

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14th MAY 2020 at 8:15pm
VIA Zoom

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

In accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020, c. 7, Part 1, Local authority meetings, Section 78 – Members are permitted to be present and attend a meeting without being present in the Council Chamber or together in the same place - extract from this Act reads: “The provision which may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(d) includes in particular provision for persons to attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in, local authority meetings without all of the persons, or without any of the persons, being together in the same place.”

Present:

Councillors: T Frostick (Chairman), A Frater (Vice Chairman), J Spencer, A Howells, I Stewart, V Knight, R Williams, R Barrington.

Also Present: Dena Ludford (Clerk & RFO)
Richard Haynes NP Delivery Group
Peter Neale NP Delivery Group

0 members of the Public

The Chairman permits Uttlesford District Cllr Foley’s request to addresses the meeting participants earlier, minute reference 19/2.620 is therefore the first item taken.

19/20.611 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

19/20.612 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None Received

19/20.613 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

None Received.

19/20.614 TO REVIEW AND AGREE ALL COMMITTEE TITLES INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO THE COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES

It is **RESOLVED** for the councils committee membership to be appointed:
(See appendix A)

19/20.615 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN TO THE COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES

It is **RESOLVED** to elect the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council’s Committees as Follows:

	Chairman	Vice Chairman
a) Finance & Assets	Cllr Terry Frostick	Cllr Ray Williams
b) Personnel Committee	Cllr Andrew Frater	Cllr Alison Howells
c) Open Spaces Committee	Cllr Alison Howells	Cllr Andrew Frater
d) Highways & Planning Committee	Cllr Jon Spencer	Cllr Victoria Knight
e) Clarence House Committee	Cllr Alison Howells	Nick Elcombe
f) Guildhall Management Committee	Cllr Terry Frostick	Cllr Andrew Frater

19/20.616 TO REVIEW AND AGREE TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO THE COUNCIL’S STANDING WORKING GROUPS

It is **RESOLVED** for the councils standing working groups to be appointed:
(See appendix A)

Chairman Signature:

19/20.617 TO CONSIDER and APPOINT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OR ORGANISATIONS

It is **RESOLVED** that the council's representation to committee organisations is as shown:
(See appendix B)

19/20.618 COVID-19 LOCAL RESPONSE REPORTS

The organisers have now had representations from all over Thaxted and now there are 19 people who they are going to begin delivery food boxes tomorrow.

19/20.619 THE NEW NORMAL

To **DISCUSS, CONSIDER** and **APPROVE** appropriate Council support for post lock down events and celebrations. Cllr Knight wishes to note that the 2 May 2021 is the government directive end date on remote meetings therefore the council has no need to risk face to face meeting until this date, after a discussion in connection to celebrating the new normal, It was agreed that the Clerk make enquiries with other organisations to assimilate some feedback returning to the council in future for consideration on any action to take forward.

19/20.620 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

Cllr Foley wishes to make a statement, both Mike and I have resigned from the Liberal Democrats Group and are now Thaxted and Easters Independent Group, we feel this is the best thing to do for our community and this is essentially all we have to say right now, I can assure you that you will continue to receive first class service as you have had before. Cllr Frostick states that for Thaxted Parish council you have always been non-political and as chairman we respect your decision and as such, you will have Thaxted Parish Councils full support.

19/20.621 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH OF THAXTED

The Recycling and refuse Tips are to open on Monday.

19/20.622 MINUTES

To **APPROVE** and **Digitally** sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on **23rd April 2020**

19/20.623 PLANNING

During the planning section of any full council meeting, a member/members of the Neighbourhood Plan delivery group, (if present) will be invited to join the council table for participation, one vote may be cast in accordance to the Committee's terms of reference.

i) UTT/20/0694/FUL

PROPOSAL: Erection of 1 no. dwelling and associated garage/study (Revised scheme to approved UTT/18/1686/FUL)

LOCATION: Land At Mill Hill Farm House Cutlers Green Lane Thaxted

RESOLVED to OBJECT

The current proposal is very little different to the scheme under the application that was previously refused. The only significant differences are that the roof has been lowered and the front door is now off-centre. Having met with the applicant and explained that whilst the Parish Council regrets that a permission was ever granted on this site, if development is to be undertaken it needs to be something much more appropriate to its rural setting and something associated with the Thaxted vernacular. We do not consider that this is in any way appropriate and would refer to the recently submitted plans for Young's Acre (UTT/20/1133/FUL) as an indication of the sort of design that could be more suitable.

Cllr Knight abstained from the vote

ii) UTT/20/1014/FUL & UTT/20/1015/LB

PROPOSAL: Conversion of barn to 1no. dwelling

LOCATION: Barn At Richmond In The Wood Cutlers Green

RESOLVED to SUPPORT

Richmond's in the Wood is an important site. The barn represents a key element in the historic farmstead and its retention is essential to the integrity of the heritage asset. We are concerned that conversion to a substantial house will

Chairman Signature:

alter the character of the site but recognise that another residential element on the site, though regrettable, may be the best solution to preserve the building's form for the future. If an additional dwelling is deemed acceptable though, it is critical that the conversion is handled with the utmost sensitivity. In particular, the applicant's own heritage statement not only indicates that the building warrants independent listing but highlights, specifically the large double doors. The scheme proposed appears to remove these completely and replace them with large areas of glazing. This is unacceptable and will have a dramatic impact on the character of the building. It is essential we believe that a way is found to preserve these doors and incorporate them into the design of the proposed porch.

iii) UTT/20/1037/HHF

PROPOSAL: Proposed single storey side extension, porch, erection of detached domestic garage/outbuilding and associated alterations.

LOCATION: Hammer Hill Farm Stanbrook Road

RESOLVED to **SUPPORT** with the following comments

Hammer Hill Farm is at the top of a hill set within a sensitive landscape. The proposed extension to the bungalow is relatively unobtrusive and we have no specific objection to it. We are however concerned that the proposed cart-lodge could have a rather more dramatic impact on the rural setting. It appears that the current ornamental hedge will be removed, and the side wall set right up to the boundary. If permission is to be granted, we believe that it is necessary to reposition this building such that a degree of natural screening can be provided.

19/20.624 FINANCE

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

Cllr Williams has completed the end of the year accounts and that they are all in good order.

b) To review online payment for Approval

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

19/20.625 CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE CLERK: *The clerks provide a verbal report on the following items:*

a) To **CONSIDER** the financial losses attributed to **Covid-19** and **APPROVE** how Thaxted may apply and utilise a proportion of funds apportioned to UDC (from the £1.6bn devolved to town and parish councils from central government)

Cllr Frater wishes to state that unless we were adversely affected, we should not apply unnecessarily, the government will be under enough strain to support those who need and where possible we should not add to this financial burden. Cllr Frostick also states that whilst we have suffered some financial losses, they do not feel significant enough to pursue any formal course of action. Should this situation change, then we may reconsider.

RESOLVED: The Clerk and Vice Chair of F & A keep this under review and act as required.

b) INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

RESOLVED: The chairman and clerk to consider and action (when available) the revised tender for renewal on 1st June and permit the clerk to seek alternative tenders to ensure this council remains adequately covered.

Proposer Cllr J Spencer, seconded Cllr R Williams

19/20.626 CHAIRMAN'S and VICE CHAIRMANS UPDATE

The Chairman summarises that Audit preparations are underway and that The Clerk has put in some contingency measures in the event that she is unable to come into the office. The Chairman asks if the CLT can be reignited and work towards some further movement in light of recent events things have slowed down, now feel more like the time to reengage the volunteers and place some focus on how we bring this further forward.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Future scheduled meets will be advised and remain **TBA**.