



THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2020 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, J Spencer, A Howells, R Williams, R Barrington, D Morgan, A Wattebot, C Michael,

Also Present: Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO)

Richard Haynes & Peter Neal from the Neighbourhood plan group

District Cllr Mike Taylor

District Cllr Martin Foley

0 members of the Public

19/20.716 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I Stewart

County Councillor S Walsh

19/20.717 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr V Knight declares a pecuniary interest in item 19/20.724 item a. and shall leave the room during this discussion point.

19/20.718 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

A councillor as a member of the public explains the amendment to the application is for security measures only.

19/20.719 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

See attached reports

19/20.720 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

See attached reports

19/20.721 MINUTES

RESOLVED To **APPROVE** and **DIGITALLY** sign as a correct record the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 5th November 2020

19/20.722 SECURITY MEASURES IN THE TOWN

Cllr Knight requested that this matter be put on the agenda as there has been a number of comments on the local social media groups and feel that as an elected member of the council it appropriate to bring this matter to the councils attention. The recorded crime in Thaxted is very low and given that matters are still not being reported we are still not in a strong position to request CCTV. Cllr Michael has said that today a resident had reported that the

allotments have been vandalised, The clerk asks when this incident has taken place, Cllr Michael thought this was recent.

Cllr Barrington has been working on some comparison figures in relation to a neighbouring parish who has engaged the services of a security firm, this was largely down to their proximity to a new traveller site which unfortunately had some unauthorised encampments, the crime in Thaxted remains low or unreported therefore there is very little we are able to achieve.

The chairman reports that as a result of the new Tier 2 as we've emerged post lockdown we have requested a grant from UDC to help support the town, the Market and the licenced premises to support safe shopping, from this initiative, evening patrols will be in place for set periods of time. Whilst this is not security it will act as crime prevention measures and a dual role for the operatives is being discussed for some additional time while they are in Thaxted by way of our specific security needs over the Christmas period, whilst we are not able to go in to the detail by way of the patrol route or specifications this matter is also in hand and may go some way in addressing some of the concerns of our Facebook using residents. The Chairman asks if this initiative found favour with the Council and all councillors agreed this was indeed a good idea. It is therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would instruct the firm accordingly for the patrols would take place from tomorrow evening.

We've also set aside in the upcoming budget funds to sponsor a special constable, so should the budget receive good favour this may also be a possibility in the next financial year.

19/20.723 LAND ENCROACHMENT AT THE CRICKET GREEN

Cllr Knight informs the council that a resident has widened a driveway and has planted hedges, Cllr knight was informed that this was done so in full support and collaboration of the cricket club, the club have agreed this was agreed with them. The applicant would be willing to purchase the land or, rather than incur legal costs, might this matter be ratified by way of a letter between the Parish Council and the applicant?

Cllr Frostick informs the council that in fact The cricket club have no lease, they rent the land from the parish council through the charity commission, the cricket green is owned by a charity called Thaxted Recreation Ground, we have no right to give the land or indeed sell the land.

Cllr Morgan was asked from a legal and professional perspective having set up the cricket club trustees back in 2002 what he feels might be a sensible solution to this. Cllr Morgan feels that granting a licence would be sufficient, Cllr knight and Morgan will collaborate to find a workable approach to this matter and bring this back to the council once deliberations have concluded. This finds favour with the council.

19/20.724 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.

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 formulated 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.

a) UTT/20/2800/HHF

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing garage and workshop and erection of replacement timber framed garage and cart lodge.

LOCATION: The Mill House Cutlers Green

RESOLVED to SUPPORT

b) UTT/20/2937/HHF

PROPOSAL: Removal of part of the roof to form a roof terrace with glass balustrades.

LOCATION: 1 The Old Organ Works Orange Street

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** on the basis that this is within a conservation area.

c) UTT/20/2997/HHF & UTT/20/2998/LB

PROPOSAL: Variation to proposed kitchen extension approved by planning permission UTT/20/1542/HHF and new window in first floor bedroom

LOCATION: Richmond In The Wood Cutlers Green

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** on the basis of the impact on the heritage asset which could have a significant impact on its importance.

Cllr Knight did not take part in the vote and abstained

d) UTT/20/3003/HHF

PROPOSAL: Single storey extension.

LOCATION: 37 Newbiggen Street Thaxted

RESOLVED to **SUPPORT**

e) UTT/20/2993/HHF

PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey side extensions (amendments to scheme approved under planning permission UTT/16/1281/HHF)

LOCATION: Squirrels Croft Bardfield End Green

RESOLVED to **OBJECT** on the basis that this is in an unsustainable location, contra to policy S7, The Parish council have also noted that the provision of parking have been removed entirely from this scheme in its current format.

f) UTT/20/3067/CLE

PROPOSAL: Conversion of garage to habitable room

LOCATION: The Thatch 1 Bolford Street

RESOLVED to make **NO COMMENT** on the principle, however, we have reservations as the plans presented are not adequate for use in proper decision making, the Parish Council would strongly object to any changed to the garage doors.

g) To consider an official response from the Parish Council to Wadham's Builders in connection to their molecular project in Thaxted for publication in their brochure.

it is **RESOLVED** for the clerk to present some words for Wadham's to product in their brochure.

19/20.725 CHARITY CLOTHING BANK ON BEHALF OF THAXTED FAYRE TRUST

RESOLVED To **CONSIDER** facilitating a charity clothing bank situated in Margaret Street Car Park. On the provisions that weekly clearance of any resulting debris be solely the responsibility of the Thaxted Fayre trust, also this is granted on the provision that no car parking spaces are lost as a result of this placement.

19/20.726 2021 CENSUS

To **NOTE** the forthcoming census.

19/20.727 STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

RESOLVED To **APPROVE** the now **CONSIDERD** the draft response from Thaxted Parish Council in connection to the public enquiry, Richard Haynes was thanked for his efforts in creating this and has asked that this be submitted no later than tomorrow 4th December, the Clerk will liaise with Richard in order to fully complete this task in good time.

19/20.728 UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROTOCOL

To consider our response to this consultation – The Council were asked and no consideration was given therefore no response to this will be presented.

19/20.729 CONSULTATION ON UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

To consider response to this consultation - The Council were asked no consideration was given therefore no response to this will be presented.

19/20.730 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is **RESOLVED** To renew the Councils membership to the Stop Stanstead Expansion

19/20.731 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

RESOLVED To **SIGN** and **APPROVE** the Health & Safety policy on behalf of Thaxted Parish Council.

Cllr Frater wishes to draw the councils attention to the policy and in particular page 8 to ensure the council are fully aware of their obligations under same.

19/20.732 FINANCE

a) To **NOTE** and **APPROVE** the Councils Gross income, expenditure and EMR balances.

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

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

c) **TO PRESENT THE DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2021/22**

To **NOTE** and **APPROVE** the draft budget as attached for £125,500 to £126,000 (this included an increase of £500 to support the additional costs of town services in the coming year)

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED as Proposed by Cllr T Frostick, Seconded by R Williams To **RECOMMEND** that the precept to be levied on parishioners in 2021/2022 is set at £126,000.

d) **CLT GRANT**

RESOLVED To **CONSIDER** and **APPROVE** a grant for the working body CLT to the value of £2,500.

e) **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** the purchase of the new lifesaving defibrillator to replace old unit located on the outside of the CIC.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Future scheduled meeting will be Thursday **7th January 2021** and will remain via the Digital Zoom platform.