



THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING Thursday 10th April 2025 Location: The Guildhall, Thaxted

ATTENDANCE

Present: Cllr Andrew Frater (Chairman), Cllr Victoria Knight, Cllr Terry Frostick, Cllr Ray Williams, Cllr Theresa Egan, Cllr Jenna Perkins, Cllr Alexander Young, Cllr Nicky Tisseyre, Cllr Tom Breen, Cllr Robert Silver
Also in attendance: Dena Oxley (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr Richard Haynes, 2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Antoinette Wattebot and County Cllr Martin Foley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Terry Frostick declared a Pecuniary Interest in Planning Item (a) UTT/25/0856/HHF.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of Thaxted Rangers wished to speak on an item not on the agenda. They were advised this is not permitted; however, as it concerned a Grant update in connection to UDC, it was agreed that Cllr Haynes would include this in his District Councillor report.

It was also noted that the Community Land Trust (CLT) is progressing, and work should commence on 28th April.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6th March 2025 were Resolved as approved.

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Councillor Richard Haynes:

- Spoke regarding the budget and levy relief which will impact food and pub establishments
- Noted uncertainty regarding the reform of areas
- Reported that Regulation 19 draft will commence on 10th June
- Advised that grants are forthcoming from UDC which should be considered for upcoming projects

Cllr Frater asked what the total UDC budget was. Cllr Haynes was uncertain but confirmed it resulted in a 2.5% council tax increase.

Cllr Frater inquired about Local Government reforms and how many members/District councillors would be lost. Cllr Haynes was unable to provide this information.

Cllr Frostick noted that the inspector had sent numerous questions with Thaxted featuring prominently and asked for comments on why. Cllr Haynes advised this information could be found on the planning inspector's website.

Cllr Frater congratulated the CLT on securing £45,000 and the Rangers for securing a grant of £10,000 for new pitches.

Cllr Knight reported that the street light opposite Dorringtons remains out of service.

Cllr Egan inquired about progress regarding the VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign).

6. REPORTS

a) Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's report was received. Members acknowledged the good work.

b) Guildhall Report:

The Guildhall report was received and noted as interesting reading.

c) Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported:

- Formal signing of the windmill lease – congratulations extended to the windmill and trustees
- Personal thanks to all Committee Chairs, the Clerk, and Assistant Clerk
- Reminder that May is when new Committee Chairs are appointed – any councillors wishing to put their name forward should contact the Clerk or Chairman

7. FINANCE

a) Payments List:

The payments list was approved.

b) Bank Reconciliation and Financial Reports:

The bank reconciliation and financial reports were noted.

c) Certificate of Competent Advice:

Receipt of the Certificate of Competence from HR Solutions was acknowledged, noting it expires in June.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

a) UTT/25/0856/HHF

Cllr Frostick left the room for the discussion around this application

PROPOSAL: Proposed two storey rear extension and alterations

LOCATION: 1 Magdalen Green, Thaxted

RESOLVED: To support the application

b) UTT/25/0781/HHF

PROPOSAL: New front entrance porch, first floor dormer and loft conversion, fenestration and material changes. PV panels to front aspect with changes to chimney stack/flu and internal remodelling

LOCATION: South View, Bardfield Road

RESOLVED: To support with the comment that the Council would prefer the solar PV array to be of a lower profile to be more in keeping with the surroundings

c) UTT/25/0696/HHF

PROPOSAL: Construction of garage and workshop with guest accommodation above

LOCATION: Monk Street Farm, Monk Street

RESOLVED: To support in principle; however, request that due consideration is given to Place Services comments and note that the proposal may contravene policy TXHC1 of the Neighbourhood Plan

9. RECREATION GROUND BOLLARDS

Cllr Silver spoke regarding the replacement of concrete blocks and temporary bollards with more robust ones. The cost of these would be approximately £900.

Cllr Frostick suggested that the block at the Samford Road should remain in place, but the Council should purchase an additional block. The block on the Thaxted Road also needs to be purchased.

Regarding the gate into the Recreation Ground from the Car Park, it was noted that encroachment access is unlikely due to CCTV coverage; however, more substantial lift-up bollards could be installed - 2 or 3 lockable ones at approximately £150 each.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk, in collaboration with Cllr Silver and Cllr Frostick, purchase 2 blocks and research the cost of 2 or 3 secure drop bollards for the gate closest to the Community Building or similar encroachment preventative measures.

10. FLAG POLE AT BEECH TREE GARDENS

RESOLVED: To purchase a second base for installation at Beech Tree Gardens.

RESOLVED: To approve the order of a St. George's flag.

11. VE DAY UPDATE

Cllrs Knight and Perkins provided an update on the event:

- Thursday 8th May at 21:30 is the lighting of the Beacon at the Windmill
- Approximately 10 volunteers will be needed from around 18:30 - 22:00
- Grant application is outstanding
- Bunting will go up on Sunday 4th May and will be installed without wire initially, with the agreement that wire shall be used if necessary and removed afterwards

12. PHONE BOX CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: To adopt the phone box and repurpose it as a flower box. The electric supply should be left in place. It was noted that BT will cover the cost of the electricity supply for a 7-year period. BT will decorate the phone box before transfer, and a defibrillator may then be attached to the rear (suggested moving existing one currently at the Library).

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

A report was received and noted (report attached to the minutes).

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Council meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 15th May 2025 at 19:30, however, this is likely to be amended to configure around annual leave and VE Day events.

15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was:

RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded during the consideration of the following items due to their confidential nature.

a) Purchase of Walnut Tree Meadow

An update was received in connection with the purchase of Walnut Tree Meadow. It was reported that the owners are considering the Council's offer, and this matter shall be brought back to the Council with further updates.

Meeting closed at: 21:35

Signed: