

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 6th JUNE 2019 AT 08:00 PM in the Guildhall**

Present: Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), A Frater (Vice Chairman) A Wattebott, I Stewart, V Knight, A Howells, D Morgan. W Brazier, J Spencer, R. Barrington, R Williams (arrived 20:26)

Also Present:

County Councillor Simon Walsh
District Cllr Martin Foley
Dena Ludford Parish Clerk
members of the public 2

19/20.435 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

19/20.436 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

19/20.437 Adoption of General Power of Competence (GPC)

The General Power of Competence is a statutory power given to Town and Parish Councils under the Localism Act 2011. Eligibility requirements are that at least 2/3 (two thirds) of its members must be duly elected (having stood contested or not) at the ordinary election, and that the Clerk must hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) including Module No 7, covering the General Power of Competence. The Clerk completed the CiLCA course and obtained qualification in November 2017.

Thaxted Parish Council is therefore eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence and should do so at the first meeting of Council following elections.

It is therefore **RESOLVED** that Thaxted Parish Council will adopt the General Power of Competence with immediate effect.

19/20.438 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Speeding along Newbiggen Street has reared its ugly head once again given the now road improvement with no pot holes, if there was a restriction put in, if moving the cars to the pavement works as a natural buffer, apart from putting a policeman either end of town, the one think that works would be a speed camera either end of town and this could be a resolution of the problem. Back in 2016 Sir Alan Haselhurst was written to and the response was that this was a designated B road and nothing could be done. The speaker holds the opinion that unless there is a fatality then nothing will change. Cllr Brazier asks if the member of the public ever had any involvement in the speed watch campaign? The chairman eludes to the fact that having had a recent meeting with the police and we have three new police cameras called True Cams in Essex and the camera is amazing, there is now no need to warn people that they shouldn't be speeding they are simply caught speeding.

Would the Parish Council consider writing to the committee that organise the Thaxted Fayre as it was a great success? It is agreed unanimously agreed that the PC will write to the organisers.

19/20.439 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

See Appendix A

We congratulate you on becoming the Deputy Chairman of Uttlesford District Council and look forward to working along side you.

19/20.440 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

See Appendix B

Thaxted Parish Councils voice will be heard during the upcoming meeting and I will be publicly supporting Thaxted in keeping the library.

The chairman wishes to ask a question in connection to the land off the Mead, is there any chance that the Parish Council may enter into discussions in connection to this, for land by e.g. wildlife and future community benefits. We have been made aware that this site has been pursued by a third party for housing. Cllr Walsh states that he doesn't

see why the Parish Council could not enter into a discussion in connection to this land and its community use, The Clerk will set this up in due course.

The Chairman also wishes to point out that Park street road surface is in need of detailed attention and could we ask that you look into this. Cllr Walsh will do so.

The Chairman also wishes to know, what S106 monies are outstanding as contributions that Essex have taken and what might this be used for.

On a Final note, meetings with the Clerk, they are very useful and we would request that these be reinstated, Cllr Walsh agrees and will contact the Clerk to reinstate these.

19/20.441 MINUTES

Resolved To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on **9th May 2019**

19/20.442 ANNUAL RETURN 2018 - 2019

i) **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** the Annual Governance Statement

ii) **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** the Accounting Statements

iii) **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** the recent internal audit report and authorise the RFO to take any necessary actions as required.

19/20.443 INSURANCE POLICY FIDELITY GUARANTEE REVIEW

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the council's current insurance policy fidelity Guarantee which the current (Employee's Dishonesty) cover is £250,000. The most recent audit identified best practise to be (year-end balance plus 50%)

19/20.444 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the existing standing order previously adopted by Thaxted Parish Council as amended on **7th June 2018**

19/20.445 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED To **APPROVE** the amended Financial Regulation

19/20.446 FINANCE

To note the Councils Gross income and expenditure as follows:

a) Expenditure

To agree Council gross expenditure from 1st April 2019 - 30th April 2019 as follows:

i)	Co-operative Current A/c	£290.38
ii)	Co-operative (Guildhall) A/c	£114.84
iii)	Petty Cash	£0
iv)	Lloyds Current A/c	£67505.93
v)	Lloyds Direct Savings	£10,000

b) Income

To note Council gross income from 1st April 2019 - 30th April 2019 as follows:

i)	Co-operative Current A/c	£2877.43
ii)	Co-operative (Guildhall) A/c	£170
iii)	Petty Cash	£0
iv)	Lloyds Current A/c	£70,993.18
v)	Lloyds Direct Savings	£58,768.90

c) BANK ACCOUNT CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RFO

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the following bank accounts for permanent closure

i) The Thaxted Parish Council Co-Op Guildhall account

The closing funds will be EMR's into the existing Guildhall EMR code.

d) RESOLVED To **REVIEW** and **APPROVE** the updated financial risk management document

Chairman Signature:

e) To review on line payment and to Approve

To sign and approve the on line payments as detailed

19/20.447 CLERKS REPORT

To receive the report from the Clerk & RFO

In connection to the Bins as detailed on the Clerks Report, the recreation ground is suggested for location, however, it is noted that other parishes are in receipt of these bins and are not emptying these at their expense, the clerk will return to UDC to accept the bins on the provision that they are emptied at UDC cost.

19/20.448 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED To renewal of the following memberships

EALC affiliation fees 19/20 £442.87

NALC affiliation fees 19/20 £176.01

19/20.449 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DELIVERY GROUP

To receive a report from the Chairman following the NPDG meeting on matters connected to non-planning & highways matters. The tubs outside the guildhall will be moved next week to help the commencement of the work, they will be situated elsewhere in Thaxted. Church hall meeting trustees, they are looking for an official letter from the PC in terms of future. Web site request to close the NP website and all to be placed on the PC website.

19/20.450 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

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

I. Library working group

Since our last update two things have happened, the deputy clerk and Cllr Frater visited Springfield library to see how they operate which is basically at no cost, another demonstration from Finchingfield which is slightly different model, the Springfield model is still connected to the network and they still get delivered books. Cllr Barker told us that no decision has been made and we will hear in July/August. The second thing we did was to follow up our unanswered letter however he has refused to resign however as we heard tonight he will be supporting us in order to keep the library.

II. Community Land Trust working group

We are meeting next Wednesday the 11th for our first meeting. Cllr Frostick remarks that there is a meeting at UDC on the 10th July is anyone able to attend this? Cllr Morgan can attend.

III. Prevention of Crime working group

There hasn't been a meeting to date, however Cllr Barrington states that he has attended a meeting and we were only one of three parishes in attendance, tomorrow Cllr Barrington is attending a meeting with the police and fire commissions event in Colchester. Cllr Barrington is also disappointed with the level of communication coming out to parish councils. The local policing unit are the response team, there are two cars one in the north of Uttlesford and they are there to attend to serious problems, and we should have attendance reasonably quickly. However limited their resources are in comparison to earlier days, the information needs to get to the public that they are out there.

IV. To REVIEW and APPROVE the updated and advertised membership for all committee's working groups and external bodies & Organisations

To amend the district council for the guildhall represented from UDC to read Cllr Taylor (as detailed in Cllr Foleys earlier report)

19/20.451 CLARANCE HOUSE SCHOOL ROOM

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the engagement of 'Rulden and Johns' as contractors to carry out school room works as per tender return for the sum of **£7,902**

RESOLVED to engage 'Wilby and Burnett' to manage the works to completion for the sum of **£700**

Following due process in advertising the contracts on the governments contract finder three tenders were returned and evaluated by Wilby and Burnett independent of the council.

19/20.452 SURGERY MEETING

(see clerks report)

Update received from Cllr Jon Spencer in relation to a recent meeting with Sara from the Surgery and Cllr Howells and the clerk. From this Place tree services are engaged to advise on drainage of the existing tree roots and drainage of the area.

19/20.453 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

On Saturday the Chairman attended the Morris feast, The Chairman also attended the Neighbourhood (NW) watch AGM in the day centre, and was the only neighbourhood watch member from Thaxted, it is noted that this was very poorly attended and there was no NW coordinator within Thaxted, the UDC coordinator has no knowledge of Thaxted representation. The Thaxted Fayre Trust was attended by the Vice Chairman, Cllr Andrew Frater. The broadband meeting on Monday evening was attended by both Cllr Andy frater and Cllr David Morgan, Cllr Frater says it was fairly informative however was a big sell, the danger for Thaxted is that if we get a lot of people sign up through county then the superfast Essex will disappear. The Chairman has been invited to the army cocktail party at caver barracks. he also opened the Twinning Association meeting and had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Council and welcomed those in attendance. The Chairman wishes to raise the desire to become a Town Council and there is very little expense to this and we would therefore be the third council to attain this, I've asked the clerk to investigate looking a to a badge or Chain, Cllr Frostick would personally make a contribution of £200 towards this, the Chairman feels that we should be represented better than we are, Cllr Morgan agrees. The Council wish to confirm that we are in fact a Town and not a Village.

19/20.454 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council Meeting will be on Thursday 11th July 2019 at Thaxted Guildhall at 8pm.

Chairman Signature: