



THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8th April 2021 at 8 pm VIA Zoom

In accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020, c. 7, Part 1, Local authority meetings, Section 78 – Members are permitted to be present and attend a meeting without being present in the Council Chamber or together in the same place - extract from this Act reads: “The provision which may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(d) includes in particular provision for persons to attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in, local authority meetings without all of the persons, or without any of the persons, being together in the same place.”

Present: Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), A Frater (Vice Chairman) V Knight, A Howells, R Williams, R Barrington, A Wattebot, D Morgan, J Perkins

Also Present: Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO)

County Cllr Simon Walsh

District Cllrs: Martin Foley & Mike Taylor

Richard Haynes & Peter Neal from the Local Plan committee

2 members of the Public

19/20.777 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Spencer

19/20.778 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING APPLICANTS FOR CO-OPTION

1) To Co-opt to the vacant position from the resignation of Ian Stewart

Cllr Knight nominated Jenna Perkins seconded by Andy Frater

2) to NOTE the resignation of Colin Michael

3) To NOTE the vacancy created from the resignation of Colin Michael and that this will now be a co-opted position

19/20.779 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Williams declares a NPI item 19/20.791

19/20.780 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

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

19/20.781 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

(See reports attached)

Cllr knight wishes to re-raise a point made in connecting carver barracks with a cycle track, Cllr Mike Taylor having heard Cllr Knights summary is very interested in pursuing this, Cllr Walsh responded by addressing this is possible and an LHP request should be made, Cllr Walsh shall make contact with the Clerk in order to bring this to life. It was noted that in linking this cycle way, this may well be instrumental in providing evidence for further housing?

As part of the discussion there is a desire from the District Cllrs to reduce the speed limit through Town Street, Cllr Ralph Barrington will liaise with Cllr Foley and Taylor in order to bring this to life.

The Chairman wishes to ask our district Cllrs if there is an update in connection to the Day centre, Cllr Tayler reported he would be on a Task force group and would make sure Thaxted had a voice.

19/20.782 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

See reports attached

Chalky meadow is still a live issue and Cllr Walsh is trying to come to some arrangements with Essex County Council and is trying to navigate a way through this. The Chairman suggests that the area be passed to the Parish Council, as ECC did with the Conservation Garden, Cllr Walsh would be happy to consider this as an option.

Cllr Frater wishes to discuss Charging points in connection to where and when. The Chairman requests that Margaret Street car park could be considered as a location for such points.

19/20.783 MINUTES

RESOLVED To **APPROVE** and **DIGITALLY** sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th March 2021

19/20.784 COMMITTEE MINUTES

To **NOTE** the minutes of the Personnel committee held on the 12th March 2021

19/20.785 PLANNING

During the planning section of any full council meeting, a member/members of the Local Plan 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.

To better support the response of planning applications through the Parish Council during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Clerk shall inform all members of applications received, invitation to comment will be presented through email, where all responses will be collated, The Clerk, together with the Chairman of the Planning Committee will formulate the majority response to the District Council Planning Portal. In the event of any new dwelling application, a decision to hold a remote zoom meeting will be made at the discretion of the Chairman of the Council.

1) UTT/21/0783/HHF

PROPOSAL: Removal of the existing conservatory and reconstruction with a clay tile roof and black feather edge boarding

LOCATION: 11 The Maltings Thaxted

RESOLVED to **SUPPORT**

2) UTT/21/0863/FUL

PROPOSAL: New access driveway and parking area

LOCATION: Room 7 Ct Productions Hammer Hill Studio Hammer Hill Farm

RESOLVED to **NEITHER OBJECT OR SUPPORT**

3) UTT/21/0964/HHF

PROPOSAL: Erection of two storey front and single storey rear extensions. Insertion of 2 no. windows to east side elevation

LOCATION: 1 Townfield Bardfield Road

RESOLVED to **MAKE NO COMMENT**

4) UTT/21/0940/LB

PROPOSAL: Internal alterations to divide the utility area into a shower room, wine room and utility by adding an internal stud wall between the garage and workshop.

LOCATION: Freemans Farm Bardfield Road

RESOLVED to SUPPORT

5) UTT/21/0574/HHF

PROPOSAL: Proposed rear conservatory.

LOCATION: 63 Weaverhead Close Thaxted

RESOLVED to SUPPORT

6) UTT/21/0926/FUL

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing barn to provide two semi-detached dwellings attached to approved conversion of farmyard and amendment to approved design of one plot (planning permission UTT/18/2055/FUL).

LOCATION: Cutlers Green Farm Cutlers Green

RESOLVED to OBJECT on the following Grounds:

The previous approved application for this site was a sensible conservation-led scheme which would have resulted in the restoration of the listed barn and the retention of a sense of the original agricultural use whilst allowing an element of new, no doubt, profitable housing development. The original application was never promoted as an enabling development scheme but that is how it would have been viewed by both planning officers and local residents – a new use for the rustic silos and the restored listed barn in return for some new development. What is applied for now is an enlarged new dwelling at the front of the site and two new semi-detached dwellings to the rear immediately adjacent to the listed barn and the unique neighbouring property Maynards Croft. It is clear that the intention is to sell these two highly profitable elements, leaving the remainder of the site to decay and, in the process, destroying the agricultural character of the site.

We therefore strongly object to the development proposed on the basis of the following:

- The proposals do nothing to restore the listed building and to preserve the agricultural setting created by the silos
- The development of the two new semi-detached dwellings to the rear have a significantly detrimental impact on the setting of the listed building and the neighbouring property
- The previous scheme resulted in the demolition of the existing large barn to the rear which was an eyesore, harmful to views from Harcamlow Way and to the setting of the listed building. Whilst in this scheme the unsightly barn is still demolished it is now replaced by two new houses changing the character of the site from agricultural to suburban
- The development will be building on what would have been a large garden for the barn conversion. Taking this away will impact on the saleability of any future barn conversion and hence the viability of a potential restoration project
- The development is, on that basis, contrary to Local Plan policy S7
- Given that the development is neither an extension, replacement, infill, nor a re-use or conversion it is also then contrary to policy TX LSC4 of the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan
- The extra storey proposed for the new dwelling at the front of the site will result in overlooking of the neighbouring property.

7) UTT/21/1001/HHF

PROPOSAL: Proposed installation of photovoltaic solar panels on roof

LOCATION: Hammer Hill Farmhouse Stanbrook Road

RESOLVED to SUPPORT

19/20.786 LAND ENCROACHMENT AT THE CRICKET GREEN

The Clerk updated the Council on the amicable agreement which is now in place to serve the parishioner and the Council.

19/20.787 FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

RESOLVED To APPROVE the draft list of council meetings 2021/2022

19/20.788 COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

1) **RESOLVED To APPROVE and DISSOLVE** the following

The CLT working group

Library working group

Neighbourhood plan committee

2) To **CONSIDER and REVIEW** the committee structure

(See addendum)

RESOLVED that CHG will stop being a meeting of the council with one full meeting once a year and shall now be a Working group.

RESOLVED to adopt the new committee meeting structure at the beginning of the new council year commencing in May 2021.

19/20.789 FINANCE

a) **To NOTE Year end closedown scheduled for 10th May 2021.**

The RFO has completed pre closedown works with the software provider RBS, there is one item which no resolution can be found and the software provider have been unable to balance, they are not concerned and feel that this will resolve during the actual close down.

RBS close down has been scheduled 10th May 2021

Our internal auditor Vicky Waples has been scheduled for sign off of the close down on the 27th May 2021

The RFO has received the official external auditor AGAR for completion post close down and shall report to the full council the findings.

b) **TO REVIEW ONLINE PAYMENT FOR APPROVAL**

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

19/20.790 WINDMILL

To **NOTE** the ongoing works at the Thaxted windmill, and to consider approving a £1000 grant towards the repairs.

It is Resolved that the Windmill be granted the sum of £1000, Proposed by Cllr Frostick seconded by Cllr Morgan this grant will be taken from this year's underspends (2021/21)

19/20.791 THAXTED YOUTH CLUB SKATE PARK

To **NOTE** the ongoing works at the Youth Club, and to consider approving a £1000 grant towards the repairs.

It is Proposed by Cllr Knight that the sum on £3,000 be requisitioned from the Council.

After a lengthy discussion, the clerk will pick up this matter with Cllr Walsh and see if there is further a funding opportunity.

It is **RESOLVED** that the youth club be granted £1000, Cllr Frostick proposed, seconded by Cllr Barrington. this grant will be taken from this year's underspends (2021/21)

19/20.792 VOLUNTEERS FOR INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

The Council consider a collaboration with Essex Cares to facilitate work for local volunteers' (a leaflet was distributed during the meeting provided by the service)

The Council would welcome the opportunity to become more involved with this project, the Clerk will ensure that all necessary health and safety risk assessments for the worker are in place and that relevant public liability and insurance covers are adequate.

19/20.793 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting will be the ANNUAL Council meeting, held on Thursday 4th May 2021 and will remain via the Digital Zoom platform.