

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AT 08:00 PM IN THE DAY CENTRE**

**Present:** Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), V Knight (Vice Chairman), W Brazier, A Howells, J Spencer, R Williams, J Miller, A Wattebott, I Stewart, D Morgan.

**Also Present:**

County Cllr Simon Walsh  
District Cllr Howard Rolfe  
District Cllr Martin Foley  
Cllr Marie Felton (Felsted & Stebbing ward)

Dena Ludford Parish Clerk 22 members of the public

**17/18.340 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

District Cllr J Freeman  
Cllr A Frater

**17/18.341 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr W Brazier declares a Non Pecuniary Interest in item 17/18.350.ii  
Cllr V Knight declares a Non Pecuniary Interest in item 17/18.350.v

**17/18.342 TO WELCOME THE LEADER OF UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr Rolfe speaks in connection to UDC and the Stansted decision Local Plan and looks forward to receiving comments on all, including the Library consultation. £450,000 surplus invested in 50% stake in park which delivered £2m this year. The nature of Local government is changing and as such we continue to maintain close links with our voluntary sector including the health and wellbeing and community safety, preventative care and public health.

**17/18.343 THAXTED LIBRARY CLOSURE CONSULTATION**

To consider the impact of Thaxted Library's potential closure and Thaxted Parish Councils response to the consultation. At this point the chairman opens this session for Public comments:

A public speaker states that the consultation is deeply flawed, having conducted personal research the speaker comments that one could attempt to persuade them to change their mind, which the speaker feels is impossible the other is to take this to Judicial Review, and references 'The Wirral'.

The speaker says that ECC is not Legal or morally right and noted a number of points:

- The public libraries and museums act should provide a comprehensive and effective library system.
- The library is a sensory experience and not one which can be gained via computer
- ECC haven't consulted with residents prior to the decision being made
- The process of the research is flawed and only used one measure if the library was used (ie books)
- The consultation document is loaded in favour of computers
- It discriminates against those who won't have computers.

Cllr Rolfe states that a Judicial Review is incredibly expensive and a lawyer would need to be engaged, we would be certainly with you, however a Judicial Review is not in Cllr Rolfe's opinion the right way forward, Cllr Rolfe reinforced the point that this is just a consultation at this stage and Essex County Council has analysed the libraries in Essex and not just Thaxted Library, book borrowing has fallen over the past 8 years to 8Million to 4Million, Computer usage has also gone down, although Thaxted is a Library which is already a community hub and would be encouraged particularly in Uttlesford District Council area.

A speaker representing the Neighbourhood Plan states that the social deprivation and disease should be challenged, and this is weighted and these factors need to be taken to account, The Speaker would also echo Cllr Rolfe's words of caution around Judicial Review, this is a consultation.

Chairman's Initial

Cllr Rolfe also states that the last time we looked at the Essex Library service was 2003 and we received 35,000 responses, it's not just about buildings it's about the wider library service how its delivered and how people conduct their lives, I take your point I like books and I personally purchased some this week from e bay and these are coming straight to your door. The petition will be acknowledged and taken into consideration and although this is in place it is advisable not to rely wholly on this as this may only count as 1 representation, I would encourage you to make more representations. The demographics of this town are changing and young families moving in which may encourage reading clubs.

The Chairman responds that this Library was once in Fishmarket street then moved to Clarence house and this was promised to 'save our library', this is closing the heart of the community we don't know if Uttlesford District Council will continue to fund this building and we The Parish Council would certainly struggle to fund this without Uttlesford's input.

We would suggest that we challenge the scoring, Cllr Walsh is in a difficult spot and is here to represent Thaxted. The idea of Judicial Review is premature, and the immediate numbers should be the main focus of our challenge. Cllr Foley wishes to speak about the breakdown of costs which we have, we're not talking about a huge amount of money and we're talking about 14 hours of paid time for library staff. There are two parts, the community facility and UDC are right behind the community facility, the price that Essex County Council pay for the use of the building, there is the librarian and there's the books which also have a cost associated to them, they cannot give notice for a year at least.

Cllr Rolfe states that If it came to it and we could find the £7,000 and there could be an arrangement made about the books and possibility of volunteers, I don't think it's the District who should pick up the cost of something that Essex County Council aren't doing, it's sensible coherent and well argues cased to the consultation that are needed in the first instance.

Cllr Brazier wishes to thank the chairman and Cllr Foley who's worked hard for Thaxted in connection to this.

The chairman also states that Thaxted this year was used as a 'Model Library & Hub' and as such a training video commissioned by Essex County Council was made in our library making use of our Library staff and our Clerk.

This Video can be seen on You Tube under this Link should anyone be interested in viewing this: (3minutes & 36 seconds in to the video clip)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZx0aNLcawI&list=PLZoh2Z5XUn-g09LB7LNKFOVWv7PGSUJ2o>

### **17/18.344 WILD THAXTED**

To receive a short presentation on Wild Thaxted, what our aims are, what we have achieved so far and want we want to achieve in the future.

Will Cockerell speaks in connection to the piece of land at the end of the mead which has been registered as a school site wishing to protect and promote, this piece of land has become known as chalky meadow, we were unsuccessful in our bid to register this piece of land as a community asset however have pursued the idea of trying to manage this prior to it being a school, at first this was very positive however there's been a change of personnel and sadly we've been unable to get a response moving forward. The Bio Blitz has now been carried out two at different points in the year. There's been other activities in connection to wildlife and a talk on Bats including an evening walk was very enjoyable. Another initiative from someone called 'save our swifts' they are in decline as their habitats are in decline, quiet understandably those who own older houses wish to have their homes wind and weather tight. One our Local Builders, Wadhams who are developing the old sweet factory have incorporated a swift brick to accommodate them. We've identified some swift boxes to replace the habitat which has been lost. Our Essex Wildlife group have also organised two meetings at the meadow and the local community mini bus has been used to ferry those to and from these areas. Our volunteer river wardens are also very active. A plant called the 'Himalayan Balsam' and invasive plant has been removed from local rivers, evidence of otters have been seen and this week I've been able to capture them on camera. Unfortunately, I've also seen mink which are systematic in destroying the water voles. Future projects are new nature walks and we're looking in to financing the installation and looking at future plans alongside the Parish Council.

The chairman wishes to thank and acknowledge those who have taken on this project and although I cannot speak for this Parish Council and the Clerk, feel that this could be something as a collaborative venture we may be able to help with, for example applying for grants or administering such activity which might enable the work to be done

without having to form a separate committee or charity, this we could bring back to a future meeting and I'm sure the Clerk would be happy to assist where she can.

#### **17/18.345 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

A speaker wishes to pose a question to Cllr Rolfe in connection to Chesterford research park, is that £2m from revenue or land sale – Cllr Rolfe answers this is all revenue, it is not intended for this to be the whole investment and similar investments would be considered.

Cllr J Spencer asks Cllr Rolfe about social housing in UDC, is there a little leeway on social housing? The government has released a cap on borrowing and UDC along with many other authorities brought it's community housing, costing £89m the cap has now been lifted so we may borrow whatever we want, we have a policy for 40% of affordable housing for any application over 15 houses, reporting that last year we delivered around 160 affordable and this year this could be as high as 300 new houses, Uttlesford District Council owned just under 300 of its own council housing and another around 3000 with close links to affordable housing. Cllr Rolfe states that there is no one in UDC who cannot be housed.

Cllr A Watterbott states in relation to housing relating to national matters and yet seems not to relate to local housing including congestion noise, our employment situation is already full and wishes to reiterate this. Cllr Rolfe agrees, and Officers recommend approval, and the secretary of state and department of transport some time ago indicated the best use of available capacity. This was an application which was to go from 42 to 43m PA, the key point was not to increase the 274,000 flight PA, there is a thought of sustainable transport throughout. And on balance, the committee thought this was the right decision.

Cllr W Brazier asks that what is the likelihood of UDC reviewing their policy in the way that the issues social housing with new developments, our issue is that the people who are born and bred in Thaxted who simply cannot afford to stay within the area. We cannot seem as a Parish Council to get the people of this community in to these houses, we just as some point want nomination rights. There are schemes where a benevolent land owner donates the land. Cllr M Felton explains that we prioritise local people who wish to go in these local homes and would like to come back with specific details, if you have any specifics, we'd be happy to look in to this, we take great pride in there is a commitment to come back to the clerk.

Cllr R Williams asks is the question that those on the list cannot afford the rent, Cllr M Felton agrees that this may well be the case, the housing association ones do tend to cost more in terms of rental money.

Cllr Foley reiterates what is affordable and social rent in a council house in more affordable in housing association.

Cllr Rolfe reiterates Affordable means 80% of market rent, some of our council houses are down to 60% of market rent.

The Chairman cannot understand why the 40% of social housing is not retained by UDC, Cllr Rolfe explains because we have to purchase them, we are very proud that we are one of the only councils to be building 35 council houses.

The Chairman wishes to thank the leader of the UDC and Cllr M Felton for their attendance this evening and welcome them to future meetings of this Council.

A public speaker wishes to point out that the Neighbourhood plan is now made effective and the point is it is effective from the date of the examiner's report and given the soon to be debated Monk Street application this should be taken in to consideration.

#### **17/18.346 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

Appendix A

#### **17/18.347 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED**

To receive County Councillor reports on matters related to Thaxted.

#### **17/18.348 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on **15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

Chairman's Initial

**17/18.349 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

To **NOTE** the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held on **15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**17/18.350 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) To consider and comment on the following planning applications: -

**i) APPLICATION NO. UTT/3090/OP**

**PROPOSAL:** Outline application with all matters reserved for the demolition of existing stables and erection of 4 no. detached dwellings with garages

**LOCATION:** Land East Of Monk Street

**RESOLVED to OBJECT unanimously for the following reasons**

On the grounds that it's not compliant with the Local plan basis that this does not meet the requirements of the Neighbourhood plan.

The Parish Council feel that the scheme is totally unsympathetic to their neighbours and is contra to policy S7 for sustainable reasons. The Parish Council also feel that Policy Gen 7 and Gen 14 are not met and in addition ENV2 – listed building which are directly opposite across the road, 4 large developments in this proposed field and falls within the curtilage of the listed buildings. Thaxted Parish Council would also point out that with an effective neighbourhood Plan under the NPPF, any town or village with a Neighbourhood plan that the 5-year land supply becomes a three year one, which Uttlesford has indeed got.

**ii) APPLICATION NO. UTT/18/3100/FUL & 3101/LB**

**PROPOSAL:** Change of use and conversion of cartlodge to 1 no. dwelling. (LB) Conversion of cartlodge to 1 no. dwelling together with associated works including repairs and upgrade to roof, insertion of windows, doors and glazed screens, addition of flue, insertion of internal partitions, new brick plinth

**LOCATION:** Cartlodge At Cornfields Sibleys Lane

**RESOLVED to SUPPORT**

**iii) APPLICATION NO. UTT/18/3205/HHF**

**PROPOSAL:** Section 73A Retrospective application for proposed new cart lodge and studio, closure of existing vehicular access and reinstatement of frontage wall, setting back of existing gateway at western vehicular access (amendments to approved application ref: UTT/18/1886/HHF)

**LOCATION:** Greensleeves 37 Bolford Street

**RESOLVED to MAKE NO OBJECTION**

**iv) APPLICATION NO. UTT/18/2999/LB**

**PROPOSAL:** Retention of painted render on rear extension

**LOCATION:** Coverts Bardfield End Green Thaxted Dunmow Essex

**RESOLVED to SUPPORT**

**v) APPLICATION NO. UTT/18/3183/HHF**

**PROPOSAL:** Remove existing outbuilding and erect new garage and workshop.

**LOCATION:** Whitegates Watling Lane.

**RESOLVED to MAKE NO OBJECTION**

**b) THAXTED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

(Appendix C)

**17/18.351 FINANCE**

a) To Review on line payment for Approval

**17/18.352 STALLARD KANE**

Chairman's Initial

**RESOLVED To RECEIVE & SIGN** the updated environmental health and safety policy statement

**17/18.353 PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

To receive an update from Cllr Jon Spencer in connection to the recent Thaxted Surgery Participation group and to seek this Council's support in principle going forward. Thaxted Surgery came first in GP surgery's in Essex on patient satisfaction and as a council it would be nice to give our appreciation. Chairman agrees. Cllr J Spencer states that they are going to do a sponsored walk in June next year and wish to receive the council's support. They have raised around £18,000. Cllr J Spencer will remain our representative

**17/18.354 CLERKS REPORT**

To receive an update from the clerk on matters connected to the council.

A Question was asked if we promoted the Karate Club? The clerk responds Yes all local papers were sent a statement and images however none took this to print which is a shame.

**17/18.355 REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT**

To give thanks to all those who Organised the events which took place this year marking the 100-year anniversary of the end of WW1. Cllr Brazier did an incredible amount of work and the fireworks were thoroughly enjoyed, the church service and the parade were incredibly well managed, Cllr Brazier will forward names to the clerk to official thank them.

**17/18.356 CHANGE OF MEETING DATE**

a) **RESOLVED To APPROVE** a date of meeting change from the advertised 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for the **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** to the **21<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

b) **RESOLVED To APPROVE** a date of meeting change from the advertised 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 for the **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE PERSONNEL AND IT COMMITTEE MEETING** to the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**17/18.357 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting will be on **JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019** at Thaxted Guildhall at 8:00pm. The chairman wishes to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy new year.

Chairman's Signature

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

Chairman's Initial