

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 at 8pm in the Guildhall**

**Present:** Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), A Frater (Vice Chairman), J Spencer, A Howells, R Barrington, A Wattebot, I Stewart,

Also Present:

Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO)

UDC Councillor M Taylor

2 members of the Public

**19/20.565 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

County Cllr Simon Walsh

District Cllr Martin Foley

Cllr R Williams

Cllr D Morgan

Cllr V Knight

Prior to commencing with our meeting this council would like to recognise the passing of Pam Stevens, some of you on this council may remember Pam as being a stalwart of this council as our Clerk and the instigator of the Towns first Tourism Centre.

**19/20.566 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None Received

**19/20.567 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

To receive public representations from residents of Thaxted for matters relating to the agenda for a period not exceeding ten minutes.

Cllr Jon spencer wishes to acknowledge as a member of the public that Sara Carruthers Practice Manager at the Thaxted surgery will be retiring at the end of April, and as a pivotal Member of this community wished to inform the Parish Council of this. The Chairman acknowledges that we are ever grateful that the surgery has been able to remain here in Thaxted.

**19/20.568 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

We have now got a real time air quality monitor which is located at the pharmacy, this will tell us hour to hour on the air particulates, we are only one of two areas who have these, the other is Takeley.

Regarding the Local Plan, the LGA briefings are being cancelled and Martin and I are seeking other ways on how we should vote on the local plan. The Chairman reports on the 26 villages who are not to receive houses as these villages don't meet the criteria are being discriminated against, the chairman hopes that an approach to the local plan will be as a fresh document and not to discount any villages as there may be some viability to accept building on brownfield sites if appropriate. The Council spoke out in connection to agreeing with the chairman by making good use of brownfield sites although there is an understanding how this may work in connection to sustainability and transport links.

**19/20.569 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

(See Attached)

Cllr Wattebott wished to comment on the Flooding along the B1051 near entrance to Horham Hall (Armigers Farm), There is urgent need to clear the culvert which runs under the road, Cllr Wattebott reports having been a resident for over 25 years this has never been rodded by the council, this is a preventative measure urgently required and this culvert is the responsibility of Essex County Council and therefore wishes to ask our County Councillor to take the necessary remedial steps.

**19/20.570 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on **6<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Chairman Signature:

**19/20.571 PLANNING**

*During the planning section of any full council meeting, a member/member's of the Neighbourhood Plan delivery group, (if present) will be invited to join the council table for participation, one vote may be cast in accordance to the Committee's terms of reference.*

Peter Neal moved to take the seat at the table on behalf of the Neighbourhood plan delivery group.

**a. UTT/20/0357/HHF**

**PROPOSAL:** Replacement single storey rear extension, new pitched roof to side, changes to fenestration and insertion of rooflights. Internal alterations.

**LOCATION:** Peggy's Cottage Park Street

**RESOLVED to SUPPORT**

**b. UTT/20/0500/HHF**

**PROPOSAL:** Proposed change of design to link extension between main dwelling and larger extension approved under UTT/18/1532/HHF.

**LOCATION:** Willow Corner Bardfield End Green

**RESOLVED to SUPPORT**

**19/20.591 FINANCE**

**a) To Note and Approve the Councils Gross income, expenditure and EMR balances.**

**b) To review online payment for Approval**

**RESOLVED To SIGN and APPROVE** the online payments as detailed for approval.

**19/20.592 BOLFORD STREET CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT**

To **NOTE** and **CONSIDER** the revised change of speed limit along a designated portion of Bolford Street.

No objections were received.

Cllr Spencer would like an update on the progress of the proposed speed amendments along the Samford road which were passed to be implemented last year. The Clerk will seek to find out what the delay is and report back.

**19/20.593 WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

To receive an update from the following working groups to include the latest meetings dates, discussion points and considered activities.

**I. Library working group**

District Cllr Taylor reports that none of the library's in Uttlesford have expressed an interest in becoming a Community led library. There are some concerns about how the library's will be maintained and keeping the standards of our library. SOLE (Save Our Library's Essex) took a stronger approach and wanted every library to have clubs with various variety's. Cllr Frater asked when writing to Essex County Council can we also ascertain what their budgets are.

**II. Prevention of Crime working group**

Cllr Barrington reports: As you are aware, I have been trying to arrange a meeting with Sgt Simon Miah of the Community Involvement Team. I emailed him suggesting an evening meeting on a Monday or a Tuesday. Having not received a reply I called Essex Police and found that he was on annual leave. A message was left for him to call me on his return, which he did last Saturday. It was perhaps a bit ambitious, but a meeting was arranged for this Tuesday, 3 March. Unfortunately, I was unable to get confirmation from my colleagues that they could attend, and the meeting had to be postponed. This was unfortunate, but I'm sure the meeting can easily be arranged.

I have spoken to Derrick Giffin the Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. NhW works best in small neighbourhoods where the coordinator can really get to know the members of the local scheme. Mr Giffin assures me that we did have some such small NhW groups in Thaxted and he will provide any details he still holds.

**III. CLT Update from the Clerk**

The Clerk is pleased to report that we are now a fully constituted body and have been awarded the seal by the financial conduct authority.

Matters to consider moving forward would be to locate a bank separate to that which the parish council use for all future income and expenditure, there are some who specialise in this and I am seeking some recommendations from a fellow clerk. The Clerk will discuss the Existing Rialtas package and its ability to host the accounts separately.

Cllr Stewart reports that we have spoken to the owner of the land adjacent to the existing site, this meeting took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, having not heard from this person we are proceeding to look at plans and how to move this forward, including future land ownership and the rent agreement which may be leased for 125 years.

The Chairman proposes that this land be loaned on a peppercorn lease to the CLT, seconded by Cllr Stewart, this is **RESOLVED** with unanimous agreement.

#### IV. Mosscotts Meadow Working Group:

Cllr Howells reports on the work undertaken at the meadow and that we have a community event planned on the upcoming Bank Holiday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, this will be a community wild flower planting event and all are welcome, The Clerk has applied for a small grant to help support this event. We've just been offered some free trees by Rye street motor group; Cllr Howells suggests around 25/30 trees to replacement those we've naturally lost. The Council agrees, the clerk and Cllr Howells will progress this matter.

#### 19/20.594 CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE CLERK: *The clerks provides a verbal report on the following items:*

- a) **RESOLVED** an appropriate action for weed control at Stoney lane is left with the Clerk.
- b) **RESOLVED** to support the clerks request that the Thaxted Rangers address the urgent disconnection of the electrics in connection to the recent fallen light pole.
- c) To **NOTE** the Licencing committee update in connection to the - **Indian Villa** - is as follows – *“The application was heard by Members this morning but part way through the application was withdrawn. This does not mean that the premises will close: there is nothing to stop them continuing to trade as an unlicensed restaurant whether with or without a change of management, and nor can we guarantee that another application will not be made in the future. I am sorry that this rather leaves things in the air, but if there are continuing concerns please don't hesitate to contact the Council or the Police.”*
- d) To **APPROVE** the level of remedial planned works required from the provisional quotation received from Wickstead in connection to playgroup equipment at the recreation ground.
- e) The council Reviewed the current collection of Market Monies, The Clerk Explained the process. Cllr Frater reminded the council of a meeting recently where the suggestion to digitalise this was also discussed and had thought this was already in place, the Clerk explained that this was not the favoured option from the market managers perspective. The Council considered this and the decision to bring this back under the control of an employee of the Parish Council was favoured.  
**RESOLVED** That the Market Management and collection of market Rent should be brought back in house, controlled by an employee of the Parish Council or delegated volunteer.

#### 19/20.595 WINDMILL LEASE

To Consider any changes to the new windmill lease and **APPROVE** the final lease details.

The Parish Council are not minded to amend the lease.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the lease in its current format only, any advice that a third party connected to these matters may wish to obtain must be sought at their expense.

#### 19/20.596 CHAIRMAN'S and VICE CHAIRMANS UPDATE

The Chairman discussed a recent communication from Uttlesford and Local Parishioners around the naming of a road/lane, the location of this is just off Park street and was once known as 'The Worthings'. The Chairman asked if for any reason this name couldn't be reinstated as over time this has waned, this received no objection and the Clerk will proceed in informing Uttlesford that we are happy for 'Worthing lane' to be used for this area.

The Vice Chairman asked the council to consider the Merits of becoming a Town Council with a view to put this to a vote in our upcoming April meeting. Richard Haynes reports that Between 1556 and 1685 Thaxted was once a Town, this all ended in a court case and eventually the charter was removed from them. Richard proclaims that's is almost expected that council tax would rise, and should we become a Town this may have significant implication in regard to

new dwellings, e.g. 650 -750 new dwellings verses that which a village would have, this of course is opinion and speculative no facts can be drawn from this statement and further research must be take place.

Cllr Frater explained that the 'Town Charter' is now not necessary when deciding upon the term, 'Parish, or 'Town' the only significant change to this is the 'Town' would have a Mayor, the statutory obligations and powers do not change in fact, to change our status to a 'Town' from a 'Parish' only requires a resolution by the Council. Cllr Wattebott proposes that we leave this until after the Local Plan has been resolved. Cllr Barrington is concerned about the statement made by Richard, and would like not to rush this, we want to consider this for a period of time and do this in a considered way, we must have the full information to hand before we are able to vote. Cllr Stewart agreed that to rush this would be inconsiderate. It is decided that we shall gather factual information for a further informed debate at next months meeting, this may include involving the wider populous and creating some engaging newsletters for gather other opinions once we have the facts.

#### **19/20.597 THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

It is proposed to consider the format of the upcoming Annual Parish Assembly, the Clerk reminds the Council that this is as assembly of the Parishioners and Councillors are asked to mingle with their parish. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk will simply coordinate the meeting.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING (s) – for information only: the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the Day Centre. The Next FULL COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020, in the Guildhall.**