



MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 2nd September 2019

Time: 7.47PM

Venue: NORTH WEALD LIBRARY, 138 HIGH ROAD, NORTH WEALD

PRESENT:

Councillors (11) A Buckley (Chairman), B Clegg, G Mulliner, A Tyler, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs S Jackman MBE, R Spearman, T Blanks, A Irvine, Ms D Wood, N Bedford

Officers in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to Parish Council

Adriana Jones - Principal Financial Officer (PFO)

Members of the Public (2)

Members of the Press (1)

C19.057 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (2)

Cllrs Eldridge and Cllr Stroud.

C19.058 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

None.

C19.059 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Members **NOTED** there had been one application for the position of Councillor for the Hastingwood Ward, details of which were attached to the agenda. The resident had expressed an interest prior to the July Meeting but was unable to attend that meeting. The Chairman asked Mr Irvine to leave the meeting whilst Councillors discussed his application. Cllr Mrs Grigg advised that she supported Mr Irvine's application, stating that he was involved in the Hastingwood community, had a keen interest in local matters, and she felt he would serve the community well. Cllr Mrs Jackman asked if Mr Irvine would have enough time to attend meetings in light of his busy schedule, to which the Clerk advised she had spoken with Mr Irvine about this matter, and he had advised he would attend Parish Council meetings but may not sit on the Planning Committee at this time, but may do in the future. Councillors **AGREED** that Mr Irvine should be co-opted to the position of Councillor for the Hastingwood Ward. Cllr Irvine was asked to return to the meeting, advised of the decision, after which he signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

C19.060 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 2019 were **AGREED**. There was one error in the Environmental Committee Minutes raised by Cllr Blanks - E19.02 – which should read that Cllr Buckley was elected as Vice Chairman of the Environmental Committee, not Chairman. Subject to this amendment, the Minutes of the Environmental Committee meeting dated 19th June 2019 were **AGREED**. Councillors **NOTED** the Minutes of the Parish Hall at Thornwood Committee Meeting held on the 11th July 2019 and the Minutes of the Queens Hall Charity held on the 3rd July 2019, all of which were attached to the agenda. Cllr Mrs Jackman asked if the

Queens Hall Charity meetings were open to the public and press, to which it was confirmed they were, after which Cllr Mrs Jackman asked that the Parish Council be advised of meeting dates as some members may wish to attend. This was **AGREED** by Cllr Ms Wood,

C19.061 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Spearman declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any agenda item concerning the Local Plan. Cllrs Mulliner, Blanks, Mrs Grigg, and Bedford declared non pecuniary interests in items 12 and 17 by virtue of being members of the RBL. Cllrs Blanks, Ms Wood and Clegg declared non pecuniary interests in any item concerning the Neighbourhood Plan as they are members of the Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee.

C19.062 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed the two members of the public present and read out a statement concerning the time allocated for public questions. One resident addressed the Council regarding the Parish Councils Environmental and Green Policy document which he had downloaded from the Parish Council website. The resident advised there were a number of anomalies in the statements made within the policy, advising he was having difficulty equating these to some of the decisions made by the Parish Council. The resident stated that the policy suggests the Parish Council is looking after the environment, however the Parish Council then goes ahead and approves 475 new homes to be built in a field, the resident stating he could not see how this fits with the said policy. The resident advised that the policy had not been updated in over a year and stated that he was aware the Environmental Committee had met, however the minutes were not on the website, stating that the topics discussed at this committee meeting were very specific. The resident stated that in this modern age, with the Amazon rain forest being absolutely decimated, he is of mind as to this how could he, as a citizen of North Weald Bassett, could make a contribution to the environment of North Weald Bassett. As such, he felt he should attend tonight's meeting and ask the Parish Council to review its Environmental and Green Policy, to clarify the Councils position on what the overall policy of the Council is with regard to sustainability and environmental concerns which are affecting us all. The resident stated that there are tremendous changes happening in the last 12 months that affect us all, and if you look at Village Life you can see there are a number of initiatives taking place looking at the environment, and yet he is mindful of the fact that the airfield is operating with an extremely high level of movement, and he is concerned as to what damage this is causing to air quality in the village. It was different in older days where it was a few heritage planes, and this should be supported, however of late there have been a large number of jet aircrafts. In the next couple of months there will be a 'Jet Fest' at the airfield, and he asked the Parish Council to take note that you cannot fly this amount of jet aircraft, with high levels of jet fuel, dumping these gases all over our village. The resident asked what the view was of the Parish Council regarding this, as looking at the document it seems the Parish Council doesn't have many views on the holistic approach to the village from an Environmental perspective.

The resident confirmed he had contacted EFDC, and the Environmental representative had provided some documents, however they don't really mean that much to us. The residents also referenced the old buses running through the village with their 10L diesel

engines, and that this must have an impact on the environment. The resident again asked the Parish Council to review the policy, update it and bring it into the modern world.

The Chairman confirmed the Council had taken on board the residents' comments.

The resident stated he also had concerns about 5G due to come to the village which he had read about earlier that day, with a tree every 150yard having a repeater box stuck on it.

Cllr Bedford thanked the resident for bringing it to the attention of the Council, and stated that this goes right back to the fact that the Parish Council supports aviation 'full stop' regarding the airfield – this decision being taken some time ago. With regard to the old buses, these are historic vehicles not owned by the Parish Council, and that as historic vehicles they do not have to meet current emission standards. They are banned in London by way of an extra tax, which cannot be implemented in the village. With regard to the Councils green credentials, Cllr Bedford reminded councillors that he is Chairman of the London Green Art Project which extends from London all the way through to North Weald, and he is currently engaging with other district councils around the area in trying to improve green infrastructure ensuring this is a top priority with regard to EFDCs Local Plan. In addition, he is trying to encourage other councils with setting up a wilding area. Cllr Bedford confirmed he would feed anything of importance back to the Parish Council.

Cllr Mulliner suggested this issue should be placed on the next Environmental Committee meeting agenda for further discussion, which will be in September. The Clerk confirmed this would take place. The Clerk also reminded members that the Airfield belongs to EFDC, and it is up to EFDC what functions they put on at the airfield. The Chairman advised the resident that the Parish Council would revert back regarding his comments, and asked if he had any further questions, to which the resident stated that he wanted to come back on Cllr Bedford's comments, stating that we don't have time to consult – the rain forests are burning now – pollution is happening now - and that he can see what politicians do with Brexit after three and half years, stating that the environment cannot wait. The resident continued stating that honest, good people are needed to create a policy of sustainability. The resident gave an example, stating that in front of each Councillor was a wad of papers, and suggested Councillors should relate this paperwork back to a tree, asking how many trees it takes for Councillors each month to generate so much waste. There are ipads and technology which should be considered, and the resident stated he couldn't see many councillors with smart equipment which would save a lot of energy and time if the Parish Council was to provide each Councillor with an ipad. The Chairman stated that he was pretty sure that there would then be complaints from residents that the Council were spending money on 15 ipads.

The Chairman again thanked the resident.

C19.063 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Councillors **NOTED** the Clerk's report which was attached to the agenda. The Clerk also advised the local resident who had spoken during the previous agenda item that the

150 hard copy paper newsletters requested by his organisations to be printed by the Council were ready, and asked if he would be kind enough to take them, which he confirmed he would. The resident advised that even though we may make light of it, it is a serious issue.

C19.064 REPORTS AND MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that Cllr Eldridge had been unwell following a recent operation, and his recovery was rather slow, however he was hoping to visit him later this week and will give the regards of Councillors to him. The Village Sign recently sent off for repair is expected to be back within the next two weeks. Thanks were offered to the ladies of the preservation society for their work with maintaining the flower box at this location. A local resident in the public gallery advised that it wasn't only the ladies from the preservation society who maintained this, to which the Chairman confirmed thanks would be given to everybody who maintained it, with a photo being taken once the sign is returned.

b) Vice Chairman's Report - No report

c) District Councillor Reports – Cllr Bedford advised that despite the August shut down, the District Council had been very busy, and advised that there is a current exhibition at Waltham Abbey Museum.

d) County Councillor Reports – No report.

e) Parish Councillors Reports – Cllr Tyler reminded those present of the work undertaken with the Norway House Sunflower Project, and thanked all those involved, including the Clerk for arranging 'goody bags' for the children.

Cllr Blanks advised Councillors of the content of the Cabinet Agenda on 5th September, one of the items being the Councils Housebuilding project, stating that the cost of every single project has been seriously underestimated by between 7-20%. In addition, there is a possibility that EFDC will have to repay the Government millions of pounds that they received initially as they haven't built the houses in time. There are 34 houses being built at Queens Road, and there was an additional cost due to asbestos being found underneath the foundations. Cllr Blanks stated that he was shocked by this and suggested that surely EFDC would have employed experts to investigate this before works were started. Cllr Blanks also advised that there hasn't been a meeting of the Councils Housebuilding Committee for over 6 months. Cllr Blanks stated that the information contained within the agenda made it difficult to clearly establish what the actual figures were, however he would be looking into this and raising it with EFDC.

Cllr Mulliner reported on Environmental matters, confirming that the sign to ask people to stop parking outside the gates to Hastingwood Allotments had now been erected. In addition, there had been a report of theft from these allotments earlier in the day. Cllr Mulliner asked that the issue of commemorative ornaments being placed on graves in the cemetery be placed onto the next Environmental Committee agenda for discussion, as many of the graves are not complying with the Cemetery Policy.

Cllr Spearman advised that the residents at Tudor House in Thornwood had contacted him to state that the fence between their property and the Nature Reserve had been removed, stating that the fence is actually their property. They were not going to take this further, as the fence had actually been replaced with a new fence, however they felt it important to advise the council of this. The Clerk advised this may well have been Countrycare, who recently understood some work at the nature reserve.

Cllr Tyler referenced the theft of the 'girl' statue from the children's area of the Cemetery, stating that he has been asking local people who use this area to remain vigilant. The Chairman advised that there was an item in private session regarding this.

Cllr Clegg advised that the lighting outside Esgors was pointing directly on to the main road and looks like a motorbike coming the opposite way, causing a visual distraction and is a possible safety issue. Cllr Clegg stated that he was sure there were rules about this and asked that this be investigated.

f) Local Plan - The Clerk advised that a full copy of the Inspectors interim report had been circulated to each Councillor the day after publication, with only one person having responded to her. Cllr Bedford confirmed that EFDC now has to complete some additional work. The Clerk stated that there were a number of main modifications included in the interim report and asked if Cllr Bedford was aware of a timescale for the final report, to which Cllr Bedford stated this was unknown at this time. Cllr Mrs Grigg suggested there could be a final report by Spring 2020. Cllr Bedford confirmed he didn't expect there to be any changes for North Weald other than what was already included in the Local Plan.

g) Neighbourhood Plan – This was an individual item further along on the agenda.

h) Queens Hall Report - Cllr Ms Wood reported that everything seemed to be going ok at present, with just some minor issues such as user groups not adhering to the security rules. New CCTV has been installed. A group of youngsters have been smashing glass bottles on the basketball courts at the weekend. There is an issue with people not shutting the gates, and the Charity will be looking at perhaps funding new gates or moving them to their old position as quad bikes are at present able to get through. There was recently a camper in the car park due to somebody not shutting the gate, however after being challenged he swiftly left. The Charity Chairman has sent a letter to the user who regularly leaves the gates open, and it is understood that this user has suggested a caretaker should be employed to take on this task. The next meeting is 12th September 7.15pm, preceded by a walk around on site at 7pm by the Committee.

C19.065 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts - Due to the PFO only returning from annual leave earlier that day, the cheque lists were not available, however would be distributed and uploaded onto the website as soon as they were.

b) **Internal Audit** – It was **NOTED** that the internal auditor would be in attendance on 29th November to conduct the interim audit for 2019/2020.

c) **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** - Once again good progress continues to be made in addressing the filing and GDPR within the filing items both from the storage area within the Library and in the Parish Hall into the Container. However it has been slower during July and August due to staff annual leave. Staff have concentrated on the filing in the Storage Area in the Library addressing the filing in the Nine Concertina Folders which have now been emptied filing from (2015 to 2019).

C19.066 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING / MASTERPLANNING / LOCAL PLAN – A JOINED UP APPROACH

Councillors recalled that the task of Neighbourhood Planning has effectively been passed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, under the watchful eye of the Parish Council appointed Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee. Council has received updates, under members reports, on the progress of Neighbourhood Planning and the Local Plan at each Parish Council meeting over the past two years. Included in these updates have been details of Masterplanning, and the work the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been doing with the Masterplanners on behalf of the residents of North Weald Bassett Parish to ensure that the new developments are designed with as much input from the community as possible. Council recalled that it is a requirement of the Local Plan that the new development proposed for both North Weald Bassett and Latton Priory must be agreed by way of a Masterplan Process.

As was suggested by this agenda item title, each of the planning processes are not completed in isolation, with much overlap and involvement from many different parties. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has worked hard to raise local awareness about all three planning processes – Local Planning / Neighbourhood Planning / Masterplanning – as over the coming 6-12 months it is expected that there will be a flurry of activity by Epping Forest District Council, the Master planners for the Latton Priory Development, the North Weald Housing Development, and possibly the North Weald Airfield employment development, along with possible public events conducted by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and other groups. Unless handled correctly by the parties involved, these will undoubtedly cause confusion amongst the local community – an issue both the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has consistently raised. As such, going forward, there will be a regular item on the Parish Council agenda to advise the Parish Council and local residents of what is happening. It was **NOTED** that it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to publicise any such events, but by placing them on the agenda will give local residents an opportunity to stay involved and informed. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group may also complete their own publicity. The following items were **NOTED / CONSIDERED** by the Parish Council:

- Latton Priory Exhibition – 23rd September 2pm to 9pm – It was **NOTED** that this was a revised date to that published in North Weald Village Life due to a change in date being requested by EFDC. It is thought this is an event at which any member of the public can attend to view the proposals being promoted by Latton Priory Masterplanners.

- Tuesday 3rd and 5th September – Latton Priory Tour & Workshop 1pm to 5pm – Cllrs Blanks, Mrs Grigg and Irvine agreed they would be attending, along with the Clerk and PFO.
- The PFO gave a summary of the work being undertaken to date by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, together with Martin Small, to create a number of draft Neighbourhood Plan policies which will later in the year be presented to the community for comment. Councillors **CONFIRMED** their continued support to the current process and the direction of travel.
- Councillors **NOTED** that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has met with a number of local groups to provide an update on both the Neighbourhood Planning progress to date, Masterplanning and how the groups could work together jointly. Further meetings were due to be held hopefully at the end of September.

C19.067 ECC LIBRARY

The Clerk reminded members that she had been attending meetings concerning the future of libraries, and advised that ECC had issued a statement confirming they would not be closing any libraries in the next 5 years, however stated that they would like to move libraries from their current premises into new premises. This is following the Library briefing on 5th August, where the following was discussed:

Little had been confirmed regarding on how Essex County Council (ECC) envisage North Weald Library going forward.

We could read a lot of 'between the lines' on how we thought the Library and the building would move forward.

However, we could only state what we did know and which that was

- *No ECC Library will close in the 5-year period from the date agreed*
- *The tiering of Libraries has been removed by ECC, so there are no longer Tier 1,2,3 and 4.*
- *ECC will work with Community Groups and Parish Councils who have put in Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to run Community Libraries in those areas where Library use has dropped drastically, or the communities are smaller.*
- *ECC will offer a funding support package as detailed in the previous Briefing Note: £18,000 in total to be paid over 3 years, an initial book stock package, training for volunteers, regular updates of stock.*
- *Service Level Agreement*

What ECC Would Expect Over the Five Years

- *To look to see if the Library could make use of alternative premises, if no alternative premises are available then 5.15 to 5.18 of the Strategy (Property Issues Refers) To be discussed separately on the confidential item*
- *Additional Outreach Services to be run by ECC Staff based on local need*
- *Computers and Internet to be funded from the £18,000 Support Funding*
- *The Community Run Library to Reserve and Collect Essex Libraries Stock from ECC Larger Council Run Libraries on behalf of the Users*
- *Adequate Training of Volunteers DBS Checks etc*
- *To open for at least the minimum amount of hours that the Library is currently open for, at least for the first year of operation, we would therefore need to ensure that we have adequate and competent staffing in place.*

- *After this the Library Opening Hours will be determined on a case by case basis but there will be a minimum number of hours.*
- *There were a number of property issues for discussion which Members AGREED could possibly go forward, all of which are detailed as initial proposals and which are detailed in the Confidential Part of this Meeting.*

There was also discussion regarding

WHAT COULD WE HOUSE IN THE LIBRARY?

- *Individual Workplace Hubs*
- *Citizens Advice Bureau*
- *Police Community Hub*
- *Post Office (If our Post Office was Ever Under Threat)*
- *Meeting Room*
- *Other Ideas?*

The Clerk advised that she recommends the Parish Council continues with their Expression of Interest (EOI) and stated that there were further details regarding this included in the closed session at the end of the meeting. The Clerk further stated that if you look at what ECC expects from those who have submitted an EOI, this includes a commitment of 5 years, during which time ECC will provide funding of £18,000 given over a three year period. Some volunteers would still need to be involved, and appropriate DBS checks undertaken. For the first year, ECC would expect libraries to be open the same hours as they are currently open, then timings etc would be determined on a case by case basis after this. Cllr Bedford suggested a local health centre, and possibly a nurse practitioner offering blood pressure monitoring services and advice on health and wellbeing could be housed in the library. Cllr Tyler extended this to include mental health services. The Chairman stated that these ideas, together with the ideas included within the agenda, are all reasonable considerations, however at this stage the Council is really in the hands of ECC with further updates awaited. The Clerk advised that a further update is not expected until around Christmas time.

AGREED Future Update Meeting: Monday 21st October – following Planning Committee meeting.

C19.068 VE DAY CELEBRATIONS – 75 YEARS 2020

Members **NOTED** the content of the letter attached to the agenda regarding the national VE Day celebrations taking place in May 2020. In addition, the Clerk had received an email from EFDC regarding these celebrations, an extract of which is detailed below:

“Following the Government decision to move next year’s early May Bank Holiday from Monday 4th to Friday 8 May, a preliminary meeting was called by the Chairman of Epping Forest District Council with officers to discuss the implications for the VE Day anniversary celebrations which follow Parish/Town, District and Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner elections on Thursday 7 May. The government has published some initial guidance around the kind of events being planned at national and local level including:

- *the Nation’s Toast, where over 20,000 pubs will encourage patrons to raise a glass to the Heroes of World War II*

- *bagpipers playing the traditional Battle's O'er at the top of the 4 highest peaks in the UK – Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England, Mount Snowdon in Wales, and Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland*
- *bells in churches and cathedrals across the country joining forces in a special Ringing Out for Peace*
- *local street parties and celebrations across the 3-day weekend*
Other elements are likely to include religious services on Sunday, proclamations by town criers and local bagpipers.

As you would expect, from a District Council perspective, we are planning to focus on North Weald Airfield and its military heritage. Taking account of the requirements to deliver the elections over the same Bank Holiday weekend, we are planning to involve local groups on, around and associated with the airfield in as much of the VE Day celebrations as we can. However, VE Day celebrations are expected to reach across the district as part of the national events and we anticipate that Town and Parish Councils will wish to hold your own events along with other organisations and community groups. The Chairman of Epping Forest District Council is anxious that all of us should share our plans and aspirations as they develop so that we may cooperate and coordinate our various activities as much as possible. I would therefore be most grateful if you could let me know whether your Council intends to participate in the VE Day celebrations, and if so, what plans such as street parties or other community events you are developing. Next May seems quite a long way off, but as all of us with experience know, time will slip by far too quickly."

Members **NOTED** that in addition to this, Ongar Town Council has reached out to this Parish Council and asked the Council to share with them details of what Celebrations we maybe undertaking.

The Chairman stated that the District Council is looking at what we can do as a community to take part in the VE Day celebrations on the Airfield, and asked Councillors if they had any suggestions or ideas about how the Parish Council celebrate this occasion. The Chairman also advised that the date of the may-day bank holiday was being moved next year to the following Friday to accommodate the VE Day celebrations. Cllr Ms Wood suggested that perhaps something could be done at the memorial playing fields, with tables and food. Cllr Mrs Jackman suggested the Parish Council could just join the District Council celebrations at the Airfield. Cllr Bedford advised that the District have started work on how to celebrate this event, with a number of different ideas suggested including establishing if there are any living veterans in the area and inviting them to a Civic function. In addition, he believes Ongar may be considering a Street Party in the High Street, and suggested North Weald and Ongar Councils to liaise so as to not hold an event on the same day. Cllr Tyler suggested speaking with EOR to see if they plan to run any events. Cllr Bedford suggested some type of memorial event incorporating the Museum. Cllr Mrs Grigg asked if the Clerk had liaised with Arthur Moreton to establish if anything was being arranged with the Norwegians. It was **AGREED** that Councillors should advise the Clerk before the November meeting of their ideas.

C19.069 TWINNING

In recognition of this Parish's close ties with Norway, Members were asked to **CONSIDER** the possible twinning with a town close to the Royal Norwegian Airforce

Squadrons' home (close to the arctic circle) in Norway. This is also in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Norwegian Airforce. Cllr Bedford advised that the Norwegian Airforce were moving from Bodo, further south, and that perhaps discussion could take place as to if the village of North Weald could be twinned perhaps with the Squadrons rather than a town, in case there is a further move. The Chairman stated that that he had raised this with Captain Christen, who was in favour of some form of twinning, and that perhaps that conversation needed to be picked up again. Councillor Bedford advised that this would be a nice project between now and VE Day. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should move forward with these ideas and establish if there was a way forward.

C19.070 RESIDENTS SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Clegg provided an update on the current speedwatch programme being undertaken in the three villages in the Parish. Members recalled that whilst not a Parish Council initiative, the speed gun was purchased by the Parish Council with Parish funds. Cllr Clegg advised that the most interesting thing to come out of the speed watch surveys that had been conducted to date was that people's perception of speed didn't necessarily equate to speeding vehicles. Three surveys had been conducted in Hastingwood, and not a single vehicle had been caught speeding along either Mill Street or Foster Street. Cllr Irvine asked if Hastingwood Road had been surveyed yet, to which Cllr Clegg stated that permission had not yet been granted for this road, however he was challenging this with the Community Speedwatch Team. With regard to the North Weald speedwatch sessions, there was a recent police presence in the village which resulted in 1 arrest for drugs, 40 for not wearing a seat belt, 20 speeding, 2 careless driving, and 2 other offenses. Cllr Clegg confirmed that the North Weald group had been out many times in the High Road, and from what he understood they had received quite a lot of abuse from drivers. However, the number of speeding vehicles recorded has dropped from the first session to the last one.

Cllr Clegg advised that the other interesting issue is the volume of traffic recorded along the High Road in Thornwood, with 500 vehicle movements each way recorded in 1 hour on a Sunday morning, however none of them speeding. Woodside is a different story, with 14% of vehicles using this road on a Friday between 7.30am and 8.30am speeding, at over 36MPH. The 'White Van Man' coming out top, with 20% speeding.

Cllr Clegg stated that these were early stats, but that this is jogging people's memories to actually do something with Speed watch, and this has actually resulted in the Police attending and carrying out their own speed surveys which they haven't done for some time.

It was noted that the Parish Council has counters to measure traffic flow. The Chairman stated that the issue with speeding through the Z-bends in North Weald is still prevalent. Cllr Ms Wood asked if there were any stats from the Speed Camera in North Weald.

Cllr Mrs Grigg asked that formal thanks were recorded to all those volunteers involved in the speedwatch programme.

C19.071 FLAG FLYING

Cllr Bedford **AGREED** that he was happy to continue erecting the necessary flags on a temporary basis, with the Chairman advising he would assist where necessary. It was

AGREED to place a notice in Village Life to see if a local resident would be willing to assist with this task.

C19.072 MICROGRANT APPLICATION

Councillors **NOTED** that the Council had received £500 from CIF via Essex Association of Local Councils as a grant towards the Sunflower Project at Norway House and towards a small garden to help those in the temporary accommodation get together and join in an inclusive gardening project together with their children. The Chairman has been very involved in meetings with the staff at Norway house and Cllr Tyler has been very supportive in donating the sunflowers and has also donated a voucher for the tallest / best sunflower. The funds were also used to paint some play area equipment and install some hanging baskets. Once the sunflowers have died, the garden can be extended and there can be an afterschool vegetable growing club. Some further painting is still needed, and one of the residents has a contact who may be willing to paint some murals, perhaps of planes as links to the airfield. The Chairman confirmed that the team at Norway House are extremely grateful with the work that has been done. The Chairman reminded Councillors that in October he would be passing round an envelope for donations for the Norway House Children's Christmas party.

C19.073 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Members were advised that a short meeting to discuss the Parish Council's service at the Debt of Honour and Norwegian Stone was held on 31st July, and at that meeting Members decided that a few 'minor tweaks' should be made to the service for this year. A copy of the notes of the meeting were attached to the agenda. Members **AGREED** to the recommended changes to this years service according to the notes, which included changes to who reads out the wreath laying order and those who bring their own wreaths without advising the Council being advised they can lay their wreaths at the end of the service. The Clerk confirmed she had met with the Royal British Legion (RBL) a few weeks earlier following the death of Cllr Bartram with regard to the service at the memorial in St Andrews Church Yard to establish if the RBL needed any assistance. No response had been received at this time.

It was also **NOTED** that Arthur Moreton, the Parish Councils current Airfield and Norwegian Historical Co-Ordinator, has advised that due to ill health he wishes to reduce his current airfield involvement and has approached Cllr Andy Tyler regarding him being a possible replacement in the near future. Members **AGREED** that Cllr Tyler take on this role if so required, and in agreement with Arthur Moreton.

C19.074 MEETING WITH ECC HIGHWAY OFFICER

Members were advised that the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Clerk met with an ECC Local Highways Officer to discuss a number of issues within the Parish, as per the list attached to the agenda, which also detailed the response from the Highways Officer. The Clerk confirmed she had again emphasised the importance of remarking the mini roundabout by Wellington Road, and had raised this with ECC Cllr Jackson, who will also be pushing for this. Cllr Jackson had been advised that this work wasn't essential. Cllr Tyler stated he felt it was appalling that this was the response from ECC, and he now doesn't turn right into Wellington Road on this roundabout due to how dangerous it is. The Chairman also raised the issue of Belisha Beacons by the shops, stating that in sunlight you simply cannot see them, and suggested a circular halo be

installed. Cllr Clegg advised that the response concerning the speeding in Woodside clearly is contradictory to the recent speedwatch work undertaken along that stretch, suggesting the response was absolute rubbish, asking the Clerk to provide ECC with the speedwatch statistics. Cllr Spearman suggested the 'smiley faces' speed signs could be a good idea, however the Clerk advised that the battery in these needed to be changed every 8 days which wasn't practical.

C19.075 PLAY EQUIPMENT

Members recalled that the Parish Council had received CIF & Tesco grant funding for two Play Areas - Thornwood Common and Memorial Playing Field. Members asked the Clerk to review the proposed pieces of equipment to go in both places, and a further quote for different equipment was attached to the agenda. Members reviewed this equipment and **AGREED** that the rotating rope climber should be installed at both the School Green Lane Play Area and the Thornwood Play area. Members **NOTED** that there would also be a similar price to install the necessary wet pour underneath. The Clerk confirmed that in addition to the CIF / Tesco funding, further funding via the Brent House Farm S106 monies would also be used, so there would be no expense to residents.

C19.076 PARKING RESTRICTIONS – PIKE WAY & TEMPEST MEAD & STATION ROAD TRO SCHEME NOMINATION OCTOBER 2019

EFDC is writing to consult the Parish Council regarding parking restriction scheme(s) being proposed within this area. The schemes will be implemented by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). Although the scheme nomination is the responsibility of the District Council, the Cabinet at Epping Forest has agreed to consult with Town and Parish Councils on schemes that are high on NEPP priority ranking. As part of the consultation process, they are now writing to the Parish Council on behalf of the District Portfolio Holder for Safer, Greener and Transport to seek views on the scheme proposed. Details were attached the agenda. These will be presented to the next NEPP Committee meeting on 3rd October 2019. These are subject to the Parish Council's comments / approval. Members considered the following:

Comments from EFDC : Schemes for ward Member/Town/Parish Council consultation:

- 1) Tempest Mead/ Station Road North Weald – proposed waiting restriction to deter weekday parking. This is a scheme from 2014 with a request from one resident. There is no Resident support or Ward Member and Parish Council Support. No further correspondence has been received regarding this scheme, so therefore maybe thought should be given to not nominating this scheme as we only get 6 allotted schemes a year and maybe removing from the scheme list. (NEPP Score 25 out of 100)
- 2) Pike Way, North Weald – Proposed parking restriction to deter parking by care home workers This is a scheme from 2012 with a request from one resident. There is no residential support or Ward Member or Parish Council support. No further correspondence has been received regarding this scheme. Thought should be given to not nominating the scheme as we only get 6 schemes a year and maybe removing from the scheme list. (NEPP score 22 out of 100)

Once a scheme is approved by the NEPP Committee on 3rd October 2019 further action can then be taken. This will include an informal consultation by NEPP with the residents, the results of which will inform the formal consultation (required by law)

this will then enable the preparation of a traffic order for the proposed restrictions. Once the traffic order is approved it will be advertised locally and it is only afterwards that actual physical measures (signs and yellow lines) can be implemented. It will be possible to obtain a timescale for implementation when the preparatory work has begun.

Councillors **AGREED** to respond advising that they did not support either of the proposed schemes, due to such poor scores and residential support.

C19.077 CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY - 125 YEARS OF PARISH COUNCILS

Parish Councils are the first tier of Local Government and were created by statute in 1894. This year it is 125 years celebration of the Local Councils sector. Back when Parish Councils celebrated 100 years of the Sector many Councils held exhibitions and events. It is up to each individual Council if they want to celebrate. This is an important milestone for Local Councils and the EALC hope that all Essex Parish, Town, Village & Community Councils will celebrate this historic moment. Councillors considered ways in which this could be celebrated, and it was **AGREED** that the Agenda heading for the next meeting would include a 'celebrating 125 years of parish councils' heading, and that this would also be included in North Weald Village Life.

C19.078 DATES FOR MEMBERS DIARIES

Members **NOTED** the following:

- **Tuesday 3rd September** – Latton Priory Tour & Workshop 1pm to 5pm – 1 Councillor from each ward to attend
- **Thursday 5th September** Latton Priory Workshop – 1pm to 5pm – 1 Councillor from each ward to attend
- **Monday 23rd September** – Latton Priory Exhibition – 2pm to 9pm **Revised Date**
- **Sunday 15th September** – Invitation to attend RAFA Service at Cross of Sacrifice at St Andrews Church – 10.40am for 11am start.
- **EALC AGM – 19th September**. Folkes hall in Dunmow. ECC also present. Cllr Mrs Jackson advised she would appreciate members support.

C19.079 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Clerk confirmed she would be dealing with the vandalism at the Cemetery under this item as it is to do with a contract. As the agenda contained Exempt (pink) pages, the Chairman asked that the public and 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. A resident in the public gallery refused to leave, and stated that he wanted to know what the Council would be discussing, to which the Clerk advised that he couldn't as this was under a confidential item. The resident advised that he didn't care what the Council thought or what the Clerk told him, as what he was told was nonsense anyway, stating that the Parish Council was running an inconsistent set of rules, as when Cllr Harris was elected the public were asked to leave the meeting, however when Cllr Irvine was just elected he was not asked to leave. The resident stated that if you (it was unclear this was directed to a specific member or the Council generally who were being referred to) have the ill manners to think that they can come up with whatever scheme they want, and put their hands in his pocket and get him to fund it then you will be challenged. The resident

advised that he was sat at the meeting listening to somebody talking about having a nurse practitioner, stating he pays his tax and NHS, and that now the Parish Council were going to also fund this. The resident asked the Clerk if she found this funny, to which the Clerk advised she did not, reminding the resident that the members of the public and press present had just been asked to leave as the Council were discussing an item in closed session. The resident asked the Clerk who she thought she was, stating that he was not going to have some low level public servant talk to him. The Clerk reiterated that the resident had just been asked to leave, which the resident advised he would not be leaving. The Chairman advised the resident that if would not leave, then the meeting would be closed. The Chairman closed the meeting.

The Chairman reopened the meeting 15 minutes later, after the resident had left the building.

C19.079 NORTH WEALD LIBRARY

Members **AGREED** to instruct Mass & Co to undertake a valuation of North Weald Library.

C19.080 VANDLAISM AT CEMETERY

Members **AGREED** to instruct the relevant parties to look at possible CCTV.

Meeting closed: 9.17pm

Signed

Date