



THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GUILDHALL ON TUESDAY 6TH MAY 2025 AT 7:30PM

PRESENT: Cllr Andrew Frater (Chairman), Cllr Victoria Knight (Vice-Chair), Cllr Terry Frostick, Cllr Ray Williams, Cllr Theresa Egan, Cllr Jenna Perkins, Cllr Alexander Young, Cllr Nicky Tisseyre, Cllr Tom Breen, Cllr Robert Silver

IN ATTENDANCE: Dena Oxley (Clerk & RFO), Cllr Richard Haynes (District Councillor) Rob Evans (Guildhall Custodian)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Antoinette Wattebot, Cllr Martin Foley (District & County Councillor)

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Knight proposed Cllr Frater, seconded by Cllr Frostick

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Andy Frater as Chairman of the Council.

1.2 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Frostick proposed, Cllr Knight seconded by Cllr Williams

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Victoria Knight as Vice Chairman of the Council.

2. To consider renaming of Parish Council to Town Council

A public speaker addressed the Council in connection to the proposed change of name from Parish to Town Council. The Chairman noted that Thaxted was a Town in 1556; however, this status was removed in 1686.

RESOLVED: To remain as a Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Frostick, with the additional provision that this matter not be brought back to full council until the next administration.

2.1 Election of Mayor (if Town Council status is approved)

This item was not considered as the Council resolved to remain as a Parish Council.

3-4. Apologies for absence

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

5. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

6. Public representations

A member of the public spoke regarding planning application UTT/25/0827/HHF, raising concerns about the heritage impact on the conservation area, including the effect on three listed buildings adjacent to the site. It was noted that Cllr Haynes has called in this application for consideration by the District Council Planning Committee.

7. Committees' Memberships

The following committee memberships were approved:

Finance Committee (4 meetings per year)

- Chair: Cllr Ray Williams
- No changes to existing membership

Open Spaces Committee (4 meetings per year)

- Chair: Cllr Jenna Perkins
- Vice Chair: Cllr Robert Silver
- Members: Cllr Theresa Egan, Cllr Tom Breen, Cllr Victoria Knight

Assets Committee (4 meetings per year, joint with Open Spaces)

- Chair: Cllr Robert Silver
- Vice Chair: Cllr Jenna Perkins
- Members: Cllr Ray Williams, Cllr Tom Breen, Cllr Victoria Knight, Cllr Theresa Egan

Planning Committee (as needed)

- Chair: Cllr Alexander Young
- Vice Chair: Cllr Tom Breen
- Members: Cllr Victoria Knight, Cllr Ray Williams, Cllr Nicky Tisseyre

Personnel Committee

- Chair: Cllr Victoria Knight
- Vice Chair: Cllr Jenna Perkins
- Members: Cllr Robert Silver, Cllr Alexander Young, Cllr Ray Williams, Cllr Terry Frostick

Guildhall Management Committee (1 meeting per year)

- To change to a committee of the Council
- Chair: Cllr Terry Frostick
- Vice Chair: Cllr Theresa Egan
- Limited to 5 Councillor members with a total of 8 members including Hunts, Yardles and a District Councillor
- Additional members: Cllr Andy Frater, Cllr Alexander Young, Cllr Tom Breen

8. To Note the approved Days and Times of Full council meetings

NOTED: The dates of Council meetings as previously resolved.

9. Working groups

APPROVED: The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to continue as a working group.

10. Representatives to associations & External Organisations

The following representatives were appointed:

- **Bolford Street Hall:** No change (Cllr Andy Frater, with Cllr Ray Williams for the Youth Club)
- **Windmill Trust:** No change (Cllr Victoria Knight)
- **Maynards Charity:** Chair and Vice Chair (noting that Cllr Terry Frostick is a trustee)
- **Thaxted Twinning Association:** Cllr Alexander Young (noting that Cllr Theresa Egan is Chair)
- **Parish Transport Representative:** Cllr Antoinette Wattebot
- **The Thaxted Society:** No change (Cllr Andy Frater)
- **Patient Participation Group:** Council no longer involved
- **TPS School Governors:** No change (noting that Cllr Andy Frater is Chair of Governors)
- **CLT:** Proposed Cllr Robert Silver, with a request for an email to be sent for consideration of membership

11. Reports from District & County Councillors

The written report from Cllr Foley was noted.

Cllr Haynes reported that Uttlesford District Council Planning Committee has decided to appoint Co-Chairs and that protocols are being amended to accommodate this change. He advised that there have been some internal changes in other parties and committees. Discussions are ongoing in relation to charges and fees, with more information to follow. Allotment charges in UDC are increasing. The Gardens Trust will remain as a statutory consultee. Further member motions regarding farming inheritance tax have been submitted, with correspondence sent to DEFRA stating that the NFU's proposal was supported by UDC.

12. Verification of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10/04/2025.

13. Chairman's Cup nominations

Nominations for the Chairman's Cup were discussed, and a winner was proposed. The Clerk will contact the past winner to arrange the cup handover.

14. This Council's 4-year plan

AGREED: To bring this item to the next meeting.

15. Planning Applications

15.1 UTT/25/0827/HHF - Conversion of roofspace to existing cartlodge to create new annex facility, Rails Stables Watling Lane

RESOLVED: To strongly object on the basis of overdevelopment, loss of privacy, and overbearing nature of the proposal, which is contrary to Neighbourhood Plan Policy THXC1.

15.2 Neighbourhood Plan Revision

The report was noted. Cllr Young reported that attendance numbers at the consultation were not recorded. Given the demographics, the Council will also attend the upcoming Fayre with a stall. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Breen and Amanda Collins for their assistance.

Cllr Silver reported on another development which was brought to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation. He had attended a meeting of residents from this development.

16. Financial Matters

APPROVED: All financial matters as presented.

17. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that members of the travelling community were currently outside HRS in Dunmow. It was suggested to make contact with the TFT for due diligence regarding their upcoming event. The Chairman thanked everyone for their activity and hard work in connection with the weekend's bunting and VE celebrations.

18. Clerks Report

The report was noted as attached.

19. Custodians Report

The report was noted as attached.

20. 20 is Plenty signage and Speedwatch

AGREED: The Clerk to request 20 stickers appropriate for bins, with both quotes to include fitting.

It was reported that there are now 10 fully trained Speedwatch volunteers. The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd May at 10:00.

21. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on 12th June 2025 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at: [Time]

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____