

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF THAXTED PARISH HELD ON
THURSDAY 14th March 2024 AT 7:30 PM IN THE DAY CENTRE**

Present:

Councillors: Andy Frater (Chairman) Alison Howell, Jenna Perkins, Ray Williams, Antionette Wattebot, Alex Young, Theresa Egan, Jo Herbert

District Cllrs: Martin Foley (representing County Council)
Richard Haynes

Also present: D Oxley (Clerk & RFO)
Michael Culkin CLT
Kate CA
PC Twitchett
SC Hall
28 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Victoria Knight (vice-Chair)

Cllr Terry Frostick

Cllr Nick Weakley

2. To receive and approve as a correct record, the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on 2023

Resolved to Approve the minutes of the last annual parish meeting held on 22nd March 2023, having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Reports for the Chairs

4 Talks from Uttlesford Citizens Advice

Kate joins to talk about a quiet charity that works hard behind the scenes, how we serve Thaxted 10% face to face in saffron Walden Stanstead Great Dunmow, we come to the CIC in Thaxted if they are unable to access us. 50% we serve over the telephone and around 35% will be served through email lastly, some clients still wish to use letters and we do still respond in writing. We also have a video link which is situated in the Library so if anyone wishes to speak to us simply ask in the library and a laptop will be provided, click the link and a friendly advisor will be waiting. In terms of demographics, on paper we are in an affluent area, however, these are the actual stats or a flavour of them.

Blue badge and hospital transportation, attendance allowance and benefits help, an Air Fryer ordered, alleged child abuse, applying for UDC housing register, assistance for letters to increase rent, calls for DWP allowance, Universal Credit support, joint tenancy debt, homecare fees, county council judgement, challenging UVC overpayment. Clothing bank referral, foodbank, council housing arrear and PIP, Deceased liability for death, DLA, downsizing grants, writing to MP's. Utility bill reviews, expert advice, debt relief orders, exploitation, low NHS income, homelessness, free socks, sheltered accommodation, issues with Wills, McMillan work, winter fuel payment, immigration advice, redundancy, maternity leave.

We have between 60-70 volunteers, and we occasionally receive wonderful words of thanks, reading a card we received, its an absolute honour to be able to provide the level of support and a real opportunity to give something back and see how others in the district live. Now open to questions.

5 Talks from Tri-Service rural community officer

Adrea and Janet.

Tri-Service is a pilot role, and we work closely with the Ambulance (who we are currently in talks with), or another NHS supplier, working also closely with the Police, during home visits, it gives us the opportunity to pick up on vulnerability which may place the resident at risk, signposts to different agencies or give intel to the police if necessary. The support also goes as far as replacing a pair of slippers, to avoid trips and falls, or signposting to other volunteers such as dog walking services. Community engagement is an important service bringing people together, we do lots of walks and

Chairman Signature

talks, and set up other initiatives such as the Bleed Kits, however, this isn't for stabbings, this is for anything which is classed as a catastrophic bleed, this kit can save a life, there is one at the Star, our aim is to have them all in the Defib Cabinets that are around the town. Every Tuesday from 10-12 there are professionals to come to speak to give advice on a number of topics such as Domestic Violence, and Defib awareness, this is a free service so please do pop along starting on the 26th March at Pams Place in collaboration with PC Twitchett.

Community Speed Watch, Vision Zero is an international aim and objective to support zero road Deaths or fatalities or serious injuries by 2040 SERP (Safer Essex Roads Partnership) all partners are working together for this one aim. One road death economically costs £1.4m and a serious injury costs £269k so many people are affected by one incident. Essex Police has a dedicated colleague who deals with community speed issues and another officer who is also dedicated one day a month, right now we have 106 groups. Essex Highways, two main colleagues who conduct risk assessments training and delivery equipment and are purely there to support speed watch, not to discuss potholes! The steering group meets every month and issues are raised across the County.

What is Community Speed watch, this is delivered by trained volunteers within the community, they monitor the speed of motorists who are exceeding the speed limit, some of the devices are over 15 years old and are no longer economical to repair, following from the event, the information is compiled and the motorists will receive a warning letter. The point of the speed watch is to inform the motorists who are travelling through the village and are there to educate people on the speed and the tragedy that speeding causes.

Voices of the community often report 'you need to be out more' but when asked to join it often met with 'we're too busy' It's a fine balance.

6 community policing team

PC Keely Twitches our PCSO reports on 2023-24 crime is on par with last year, Arson is down, Essex Police did arrest someone who had committed 21 offences and serving time, Burglary has gone down and a significant arrest has been made and time is being served, to note however Burglary is up in Great Dunmow so we do need to be vigilant, don't leave your car keys next to your door, if you've got a digital keyless car pop it in a tamper proof pouch and do please leave a light on when you go out. If you see a suspect vehicle please report it, need proper info. Criminal damage is up, including vandalism graffiti ketchup on a bench, the youth of Thaxted ha been engaged with and we regularly visit the youth club.

How to report

For emergencies 999

Call 101 – however, the wait times are very bad

Web chat on the Essex police website

An anonymous form

UDC Facebook page

In relation to speeding, we do have a Tru-Cam in UDC which catches them speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and using their phone, the camera records the activity, and no one has to pull them over,

7 update from CLT

Michael Culklin reports on the CLT, Thaxted is the first and only CLT in UDD, its purpose is to provide Low-Cost community Housing and in some ways you can compare it to a mini housing association, however its slightly broader as it can also deal with land as well as housing, our first step is to develop the land which we have now signed the lease on along the Bardfield Road, with our assistance with our partners English Rural we aim to provide 4 new affordable homes for Thaxted. We must first attain planning permission and we hope to reach this stage by the end of this month, as we are a not-for-profit organisation we are hopeful of support from the community and we are already supported by the Parish Council who are vital in the conception of this project, much of this can be found online and by our Facebook page, the simplest way to find out about us is to by a nominal share in the CLT. I had hoped that we may secure further sites that may be suitable for very small development and we hope to be able to support other areas such as sports fields and we are currently working with the Thaxted Rangers in trying to support a new site for the club, we are very keen to hear from land owners who may be able to help and there may also be Tax benefits to this type of support as well as the good feeling that comes with helping your community. It is essential that you register your interest with the relevant partners if you want to be considered for any of the upcoming properties.

Chairman Signature

8 To receive questions from residents relating to matters connected to or affecting the parish of Thaxted

Meeting Closed 21:28

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Chairman Signature