epping Forest Countrycare has managed the site for a number of years and are asked to **NOTE** this increase.

10. **WEALD COMMON SENSORY GARDEN UPDATE**

Councillors are advised that work on the new Sensory Garden is scheduled to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Details regarding the official opening will follow in due course.

Susan De Luca  
Clerk to the Council