

TAKELEY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

SUMMARY OF 2018 ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly of the Parish of Takeley was held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at Silver Jubilee Hall at 8.00pm.

The Chairman of Takeley Parish Council, Cllr. Carol Pratt, welcomed 25 members of the local community to the Annual Assembly.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Carol Pratt (Chairman of Takeley Parish Council)
Cllr Pat Burnett, Cllr Tina Domigan, Cllr Sue Sprules, Cllr Linda Steer, Cllr Richard Cheetham, Cllr Trisha Barber, Cllr Jim Backus, Cllr Geoff Bagnall, Cllr Dom Roque, Julia Peachey (Clerk Takeley Parish Council) Julia Potter (Asst Clerk Takeley Parish Council)

District Councillors: None present

Local Representatives:

Barbara Aviet (Takeley Ladies Circle)
Paul Burnett (Holy Trinity Church)
Steve Hazon (Takeley History Society)
John Monk (Trustee SJH & Royal British Legion)
Pat Burnett (Community Café & Community Speed Watch)
Pat Caiger (HEAL Cancer Charity)
Brian Baldwin (Takeley Community Centre)
Peter Sanders (SSE)
Steve Casey (Priors Green Community Hall)
Michael Coleman (Silver Jubilee Hall)
Ian Kennedy (Takeley Cubs & Scouts)
Joy Darby – (Essex Association of Local Councils)

Apologies:

ECC Cllr Susan Barker
District Cllr Howard Ryles
Cllr Jackie Cheetham
Cllr Trevor Allen
Cllr John Green
Martin Peachey (Community Speed Watch)
Rev Rob Burles (Holy Trinity Church)
Mrs Jackie Rogers (British Legion - Takeley Branch)

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Carol Pratt opened the meeting. The Chairman welcomed residents and representatives from community groups and highlighted the meeting was an opportunity to hear about what was going on in Takeley, and to share the success of local groups. The Chairman also highlighted that as noted on the agenda, the Council would be available to answer questions in respect of financing of The Old School House following the presentation from Cllr Bagnall

Minutes:

It was agreed unanimously by members of the community, that the published summary of the 2017 Annual Parish Assembly was a true and accurate record of events and the subsequent minutes were signed by the Chairman.

Takeley Parish Council Chairman's Report

Chairman *Carol Pratt* expressed thanks to:-

- All **Council members:** Vice Chairman Cllr Geoff Bagnall, Cllrs Richard Cheetham, Tricia Barber, John Green, Trevor Allen, Susan Sprules, Pat Burnett, Linda Steer, Tina Domigan, Jackie Cheetham, Jim Backus & Dom Roque. It was noted all members gave up their time for free and their efforts and commitments were greatly appreciated.

▪ **Thanks also expressed to:**

- Bob Muddle, retired caretaker.
- John Monk /Bob Weston and Russell Hatton – for help with the Old School House Project
- Martin Peachey – Community Speed Watch co-ordinator
- Jane Bridgeman (Asst Clerk), for her previous five years work on the council as Asst Clerk to Takeley Parish Council
- Welcome was also extended to Julia Potter the new Asst Clerk who is doing well in her new role.
- Thanks also expressed to general contractors and parish councillors and particularly Pat Burnett who is responsible for running the community café and Sue Sprules for ensuring the village planters remain kept.

Finance:

It was noted the 2017/2018 accounts had been approved by the internal Auditor and will be signed off by TPC & submitted to the NALC Auditors in June. TPC accounts are a matter of public record and are open for inspection at any time of the year. The formal inspection period this year is June to early July. Please contact the Clerk.

In the past year Takeley Parish Council has focused on:

PLANNING

The Planning Committee are now holding their planning meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the Station House at 10:30 am. (We are currently waiting to hear if we will be granted an extension to our lease which runs out on the 31/08/18).

Takeley Parish Council have enlisted help of a planning consultant this year and have also joined forces with Gt Canfield to lodge our opposition to the proposed 135 homes on land West of Canfield Road. We are currently awaiting Uttlesford's Planning Committee's decision on this application. (UTT/18/0318/OP – Land West Of Canfield Road Great Canfield Essex (Gladman Developments and Takeley Farming LLP).

We have also heard that another developer is considering their option of 110 homes on the opposite side of the road, although no formal plans have been received to date. Takeley Parish Council will again be putting in objections should the proposal be progressed further.

During the same time period Takeley Parish Council also received notice that Stansted Airport had put in a planning application to increase passenger numbers to 43 million over a 12 month period. Takeley have put in an eight page response which can be found on our website which highlights the problems we think this will cause. Again the Parish Council are awaiting the outcome of this application and have followed Stop Stansted Expansion's advice to write to the Secretary of State.

Going forward Takeley's biggest concern is the outcome of the Local Plan and the effects of a proposed 10,000 dwellings being built in Lt Easton up to 2032. The through traffic on the B1256 traffic will be the main issue for Takeley – however Lt Canfield it is considered would be particularly impacted with likely coalescence between the two areas. Takeley Parish Council are liaising with Dunmow and other villages to consider the best way to tackle the situation should this be Uttlesford preferred option. Uttlesford have however indicated that the numbers for Garden Communities may have been over allocated due to five year land supply issues. Windfall sites agreed outside the local plan for instance can also be taken into consideration.

HIGHWAY ISSUES

The parish council has no jurisdiction over highways however we are aware there are ongoing problems with illegal airport related parking. Essex County Council have outsourced the monitoring of areas with illegal airport related parking to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) Contact details may be found on our website.

Thank You for Attending.

The Old School House Project

Cllr Geoff Bagnall presented on the Old School House project to date and went through a number of slides which highlighted the history of the building as well as the level of fund-raising

It was highlighted to residents that following the large precept increase earlier in the year it would be councillor's intention going forward to keep the same or similar level of precept funding going forward, so that the council had the funds necessary to pay for the refurbishment and necessary loan payments. He asked for support from attendees in the form of a name and signature in respect of the PWLB application process. He welcomed questions at the end of the meeting

County Councillor – Cabinet Member at Essex

ECC Cllr Susan Barker submitted a report which highlighted her apologies for being unable to attend this evening as she was at a Planning Policy Working Group examining the evidence base for the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan consultation. A summary of points read out is below:-

During the year ECC have carried out a consultation on Mobile Libraries where a decrease in use coupled with aging buses has seen ECC review their routes and in some instances has evolved in work with parish councils to assist them in setting up their own community library. ECC have also carried out a series of engagement events around their static libraries as these have seen usage change over the years with a reduction in book loans, but an increase in Computer usage.

Essex Council has continued to reduce the number of children in care in the County by supporting families. There are now just over 1000 children in care, down from 1600 a few years ago. ECC have also worked with the Home Office to support 600 unaccompanied children seeking asylum. ECC have built additional school places and in 2018-19 will be investing £84m in schools and £17m in Special schools, delivering over 2000 extra school places. ECC have worked with partners to reduce the delays over hospital discharges with great success and invested in providing purpose built housing to enable people to live independently for longer. ECC have filled 5000 potholes and will be putting additional money into this over the coming months.

District Councillor

Cllr Ryles sent his apologies as he has managed to break his leg and badly sprain his ankle. The doctor has advised him to keep off his foot as much as possible, which is very frustrating. Particularly for Mrs Ryles! Summary points raised:-

District Cllr Howard Ryles submitted a report which was read out and is summarized below:-

UDC is investing £ 500,000 for Broadband infrastructure with Superfast Essex enabling our chosen partner, Gigaclear, to roll out Superfast Broadband around the district. Their fibre optic product to the premises will be revolutionary, with broadband speeds up to 300 mbps. This project starts in Birchanger during the third quarter 2018 and aims to bring coverage up to 98% of the district by 2019. This will bring incredible benefits to residents and businesses alike. In addition Gigaclear is also investing their own money to add another 4,000 premises to the network. Buzzcom/ Fibre WiFi will also be increasing their WiFi broadband coverage from the High Garrett tower to reach residents who currently cannot receive a cabled service.

Takeley, Little Canfield and Broxted.

Cllr Ryles continues to represent the people of Takeley, Little Canfield and Broxted with fellow councillors; Derek Jones and Jim Gordon and has hopefully helped to address some concerns over topics such as the Local Plan and Stansted Airport's recent planning application. In addition he has helped various residents with parking issues and in particular, recently saved Honey Road, Priors Green, from unwanted yellow lines that would have caused significant inconvenience.

With Jim Gordon, Cllr Ryles has attempted to get a BT community fibre optic broadband project off the ground in Priors Green in response to resident's requests to be connected to a local fibre enabled cabinet. Cllr Jim Gordon delivered letters to approximately 200 houses but sadly there was not sufficient take up. During discussions at UDC with regard to allocation of additional sites for the local plan, it was suggested that Takeley could accommodate another few hundred houses to the north of Priors Green. With fellow councillors he successfully helped to dissuade UDC planners and officers that this wasn't going to happen. Members' allowance have also been pooled to maximise the contribution and benefit to local charities and community projects. Cllr Ryles went on to thank the Parish Council for their support.

Summary of Reports from Local Organisations:

SSE

Peter Sanders (SSE) discussed the application submitted by Stansted Airport to UDC for permission to make more use of its existing runway. He highlighted that the Airport has revised limits of passenger movements per annum from about 44.5m last year to 43m this year. This allows the Airport to have the application decided locally by UDC rather than qualify as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project that would be considered centrally by the Secretary of State. SSE has written to the Secretary of State asking him to call in the application. They await reply. He advised it is still possible to make your views known to UDC. Individual compensation cases are still going through. Disputes over flight paths remain an issue.

Holy Trinity Church

Paul Burnett reported on behalf of Rev Rob Burles:

Thanks to the Parish Council for their grant towards upkeep of the churchyard and for the village firework display last year. They have employed someone to carry out routine maintenance and replace equipment. This year they will focus on moving the area for green waste, having trees cut back and renewing noticeboards. Last year they recruited Tara Russell as full time School and Community Missioner under the project name Connect 120.

Royal British Legion

John Monk reported on behalf of Jackie Rogers:

The membership stands at 89 and they are always looking for new members and support. The Takeley branch has now been running for 91 years. At the Armistice Parade this year there was an attendance of around 400 people. Pat Burnett will be taking over as Secretary. They raise £500.00 a year to donate to the Welfare Fund. This year 2 members David and Kevin Gunn will attend the GP90 parade and are honoured to lay a wreath and carry the standard. There is a forthcoming veteran/widow lunch.

Takeley Art Group

Cllr Richard Cheetham reported:

Membership stands at around 15 and they are always looking for new members. They currently have two terms a year in Spring and Autumn. An announcement in the Grapevine is forthcoming. A teacher from Braintree has been attending and this has proved highly successful.

Takeley Cubs and Scouts

Ian Kennedy reported:

There is a current total of 55 scouts, 6 leaders, 8 helpers and 1 DOE. The Scout facilities are also utilised by Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. They continue to do a range of activities ranging from cooking to pitching tents. The Summer Fete is their annual fundraising event. They also assist with the Takeley 10k run and participate in Remembrance Day.

Takeley Local History Society

Steve Hazen reported:

Membership remains healthy at around 50 but visitors are also welcome to any events. The group meets four times a year in Roseacres School. The group formed in 1998 and they are in their 21st year. Several trips are planned for 2018. There are 30 books now in circulation and the group are contacted from all over the world.

Silver Jubilee Hall

Michael Coleman reported:

SJH have had a successful year with an increase in lettings and the variety of events being held. Welcome to Jane Bridgeman as Secretary. They thank TPC for their continued support. They are looking for volunteers to help with the Takeley 10k run on September 2nd. All proceeds from the run will go towards payment of the outstanding PWL.

Takeley Ladies Circle

Mrs Barbara Aviet reported:

The membership stays steady at around 20. They currently meet on a Wednesday evening hosting events such as bingo/quiz nights and charity speakers. Last year they raised £104 for HEAL. They continue to run fundraising events such as the Christmas Fayre and there is an event on July 11th for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity (Takeley Branch)

Mrs Pat Caiger reported:

The group raised a total of £7358 last year from various successful events and donations such as plant sales and Light up Takeley. Since forming in 2003 they have raised a total of £52,000. They gave thanks to TPC.

Community Cafe

Cllr Pat Burnett reported:

The café has been in operation for 6 years with 7 volunteers. It is used by both young and old. They have regular walking and running groups in attendance. There is a food bank and citizen advice outreach centre. They are looking forward to the opening of The Old School House.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr Pat Burnett reported on behalf of Mr Martin Peachey:

The group have been in operation for 11 years. In the last year it has not been possible to carry out monitoring due to a reduction in volunteers. They would ideally like to carry out monitoring on average once a week for a couple of hours morning or afternoon. The activity is approved by Essex Police and they work closely with them to improve safety on the roads. They would welcome more volunteers and ask them to contact the Parish Clerk if interested.

Priors Green Community Hall

Mr Steve Casey reported:

They continue to add to their range of activities. For example this year Boogie Bounce, Pilates and Phil Carpenter Fitness. Their financial position remains positive meaning hire charges will remain the same for 2018. This year they will focus on changing the meeting room flooring from carpet to vinyl so it can be used for smaller events. They have plans to redecorate inside and out. TPC have agreed for use of 106 monies to assist where needed in this venture. Steve thanks TPC for their continued support.

Open Forum:

Cllr Geoff Bagnall opened question regarding The Old School House refurbishment plans.

David Daykin asked:

Can we clarify the change in costing to £430k?

Project Manager John Monk confirmed the original costing was put together by a local builder who hadn't considered the requirements for underpinning and defects in the roof.

Has the tender document been approved by a professional?

John Monk confirmed that Mark Hammond, Quantity Surveyor had drawn up a report.

In addition, Weston Homes a local building company who is supporting the project and providing professional advice, but not involved in actual tendering had stated the tenders were within expected remit.

Has a Civil Engineer been engaged?

John Monk confirmed, yes, a Structural Engineer had set out the underpinning details.

What Financial Planning do we have? Why are we not set up as a charitable organisation?

Chairman Carol Pratt confirmed Takeley Parish Council took advice from Sue Sheppard of the RCCE and it was decided this would not prove beneficial or allow for the council to operate as it does now. For example the Community Café would have to charge. Clerk Julia Peachey confirmed details of this discussion can be found in our minutes on the website.

Do we have a written plan what are the next steps?

It was confirmed we do and we have an experienced project manager in place and support of Weston Homes an independent building contractor who could help. Cllr Geoff Bagnall highlighted he would like to start work in September with a 52 week completion.

What is the likelihood we will get the loan?

Cllr Geoff Bagnall confirmed we are satisfied as a council that we are following all the processes to get a loan. However we continue to look at other sources such as 106 money and outside funding **as well.**

Jim Backus asked:

What is the store room in the car park going to be?

Chairman Carol Pratt confirmed the intention is for it to remain as storage.

It was acknowledged that notices had been put up on the pinboard, on the website, in the Grapevine magazine and on facebook notifying members that the Council would be discussing the Refurbishment of the Hall and public work loan options and that all were welcome to attend.

Members were reminded to lodge their support of "The Old School" at the back of the room and that those who supported the project and public loan option could sign the signatory list which would also be made available for those who could not attend the meeting within the next week or so.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.
Julia Potter
Asst Clerk to Takeley Parish Council