

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2020 at 8pm in the Guildhall

Present: Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), A Frater (Vice Chairman) W Brazier, J Spencer, A Howells, V Knight, R Barrington, A Wattebot, I Stewart, D Morgan

Also Present: Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO) & 3 member of the Public

19/20.550 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Simon Walsh
 District Cllr's M Foley & M Tayler
 Cllr Ray Williams

19/20.551 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Brazier declares a NPI in the item related to the 'licencing' on the agenda.

19/20.552 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

None Received

19/20.553 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

None Received

19/20.554 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

See attached

19/20.555 MINUTES

RESOLVED To **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on **10th December 2019**

19/20.556 FINANCE

a) BUDGETS

- To **NOTE** and **APPROVE** the draft budget as attached for £122,500
- **RESOLVED** To **ACCEPT** the **RECOMMEND** precept to be levied on parishioners in 2020/2021 is set at £122,500. *This will result in a Band D property paying £87.41 per annum, an increase of £1.78 when compared to the 2019/2020 year.*

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to set the precept as detailed.

b) To Note and Approve the Councils Gross income, expenditure and EMR balances.

c) To review online payment for Approval

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

19/20.557 END OF YEAR CLOSE DOWN

RESOLVED To Review and **APPROVE** the instructing the accounting firm RBS for our financial end of year close down

19/20.558 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

There's been a change of focus since our last meeting having now withdrawn our expression of interests, there's been one meeting of the new library group, its purpose is to promote the library and encourage its usage.

Chairman Signature:

II. Prevention of Crime working group

Having spoken to Sargent Miah who has agreed to meet with us privately. EALC are organising a briefing on unauthorised encampments, the home office has also circulated a letter to all asking for suggestion on the updated laws, hopefully after this meeting with the EALC we may have some suggestions to make. Once the Clerk has been provided with the info from the crime prevention group the clerk will upline this within the deadlines as provided. Also the group is now aware of the Rural engagement team within the police and finally we are making inroads with the neighbourhood watch team to reignite this in Thaxted.

III. CLT Working Group

The CLT met with a group of Volunteers this Tuesday evening in connection to those who may wish to offer their services in setting this up and moving this forward. This council remains supportive of this setup.

19/20.559 TOILET REFERB

Cllr Brazier met with the hand dryer company who currently provide the units, Wallgate, and we discussed several options, also, there is a local company who have been contacted, however we've yet to meet and hopefully by the next meeting the Clerk will have some figures.

19/20.560 JUBILEE GARDENS – SURGERY UPDATE

The Clerk updated the Council with the bollards which are to be installed soon, a courtesy email to the person who was parking there has been sent and has adhered to our requests to which the Council is grateful.

19/20.561 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

To receive a verbal report from the chairman on council activities including attendances and code of conduct. Items for consideration and action may include:

a) **V.E DAY CELEBRATIONS (SEE ATTACHED)**

After a lengthy discussion this council **Resolved** the following:

Whilst this Council is willing to offer support to others which may already be running a V.E day celebration event, the Council is not minded to manage or organise a separately run event.

7 in favour of this resolution and 3 against.

b) **OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE** – to consider the councils actions from the meeting held on the 6th September 2018. The Chairman asks if there is an appetite to setup a working group, perhaps a one page document could be written with direction as to where the memorial books will be placed. It was **Resolved** to keep a watching brief on this matter and the Clerk to report back as required.

19/20.562 MEETING DATES

a) **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** the remaining meeting dates scheduled for this Council year up to and including May's Annual Council Meeting – please note the revised date for consideration in connection to this years proposed V.E events

RESOLVED to move the **Annual Parish Assembly to the 2nd April** with teas and coffee before starting at 7:30 to start the meeting at 8pm

RESOLVED to move council meeting from to 9th APRIL

RESOLVED to move the **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING** to the **14th May**

b) **RESOLVED** To **APPROVE** the schedule of council meetings for 2020-2021 as **Provisional only**, (they will be displayed in Draft format only) and, at the point of the new council year, the full meeting schedule will be decided upon by the residing chairman of the council, for council & committee meetings going forward through 2020-2021.

19/20.563 CLERKS REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Clerk including ongoing Council activities.

Items to consider for action from the Clerks report may include:

A) appointing a councillor to attend this upcoming transport meeting: the agenda of which included:

1. *Welcome and Introductions*
2. *Outcome of Evening & Sunday Services Consultation December 2018*
3. *Operator updates*
4. *Update on Local Essex County Council Services*
5. *Date of next meeting and close*

Uttlesford	Thursday 19 March	The Committee Room, Saffron Walden Town Council, Market Place, Saffron Walden CB10 1HL
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RESOLVED that Cllr A Wattebot will attend.

B) To consider our response to the licensing application which can be viewed in full on our website by following the link below:

https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/9975/Application-for-a-Premises-Licence-Restaurant-Thaxted/pdf/Application_for_new_premises_licence_20_Watling_St-r-a.pdf?m=637121907833470000

https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/9976/Application-for-a-Premises-Licence-Restaurant-Thaxted-Plan/pdf/New_premises_licence_20_Watling_St-plan-a.pdf?m=637121908093600000

The last day for representations is **Monday 13 January**. Representations must be made in writing and be based on one of the 4 licensing objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Thaxted Parish Councils responds with the following comments:

Whilst Thaxted Parish Council support the principle of the business in practise, It would be very concerned about a renewed licence, and would wish to stipulate that should this licence be re-issued must strictly comply to the laws and in particular not encourage any future behaviour which might bring the establishment in to disrepute by way of Public Safety, Public Nuisance and must continue to uphold the law and be instrumental in the prevention of crime.

Thaxted Parish Council would be interested to learn what due diligence measures the licence holder plans to undertake in connection to upholding these laws as past indications might suggest this may not have been as robust as the District Council or Parish Council might have wished. The suggestion from the Parish Council would be that if the Licence was to be reinstated the authority may consider imposing a probation period and review all matters which may be relevant after an appropriate length of time has passed.

C) P3 EXPENSE

To consider the administration process and late invoice payments by Essex County Council

The Clerk explained the administration and payment process to the Council, the Council wishes that the clerk should Arrange meeting with Cllr S Walsh and the P3 group volunteers to discuss how better to manage this going forward, This council is keen to ensure that no volunteer should be out of pocket by way of agreed expenses for the work they undertake.

D) To receive a verbal update from the clerk in connection the meeting recently held with the Chairman of the Thaxted Rangers.

E) To confirm that the Kebab Van wishes to continue to trade on Sundays at the coach park, to offer the now available Monday position to the other interested party for their consideration.

19/20.564 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council Meeting will be on **Thursday 6th February 2020** at Thaxted Guildhall at 8pm or following the previous Planning and Highways meeting if so held.

To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Administration to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the Public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government act 1972.

19/20.565 COMMUNITY LAND OPPORTUNITY

The Chairman presented the opportunity to acquire approximately a quarter of an acre of land offered as a gift to the Parish Council for the provisions of building Community Housing.

After a lengthy discussion the following point were noted in relation to the portion on land offered:

The site is outside of the 'sensitive rural setting' as defined in the Neighbourhood Plan so it's necessary to turn to Local Plan S7. Policy TX HD4 of the NP specifically says that that affordable housing on exception sites should be located 'within easy access of the village centre' and this is elaborated in the supporting text which says that there should be 'good pedestrian links to the village core, primary school and surgery...'. On that basis and given this site's proximity to the town with no footpath links making walking to school or to the surgery not viable, it cannot be described as 'necessary development' within the countryside and would therefore not stand the test under the aforementioned policies.

Following this discussion a proposal by Cllr Brazier was made not to accept this parcel of land, this was seconded by Cllr Stewart. This proposal was put to the Council vote and a unanimous agreement was reached.

It is therefore **RESOLVED** to decline this parcel of land.

The Clerk is instructed to make contact with the owners of this land with the findings of this meeting.