



North Weald Bassett Parish Council

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

Tel: 07572 507591

Email: clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Web Site: www.northweald-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council.
Susan De Luca

31st January 2024

TO: ALL COUNCILLORS

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council which will be held on **MONDAY 5th February 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 8th January 2024 as attached on **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 clerk on Parish Council matters.

- a) Use of Office at Queens Hall – Now open to the public Wednesday mornings 10am – 12 Noon
- b) North Weald Bassett Strategic Masterplan
- c) Position Statement – this is with the distributors. Some copies have started to be distributed in Hastingwood. North Weald and Thornwood will commence from the beginning of February.
- d) Sale of North Weald Methodist Church – this is a separate item

7. REPORTS & MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillors are reminded that if at all 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) **Neighbourhood Plan** – To note the date for the next Committee meeting was **Wednesday 31st January**. Councillors to receive a verbal update on the outcome of this meeting.

g) Highways

8. PARISH HALL AT THORNWOOD HIRE FEES

Members are advised that the Fees for the Parish Hall at Thornwood need to be considered for the municipal year 2024– 2025. A sheet giving the current fees for the Parish Hall together with a number of other Halls in nearby locations is attached at *Appendix 3*. Members are asked to **CONSIDER** whether they wish to increase the hire fees for this forthcoming year. The energy cost contract is in force up to 2026.

9. D DAY COMMEMORATIONS – 6TH JUNE 2024

Members are asked if they wish this Council to take part in the D- Day Commemorations – Lamp of Peace on Thursday 6th June. If so, a small event could be organised at the Debt of Honour. The cost of the lamp is £55.

10. PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** changes to the format of the Parish Council's Annual Report which is published every year in time for the Annual Assembly. It has been suggested that the report could be updated to make it more parishioner friendly. Besides the usual news items, the focus would be much more on what Councillors are involved in, for example highlighting any volunteering within the parish. In addition, it has been several years since the Annual Report has been distributed door-to-door and Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if arrangements should be made for the report to be delivered to every household in the parish this year, the cost of which would be in the region of £350.

11. COFFEE WITH COPS

Members are advised that there will be a Coffee with Cops at the Parish Councils new Wednesday Office on Wednesday 7th February between 10am and 12 Noon. Posters are now on the Noticeboard and will be published on Social Media.

12. NORTH WEALD METHODIST CHURCH

Members will be aware that the Parish Council has been engaged in correspondence with the Methodist Church administrators for well over 2 years with regard to the possible purchase of the now closed Methodist Church in High Road, North Weald. As members will recall the administrative officers of the Church had undertook to advise the Parish Council prior to any sale/auction taking place however this never happened and the property has now been listed for sale with an Epping Estate Agents. The property is listed for F1 Use which is Community Use. The Clerk attended an Open Afternoon and registered this Parish Council's interest in the possible purchase of the property. Members will be able to see from the attached notification attached at *Appendix 4* that 'Best & Final Offers' will need to be placed with the Estate Agents by 12 noon on Friday 16th February, also giving details as to where funds are going to come from to enable the purchase to go ahead.

If members wish to pursue this purchase, then it is likely that a PWLB or alternative funding will be necessary. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** this matter.

13. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – NORTH WEALD BRANCH

Members are advised that Cllr Colin Kinnear attended the RBL meeting on Friday 19th January 2024. He is pleased to report that a new committee is now in place and does seem to be more settled than in 2023. A point raised in the meeting was a request if the PC can help with printing etc and if the RBL can place their posters for events on the information boards around the village etc. Cllr Kinnear advised that the Parish Council had always offered help and assistance when needed. It just needs the RBL to ask. Cllr Kinnear advised the RBL Committee that he would raise this with the Clerk and fellow councillors at the next meeting and advise what they are asking our help on.

14. PARISH COUNCIL CIVIC AWARDS

Members are advised of the nominations for the Parish Council Civic Awards which will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held on Monday 22nd April. Members are asked to consider nominations as per the Nomination Forms, which have been enclosed in Councillors packs. Details on how to nominate for the Civic Awards are placed on our Website and on our Noticeboards. The closing date for nominations is **Monday 25th MARCH**.

15. ANNUAL ALLOTMENT MEETING

Members are advised that the Annual Meeting of Allotment Holders will be held on Sunday 24th March at 9.30a,m for 10 am start. This will be held at the Parish Hall in Thornwood Common, and all Councillors are welcome.

16. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL NOTIFICATION OF SALE OF PART OF THE AIRFIELD

Members may be aware that Epping Forest District Council's finance and economic development portfolio holder, Cllr John Philip, told a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that the sale of part of North Weald Airfield to Google had been completed. The land has been purchased for the "possible" development of a new data centre campus. Epping Forest District Council has stated that 52 acres of North Weald Airfield had been allocated for employment use and that the airfield would "continue to function as an operational aerodrome", with a new combined control tower and fire station also planned. The council has further stated that this announcement has come after an "extensive consultation" among key local stakeholders and local residents which was carried out in light of the masterplan put together last March. The Clerk and the Chairman met with Darren Goodey, Service Manager Commercial Manager North Weald Airfield, on Thursday 25th February for a short update meeting with regards to the Airfield. It is understood that a Statement will be forthcoming from EFDC confirming details of the area purchased by Google in the next week or so. As soon as this statement is received the Clerk will forward on to Councillors.

17. 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 item to be considered