



# THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES** committee meeting of **THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL** held on **21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023** at **8.00pm** in The Guildhall

Present: Cllr Howells (Chair), Cllr Perkins (Vice chair), Cllr Egan & Cllr Frostick, (Cllr Frater- Ex officio member) & (Cllr Knight - Ex officio member)

Officer: Robert Silver (Assistant Clerk)

Public: none present

1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr Wattebot (accepted)
2	<b>Disclosure of Interests</b> Cllr Egan – allotment holder
3	<b>Public speaking time</b> No members of the public
6	<b>Minutes</b> Accepted
7	<b>State of the budget</b> A budget wasn't supplied
8	<b>To discuss all matters relating to the Open Spaces areas as named below</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Queen Elizabeth II Gardens <b>The</b> Chair has asked the Clerk to contact Gigaclear to complain that they're not clearing up after they have finished work.</li><li>Margaret Street gardens – remove the tree and walnut trees in Clarence Gardens. <b>Agreed</b> to accept the quote from contractor.</li><li>Beech Tree Gardens - <b>Nothing</b> to report.</li><li>Welly Boot wood - <b>Nothing</b> to report.</li><li>Mosscotts meadow – <b>The</b> meadow is Parish land and is zoned and designated as a wildflower area in the planning permission, and the Essex Wildlife Trust are very happy with the area.</li><li>Cutlers Green – rapid grass assessment. <b>It's</b> been agreed that the Clerk will write to the parishioner giving them permission to cut the hedge, but not to encroach on Parish land.</li><li>Coach Park – <b>Nothing</b> to report.</li><li>Grass verges – objections from Morris Dance Place. <b>Parishioners</b> say that it does not look presentable, so the Committee will abandon this project.</li></ol>

	<p>9. Recreation Ground, ash tree removal, trimming of the Rec hedge and the ditch – <b>The</b> hedge needs to be cut and placed on the schedule.</p> <p>10. Clarence House – <b>A</b> buttress has been built to make the wall safe.</p>
9	<p><b>Allotments</b> Following a brief update from the assistant clerk in relation to current vacancies and recent purchases. Draft Tenancy agreement/policy (for discussion) to Discuss the allotment agreement, including additions or amendments for adoption by all allotment tenants.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> to adopt the draft as a formal policy</p>
10	<p><b>Tree survey</b> To receive an update on the tree survey cost and dates for expected completion</p> <p><b>The</b> Committee have decided to go with the Mercers' quote</p>
11	<p><b>Tubs</b> To discuss the tubs and types of flowers to go in them.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> that the Parish Council would continue using bedding plants and have the sponsored Tulips.</p>
12	<p><b>Community weeding</b> To discuss holding a community weeding events, similar to the community litter picks.</p> <p><b>Cllr Frater</b> to discuss with Ian Stewart about holding a community weeding event.</p>
13	<p><b>Community Planting</b> To receive an update from the Assistant clerk in connection to when we may plan our Bulb Planting</p> <p><b>Bulbs</b> have been bought to be planted at Mosscotts and a community planting date has been <b>pencilled</b> for the 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 10am.</p>
14	<p><b>Community Orchard</b> To discuss the appetite for developing a community Orchard</p> <p><b>The</b> committee are keen on the idea, but more research is required on where to site the orchard.</p>
15	<p><b>Green charter and wilding of Thaxted</b> An update will be provided on the Green charter and wilding of Thaxted</p> <p><b>This</b> will be brought back to the Committee.</p>
16	<p><b>Items for the next agenda (not for resolution)</b></p> <p><b>The</b> trees in Park Street car park need to be lifted.</p>
17	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 8pm</p>
18	<p><b>Chairman to close the meeting</b></p>