

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019 at 8pm in the Guildhall**

**Present:** Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), W Brazier, J Spencer, A Howells, V Knight, R Barrington,

Also Present: Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO) & 1 member of the Public

**19/20.534 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

District Cllr's M.Foley, M.Taylor

County Cllr S Walsh

Cllr's Frater (Vice Chairman), I Stewart, A Wattebot, R Williams, D Morgan

**19/20.535 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None Received

**19/20.536 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

None received

**19/20.537 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

Cllr M Foley in his absence had been asked by a parishioner for a handrail to be installed outside the Guildhall, The Chairman referred this to the Guildhall committee with the clerk to investigate prior to the next meeting.

**19/20.538 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

See attached report

**19/20.539 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on **7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**19/20.540 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Committee **NOTED** the minutes of the Personnel & IT Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

The Committee **NOTED** the minutes of the Finance & Assets Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2019.

**19/20.541 FINANCE**

- a) **The Committee Noted and Approve the Councils Gross income, expenditure and EMR balances.**
- b) **The Committee reviewed the online payment for Approval**

**It RESOLVED** To **SIGN** and **APPROVE** the online payments as detailed.

**19/20.542 WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

To receive an update from the following working groups to include the latest meetings dates, discussion points and considered activities.

**a) Library working group**

The Clerk details some conversations had with Essex and others who are now happy to withdraw their expression of interest and the Clerk requests that this Council withdraws its support to run the Library as a community run library and that Essex County Council are to ensure its longevity for the next 5 years as a fully functioning library with paid staff and not withdrawing any of the current equipment and services. In addition to this a separate community group has been set up which will engage with others to ensure our library is at the heart of our Community and used to the very best of its abilities.

**b) Prevention of Crime working group**

Unsurprisingly no meeting has yet been organised, Sargent Miah feels that we should be able to raise our concerns at one of the usual meetings which are being held later this month, Cllr Barrington will do his best to attend one of these meetings. Some Progress has been made in connection to the Neighbourhood Watch and I've spoken to a representative and will gather further information and present back at a later date.

#### **c) Community Land Trust**

The advertisement has gone live and we are now receiving applications from interested parties. The Clerk has also engaged with the CLT network and Charity status was chosen in order to bring this to life.

#### **19/20.543 JUBILEE GARDENS – SURGERY UPDATE**

Cllr V knight met with the Surgery and are looking forward to carrying on business as usual, their priority for now is the clinical rooms must be funded ready for use, once this has been achieved, they will turn their attentions to how they can assist in the car park solution and have a desire to keep open lines of communication in connection to same.

**RESOLVED To APPROVE** post placement across the newly created hard surface, with chains and padlock to stop ad hock parking to this area, the Surgery could be provided a Key without claiming any rights to the area if this is supportive to them.

#### **19/20.544 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chairman reports on the carol service last week, very enjoyable, thank you to those who came.

The Chairman shares the concern of this council in connection to Facebook Comments posted on popular local groups which are not considered appropriate and might even be considered discriminatory, Thaxted Parish Council have an equality policy which clearly outlines its obligations and behaviours, a link to the full policy can be located here for anyone wishing to better understand the councils mindset:

<https://www.thaxted.co.uk/index.php/council/parish-council/policies?task=document.viewdoc&id=158>

#### **19/20.545 WINDMILL LEASE**

To receive a verbal update from the Clerk in connection to the progress of the windmill lease agreement and grant applications from the Trustees.

The Council **Resolved** To consider and **APPROVE** the revised lease, The Clerk Said that this lease will be a mimic of the original, the Clerk expands on the Charity aspect of the lease which has been received at an extra cost of circa £450 and asks the council to consider this being covered by the Parish Council also.

The Chairman reports that the trustees of the Windmill do a marvellous job of maintaining and looking after this building and feels that it would be worth our while in contributing this extra expenditure to support the trustees in their continued efforts.

The Council **RESOLVED To APPROVE** the additional costs of up to £450.

#### **19/20.546 COACH PARK**

The Chairman reports that we were unsuccessful is receiving the grant which we applied for on the basis that there is existing usage and that it was not a new application.

#### **19/20.547 GUILDHALL**

To consider and **APPROVE** the purchase of 2 x planters for outside Guildhall, the Neighbourhood plan suggests that they are not put back and there is alternative references that Historic England want them returned in order to protect the building from Vehicular damage and damage to the existing cobbles by parked cars. The chairman asks this council if there is a proposer for this?

**Proposal 1)** Proposed by Cllr Howells to purchase 2 x planters for the Guildhall, seconded by Cllr Spencer.

A counter proposal was received,

**Proposal 2)** counter Proposal by Cllr Frostick **not** to purchase any new planters, seconded by Cllr Brazier.

Vote:

**Proposal 1)** 3 fore

**Proposal 2)** 3 fore

casting vote by Chairman **RESOLVED** to proceed with Proposal 2 and **NOT** purchase any additional Tubs for the Guildhall. Following this a third proposal was received by Cllr Knight.

Chairman Signature:

**Proposal 3)** Cllr Knight proposed that we remove the two tubs from the bull ring, seconded by Cllr Brazier, **RESOLVED** to undertake the works from proposal 3 after the Christmas period.

The chairman of Open spaces (Cllr Alison Howells) will take the appropriate action with all matters connected to the Tubs as Resolved.

**19/20.548      CLERKS REPORT**

To discuss the flood lights at the recreation ground which are not the Parish Councils, these were installed by the Rangers some time ago. Cllr Knight asks about the proposed footpath, The Chairman is in good communication with the charity concerned and will continue to build upon these good relationships and report back in the future.

**Items to consider for action from the Clerks report may include.**

**RESOLVED to SUPPORT** The request for a Pizza Van to Frequent the coach park area along the Bardfield road for Sunday only trading and authorises the Clerk to progress with this on the provision that there will not be permitted to trade two food vehicles at any one time.

**19/20.549      DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman wishes all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8:00pm