



# Parish Council Newsletter

Issue Twenty-two June 2016

## **The Gold Viking finger-ring comes to Thaxted Guildhall with live Vikings**

on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 11 am to 4 pm.

**A Gold Viking finger-ring** was found near Thaxted in 2013 and is normally on display in Saffron Walden Museum but will be in Thaxted Guildhall.



The ring will be joined by other Viking artefacts in a display on the top floor of the Guildhall and accompanied by Saffron Walden Museum staff.

### **The Ousekjarr Viking re-enactors from Cambridge. From 10 am to 5 pm.**

They will recreate the life and military history of the Vikings.  
They will be based around the Guildhall.

**At 12 noon** - they will stage a battle in Margaret Gardens.  
An event not to be missed.

### **Council Meetings**

All Council Meetings are open to the public. Lists of meetings are available in the Parish Office and on the website. Minutes are available on application to the Clerk and to download from the website. Agendas are published on the notice-board outside the TCIC, inside the TCIC and on the Thaxted website. (Website availability subject to technical issues)

## **ANNUAL REPORT May 2015 - May 2016**

**Terry Frostick, Parish Council Chairman**

### **MAY 2016**

My report is starting in May last year as there were significant changes to the make-up of the Parish Council as a result of the local elections. Before the day of the vote we already knew that there would be no poll as only 6 people had submitted nomination papers. The Council Meeting in April had recognised this, but no co-options could be made until after the May Council Meeting.

At the May Council Meeting I was re-elected as Chairman and Victoria as Vice-Chairman. The membership of committees was also decided. The Market Committee was laid down and its business will be dealt with in the Finance Committee meetings

### **JUNE**

Four new councillors were co-opted and took their seats at the June meeting, namely Jim Boutwood, Andy Griffin, Stuart Levey and Karen Sweeney. This still left one seat un-filled. Sadly Jim Boutwood died on 2nd July leaving his seat vacant.

It was decided that Planning Applications would now be kept in the Library/Information Centre so that both Councillors and members of the public could have access to the paper copies. So far only a handful of the public have made use of this facility.

The most important news for many was the result of the Gladman appeal. Thanks are due for the hard work of many people. Congratulations to “Hands Off Thaxted”, Uttlesford District Council, the Parish Council, the Thaxted Society and all residents of Thaxted who wrote in to object to the Walden Road application. It was seen that the Planning Inspector’s report was robust and would put a blot on any further applications on the same site.

At the same time another outline application for 70 houses on land south of Sampford road was under consideration. The council resolved to object on many grounds to this application. This was also refused.

### **JULY**

Antoinette Wattebot, who had not stood for election so that she could fight the district council seat, re-joined the Parish Council as a co-opted member. She is very welcome.

Matters considered this month covered the fencing at the Bardfield End Green grass triangle; land in Bolford Street; resurfacing Bolford Street Hall Car Park; work around the management plan for Cutler's Green; the completion of the car park at the allotment site and work around the parish as a result of a tree survey.

In June, the Council had resolved to work with the Thaxted Society and Hands off Thaxted to investigate the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan for Thaxted and to form a steering group for this purpose. In July and August the steering group met with the RCCE, Andrew Taylor (UDC) and Rachel Hogger, a planning expert appointed by UDC to support parish councils in undertaking neighbourhood development plans.

## **AUGUST**

This is often a quiet month. Many years ago meetings were not held in August as most councillors would have been involved with Harvest. How times have changed, with no farmers on the council now.

## **SEPTEMBER**

After many months the Remembrance tablet research is nearly complete and we looked forward to a planning application being submitted for the oak tablet to be placed under the guildhall. The Bardfield Triangle Fence continued to cause difficulties. Meanwhile planning applications concerning former telephone exchange and Orange Street were submitted. Council were not happy with suggestion that the Little Maypole ResCu site should receive change of use to houses. A meeting with Fred Knight was held to view the Knight Collection which many will have visited at their Open Days. This collection of Thaxted memorabilia deserves to be housed in a museum. Plans to celebrate H.M. Queen's 90 birthday were beginning to take shape. Council were also pleased to agree that the Recreation Ground Car Park was to be Resurfaced and Highways reported that all Street light faults had been repaired.

## **OCTOBER**

Diagrammatic representations of the scale and form of the new hardwood memorial together with the proposed layout of the inscribed names of the fallen were shown to Council which was asked to review them. Discussion took place about the process for applying for listed building consent to erect the memorial on the Guildhall together with thoughts on fundraising and seeking quotes from suitable contractors for the construction of the memorial.

Thoughts about the idea on a museum were floating around.

The Neighbourhood Plan concept had reached decision stage. The Clerk had been working with Rachel Hogger since the start of September preparing and finalising a fully costed project plan in order that a decision could be taken as to whether or not to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan. These detailed plans for the NP process were discussed and it was agreed to pursue an application.

The proposals for the Queen's 90 birthday celebrations were progressing and a budget was decided.

Meanwhile, at a Cutler's Green residents meeting, plans were discussed involving various tree, shrub and ditch work at the Green. Also plans for the Clarence House Conservation Garden were being shaped by the new management committee made up of both councillors and garden enthusiasts.

## **NOVEMBER**

Concerns were expressed over the Old Telephone exchange new application and the development in Bolford Street. The Bardfield End Green fence issue still rumbles on.

A Speed survey was proposed with a view to considering increased Traffic calming in Bardfield Road. It was agreed that it is a site for improvement works. The suggestion being that it should take the form of doubling up the "wig wag" on the approach to the school so as to create a type of entry point.

November is the time the Council decides on grants made to local groups in the following financial year.

It is also the time when the External Auditor reports. For the year 2014/15 there were no matters of concern. Also the Councillors carry out their own line by line internal audit. It was stated that following an investigation on the above accounts councillors are pleased to confirm that they met with their full approval and satisfaction.

The process for appointing a contractor for the grounds maintenance contract was started.

## **DECEMBER**

Council considered matters of winter gritting and drainage.

Council responded to Uttlesford DC Local Plan consultation. It stated that the historic nature of this area is important. In a lengthy reply, they felt that Thaxted should be re-classified as its current "key village" status did not reflect how its facilities had been stretched; that better public transport provision would

improve employment prospects; low-cost housing should be a priority and there was considerable concern over traffic through the town.

Meanwhile at the gardens contract renewal meeting the interview panel was aware of the need for “best value” and was pleased in recommending to the Open Spaces Committee that it appoints Phipps Landscapes. They advised that these contractors were also the most competitively priced. After taking advice from the Council’s internal auditor, it was suggested that the Council’s Grounds Maintenance Contract should be for one year with the option to extend to three years. So it was agreed to appoint Phipps Landscapes on a one year contract with an option to extend to three years.

## **JANUARY**

The new development in Orange Street needed a name. Council were not enthused with the developer’s suggestion. So after discussions with Uttlesford DC and reference to the UDC Street Naming Policy, a request being made that the new street is called Page Drive. The developers had shown some reticence in accepting the Council’s suggestion. The Council re-affirmed its commitment to this proposal in preference to Bergamot Mews.

The group meeting to consider the Fred Knight collection had expressed a will to try and preserve the collection and archives held. The concept of the Ashdon Museum was viewed as a possibility for being replicated in Thaxted. Possible venues in Thaxted were discussed with a general consensus that the long term solution needed to be at ground floor level. Meanwhile those items that would readily fit in the Guildhall were to be used as an exhibit from Easter.

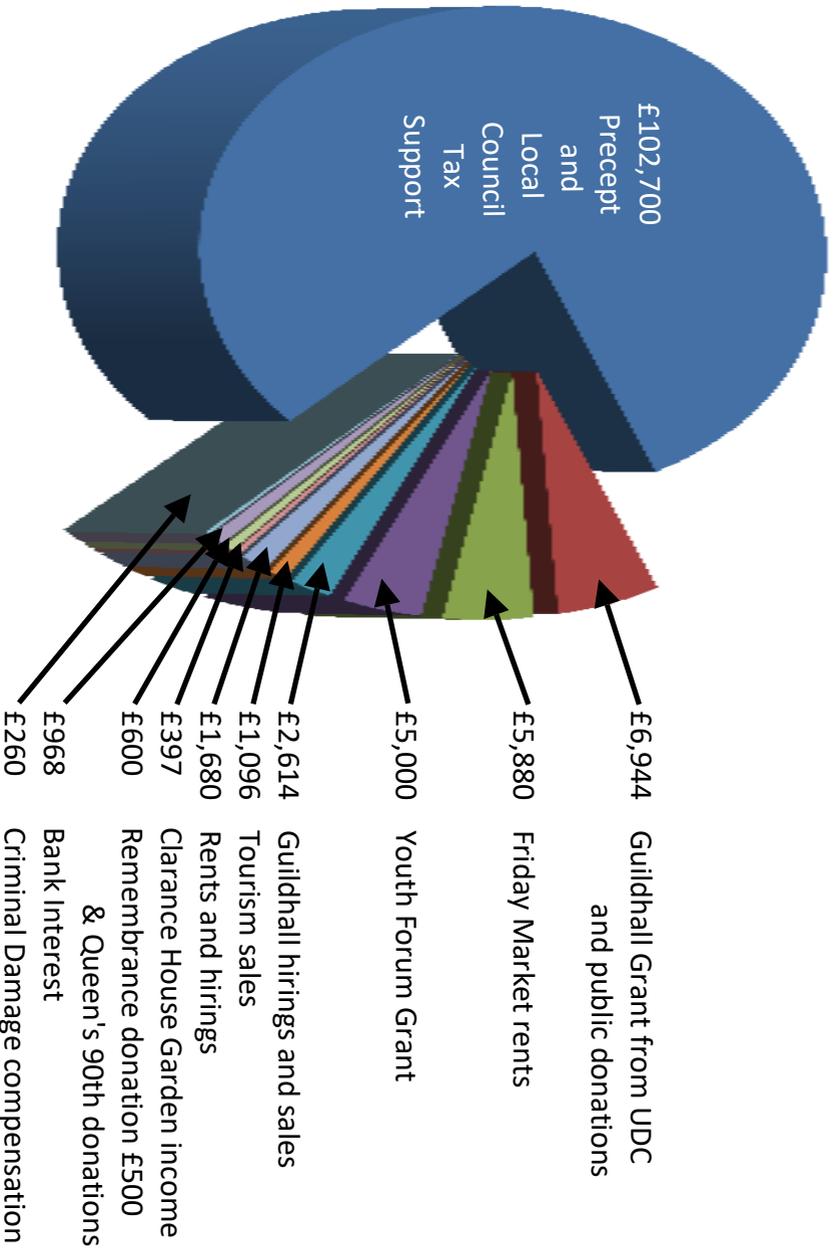
## **FEBRUARY**

The Chairman of Uttlesford Neighbourhood watch spoke to council stressing that, with the retirement of the co-ordinator, Thaxted now needed both a new town and street co-ordinators.

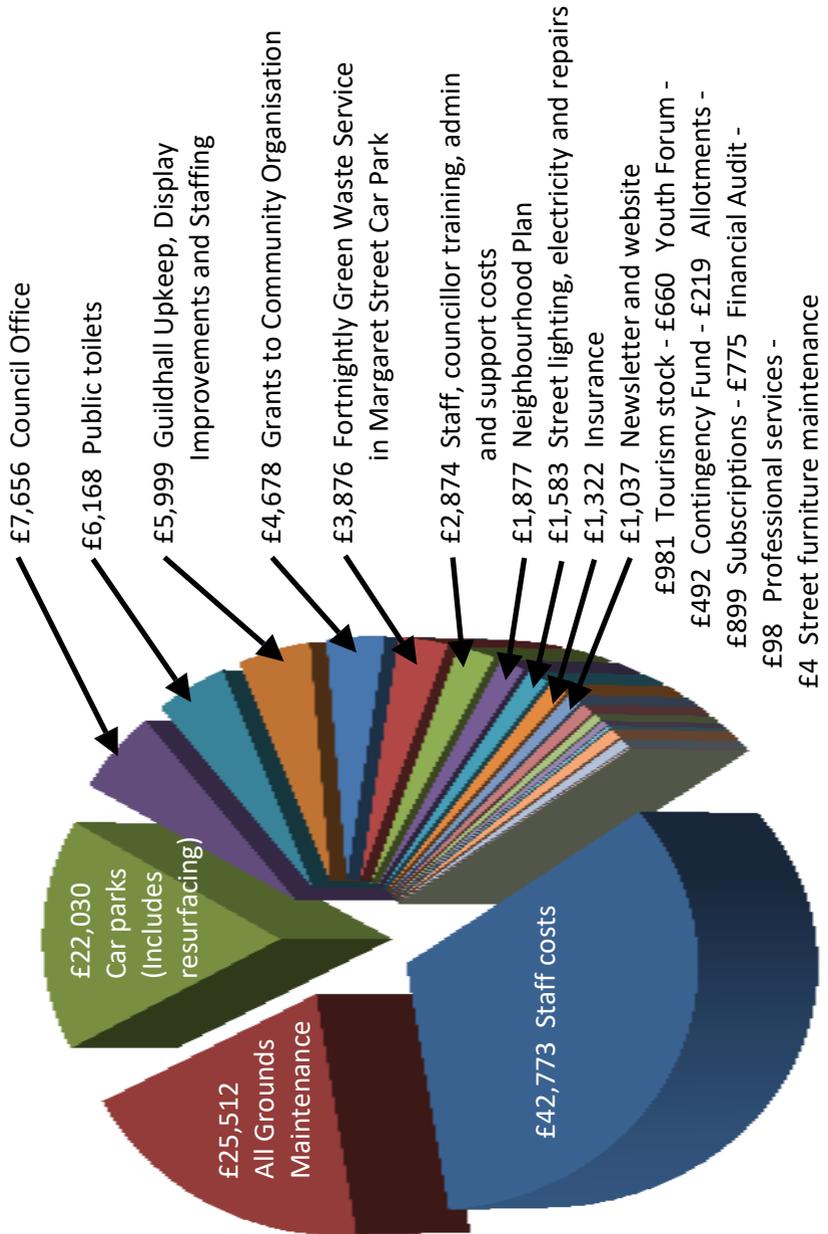
The Queen’s 90th Birthday celebrations working group was making progress working within the budget set.

Councillors were concerned about the use and misuse of the town’s car parks. Should we have a policy of enforcement or free for all? Signage had been put up indicating that car parks were short stay only. It had come to the Council’s attention that local businesses were using them for parking all day. It was also believed that non-residents were leaving cars in the car park for extended periods when flying from Stansted Airport. After discussions about how parking

**Income 2015 - 16**  
**£128,139**



**Expenditure 2015 - 16**  
**£131,513**



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could be controlled and what enforcement actions were available to the Council it was felt more information was needed. We do rely on the good will of those using the car parks.

## **MARCH**

At last the War Memorial had reached planning application stage. The Neighbourhood Plan group were to stage an information event. It was the month of the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **APRIL**

This month saw the consultation on a "Call for Sites" for potential development across the UDC. The Council's response document was then agreed by a vote taken on each of the twenty sites. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for putting the document together and District Cllr Freeman for visiting the sites and his support in preparing the Council's response. He also thanked Richard Haynes and Peter Neale for contributing their expertise to the process.

Three new schemes for realigning Town Street outside the Post Office with alterations to its junction with The Tanyard and to include the installation of Bollards outside 4 - 6 Town Street were presented to Council. Unfortunately Councillors do not find any of the schemes acceptable mainly as all would result in the loss of parking spaces.

## **MAY**

The Annual Meeting had come round again and I as existing Chairman and Victoria as Vice Chairman were re-elected. The Proposal for the supply of alcohol off the premises at the Thaxted Post Office was controversial. Councillors discussed the application at length. A proposal was put to object to the application which was carried.

The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations were getting closer; the programme of events was published. Bunting was to be put up in time for Morris Weekend. Offers of sponsorship have not been forthcoming. As we all know the events were a great success despite the somewhat damp weather. The Town Handyman has resigned and we thank Neil for all his work around the town.

*Terry Frostick  
June 2016*

## Clarence House Conservation Garden, Margaret Street.

In 2014 the garden was gifted to the Parish Council from Essex County Council. Since then a Garden Management Group has been set up to renovate & maintain the garden for the use of all Thaxted Residents and now the garden is open every weekend & Bank Holiday during the Spring & Summer.

Much of the heavy work has been undertaken removing dead & dying trees, re-siting the pond, clearing undergrowth from the woodland area as well as pruning the many fruit trees and we would like to thank all those who have helped so far. The work is being undertaken by volunteers and if you have time to join in and become part of the team you would be most welcome as more help is required to maintain this large area. Future plans include extending the flower beds as well as the general weeding & tidying of existing areas.



Working parties will take place on the following days.

Thursday evenings 7-9pm: 21 July, 4 August, 18 August, 25 August,  
Sunday mornings 10.30am-1pm: 24 July, 7 August, 21 August

Also look out for the posters announcing dates of the fruit picking weekend which will be in the Autumn.

*Annie Harding*

## **Thanks for people who supported the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.**

Our thanks must go to the following people and organisations; without their help and support the events over the weekend of the 11th and 12th of June could not have happened. It is only due to the willingness and generosity of others, such as those listed below, that Thaxted could stage such a range of events for all to enjoy. We thank you all.

Hazel and Simon Latham for hosting the event and for allowing us to make a mess on their meadow.

Joe and Norma Hobbs.

The committee members of Hunts Charity and Yardleys Charity for their continued and kind support.

Russell and Stuart Haigh for their generous sponsorship.

Fiona and Graham Husband of Exportise for their generous sponsorship.

James Cranes and the Active Spring Company.

Bradley Osborne for his sponsorship.

The Committee of the Thaxted Fayre Trust for their very kind donation.

Thaxted Windmill Trust.

John Shaw and Create Motion for their generous sponsorship.

John Jossaume for his sponsorship.

John Starr for his support and tireless work with all of the bands.

Gill Gordon, Joanne Elliott, Sabrina Long, Karen Bell, Sue Beck and Olivia Tzen for decorating the marquee.

Steve Morris and the Thaxted Fire Brigade.

Lt Col Will MacDonald: Station Commander Carver Barracks for his help with security.

The Environment Team at Uttlesford District Council for their help with the loan of waste bins and for collecting them all FOC

Neil Saych

Steve Hitchin

Peter Taylor

Steve Clark

Paul Abbs

Alistair Rivers

Dean Stannard

Gary and Sue Stockle

Robert Caton and his staff

Paul Cooke

Alan Saville

Keith Bush

Mike Robinson

Clive Knight

Ruth Ship

Emily Christopher  
Thaxted Morris Men  
Sybil King

Victoria Knight  
Donna Bryant  
Stuart Levey

Mike Dodds  
Mike Collins  
Frankie Miller

Karen Linwood and all her family and extended family and helpers for organising the seniors lunch.

Father Phillip Tarris, Father Chris Brown and the Thaxted Church Wardens.

And finally very special thank you must go to Phillip Fields for his exceptional help and tireless support.

Our apologies to anyone we have missed off the list.

*Will Brazier*

## **THAXTED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Neighbourhood Plan which will help influence Thaxted's future over the next 20 years is progressing well.

The specialist consultants who are looking at important landscape views in and out of Thaxted and the settings of important street scenes and buildings have nearly completed their draft reports; presentations will be made where the community will be able to comment on the findings and say what is important to them .

Local experts in the town are surveying all of Thaxted's buildings and streets and their report will be used to ask for the community's views on what changes/additions are made

The Rural Community Council of Essex will shortly provide their report on the Housing Needs Survey undertaken in the town in April; this will tell us what your housing requirements are.

At the end of September we will be holding a community consultation event in the church where members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the specialist consultants will present their findings, answer your questions and provide information for you.

Remember that the most important element of the Plan and its success is that the community takes a full part in its preparation.

*Peter Neale*

**Deputy Clerk: Mike Collins**

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## Parish Councillors

To contact any of the Parish Councillors please, in the first instance, contact the Parish Clerk's office. Your enquiry can then be dealt with in the most appropriate way.

Cllr. Terry Frostick  
(Chairman)

Cllr. Victoria Knight  
(Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. William Brazier

Cllr. Olek Centala

Cllr. Andrew Frater

Cllr. Stuart Levey

Cll. David Morgan

Cllr. Karen Sweeney

Cllr. Antoinette Wattebot

Cllr. Ray Williams

1 Vacancy

## Parish Clerk

Following an internal process, the employment of Julie Abel as the Clerk to the Parish Council has ended. The recruitment process for the appointment of a new Clerk to the Council will start as soon as possible.

## Lost & Found Property

At the **Library and Information Centre** we have set up a "**Lost and Found**" service for the Town. Any items found can be brought to us and anyone who has lost something can tell us what is lost.

We will then display basic details of these items in our notice board on the outside of the building. So if you have lost or found anything let us have the details and keep an eye on the notice board.

**Please check our notice board for Lost and Found items**

## The Thaxted Parish Council Newsletter

Published four times a year, Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. It is delivered to as many homes as possible. Copies will be available from the Community Information Centre and the text is on the website.