



# THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES** committee meeting of **THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL** held on **15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024** at **7.30pm** in The Guildhall

Present: Cllr Howells (Chair), Cllr Perkins (Vice chair) and Cllr Frater,

Also present Cllr Frostick

Officer: Robert Silver (Assistant Clerk)

Public: two members of the public turned up at 20:00

1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr Wattebot and Cllr Egan
2	<b>Disclosure of Interests</b> None
4	<b>Public speaking time</b>
5	<b>Rochelle Close Foliage</b>  Agreed that the area is very biodiverse and that it wouldn't be cut. Additionally, the area helps deaden the noise from the Recreation.
6	<b>Minutes</b>  Thursday 21st September 2023 - agreed
7	<b>State of the budget</b>  The state of the budget was discussed.
8	<b>To discuss all matters relating to the Open Spaces areas as named below</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Queen Elizabeth II Gardens – a new tree is now in place after the first tree was vandalised and cut down.</li><li>2. Margaret Street gardens – nothing to report.</li><li>3. Beech Tree Gardens - nothing to report.</li><li>4. Welly Boot wood – the contractor has made a good job of tidying up the area and ivy has been taken off the poplars. The contractor reports that a stake which is holding the fence in place in the culvert has become weakened and could be slightly dangerous. Cllrs Howells &amp; Frostick to investigate.  A resident has found a dead tree that is over hanging the road which the resident doesn't think is urgent. However, Cllrs Howells &amp; Frostick will investigate.</li><li>5. Mosscotts Meadow – bulb planting took place last year. The doughnut area has become compressed after contractors placed their vehicles on it and has not been turned over again.</li><li>6. Cutlers Green – nothing to report.</li><li>7. Coach Park – wildflowers to be placed there but they can take several years to produce results.</li><li>8. Grass verges – the flowers won't be renewed.</li><li>9. Recreation Ground, ash tree removal, trimming of the Rec hedge and the ditch – it's been noted that there is a dead ash near the entrance between the Rec and Guelphs Lane. Cllr Howells will look.  Work is in place to clear the ditch towards Sampford Road.</li></ol>

	10. Clarence House – work on repairing the wall is due to start in March.
9	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p>A letter was read out at the request of Ms Ship and Cllr Frostick provided historical context.</p> <p>Proposal: a small plot will now be charged at £52 per annum without discount. However, existing tenants with two plots will be charged at £75, with a 35% discount charged in year one, a 20% discount in year two, a 10% discount in year three and no further discount from year four. The new prices will start from April 2024.</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Howells, seconder: Cllr Perkins. Vote: unanimous</p>
10	<p><b>Tree survey</b></p> <p>A contractor will be sourced to work on the report as soon as possible.</p>
11	<p><b>Developing our local nature plans</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
12	<p><b>Green charter and wilding of Thaxted</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
13	<p><b>Items for the next agenda (not for resolution)</b></p>
14	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>TBA</p>
15	<p><b>Chairman to close the meeting</b></p> <p>Closed at 20:21</p>