



TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Assembly

Minutes of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH OF TAKELEY held in the Old School Community Centre on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7pm

Speakers:

County Councillor Susan Barker
Suzanne Jones - Takeley Scouts
Anne Regeli - Takeley Fundraisers (formerly Helen Rollason Cancer Charity HEAL)
Cllr James Banks - Twinning
Rev. Colin Fairweather - Holy Trinity Church
Lorraine Flawn – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Martin Peachey Stansted Airport Watch

Attendees:

TPC Councillors – Patricia Barber, James Banks, David Daykin, Paul Burnett, Sam Moore, Sue Sprules, Jim Backus and Hugh D’Alton
Cllr Maggie Sutton (UDC)
Cllr Mark Coletta (UDC)
Cllr Susan Barker (ECC)
Jackie Deane (Clerk)
12 members of the public

Cllr Patricia Barber chaired the meeting in the Chairman’s absence.

1.	Chairman’s Welcome Cllr Barber opened the meeting and welcomed guests.
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Cllr Bagnall, speaker for the cricket club and District Councillor for Takeley, Cllrs John Boyle, Jackie Cheetham, Helen Carter.
3.	Summary of the last meeting Cllr Barber gave a brief summary from the minutes of the meeting.
4.	Minutes of the 2023 Parish Assembly The minutes of the meeting held on 17 th May 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Pat Burnett and seconded by Cllr Jim Backus).
5.	Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Bodsworth’s message was played on the project, with a summary of priorities and expenditure throughout the year. There were no questions for the Chairman.



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6.	<p>Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Loraine Flawn introduced herself as the new chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The last year has been spent working gathering residents’ views and using previously commissioned evidence to create a new conservation area in Smiths Green. There have been some successes and some setbacks.</p> <p>In explaining the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan, a community-led framework that identifies areas to be preserved. When development comes, we want that development and community gains to be fit for purpose, and an asset for the community. The steering group needs to draft a shared vision and values, and to set policies to create how the new spaces will look and feel, and to have a robust procedure in place to redress when these things do not happen. Takeley has a chance to make a real difference, particularly if we get 1600 houses put into our area with the local plan.</p> <p>Responses to the village questionnaire are on the Parish Council website and public engagement is planned, including the Church heritage exhibition. The Neighbourhood Plan needs resident support of at least 50% when it goes for a public vote.</p> <p>To assist with public engagement, it is planned to have a display and representative of the steering group at the community café on Thursdays and Fridays.</p> <p><u>Questions from residents:</u></p> <p>When would work on the plan be completed? How will it respond to the local plan with our comments? What is the interaction between the neighbourhood plan and the local plan?</p> <p>Loraine explained that the timescale could be as short as a year, and she outlined the steps to be worked through. The neighbourhood plan will not conflict with the local plan, it should add more local detail; for example, specific green space to be preserved, and where improvements could be made.</p> <p>Cllr Maggie Sutton added that Cllr John Evans is also happy to come and give support and advice to the Parish Council, Steering Group and residents if they so wish.</p>
7.	<p>Reports from Local Organisations</p> <p>Cllr James Banks reported on a twin-town proposal from Spanish town in a wine-producing region. The town is seeking to strike up a relationship with a similar sized village near to Stansted Airport. It was suggested that it would support students from local schools to help with language studies. There could be local interest in the wine region and for hiking in the mountains.</p>



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Questions from the audience were regarding the potential costs, if it was reliant on the current Ryanair flight schedule of flights twice a day Saragoza. Cllr Banks said that he is happy to follow up any enquiries and link with other twinning organisations for their guidance.

Rev. Colin Fairweather - Holy Trinity Church

For too long the parish church has been locked outside of service times. For the last 2 months the church has been open in daylight hours, and there are efforts to open it up to the community. The oldest parts of the Holy Trinity Church date from 11th century and on the heritage open day there will be local groups and activities for the whole community. Thinking about other ways on how they can serve the community for example parish nursing scheme to provide pastoral and nursing advice from a drop-in centre.

Suzanne Jones – Scouts

The group reported increased numbers and a successful grant that has enabled improvements to their building to be made. Outdoor activities included litter picking and planting flowers and there will be a summer fete on 29th June. They are looking for more community projects.

There was a resident question regarding additional badges, which could include a faith badge and a heritage badge.

Anne Regeli – Takeley fundraisers (formerly Helena Rollason HEAL Charity)

Aims are to improve quality of life and £8,000 was raised in the last year. Since 2003 they have raised approximately £79,000 for the HEAL charity. Due to operational issues they can no longer support this charity, but the volunteers have decided to raise funds as an independent group for different local charities, for example Hummingbird Cancer Support in Bishops Stortford and Herts and Essex Air Ambulance. Coffee mornings at the sports and social club. Anne thanked Takeley residents for all their support over the years.

Martin Peachey – Stansted Airport Watch.

Stop Stansted Expansion was set up in 2002 when there were plans for 4 runways and in 2015 it was decided that expansion would not include additional runways at Stansted. Since then, they have supported residents on noise and other matters arising from the airport and the organisation was renamed as Stansted Airport Watch.

The organisation is in the process of setting up a foundation for the funds still held at Stansted Airport Watch to create a CIC to benefit the community. There is approximately £80,000 in reserves for a future need to fight any unwanted expansion plans or to push for mitigation from airport noise or other impacts on residents. The foundation should come into effect in September 2024 and will be published so that information will be available on how the fund would be called



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	<p>on in the future. Cllr Paul Burnett put on record the huge support Mr Peachey has given our parish.</p> <p>Mr Peachey also reported on forthcoming night flights and airspace modernisation programme consultations.</p> <p>Youth Club - Cllr Maggie Sutton The Youth Club is funded by Uttlesford, and they are trying to grow the club. It is monthly on a Thursday for school year 7 and up. They have also hosted activities for primary schools.</p> <p>Pat Burnett – Ladies’ Circle The Ladies’ Circle is celebrating 60 years. The group was founded on 7th April 1964 by a group of ‘young wives’ and some are the existing members are the original members. Speakers and host for the Xmas Bazaar. Since the Council has provided a new AV system, they can now hold cinema nights. New members are always welcome.</p> <p>Pat Burnett - Royal British Legion. The group meets four times a year and the AGM is held in November. They take part in the Xmas bazaar and in the last year raised £3,600. The income is lower than in previous years because they no longer raise funds at the airport.</p> <p>Michael Coleman - Takeley Silver Jubilee Village Hall Takeley Village Hall is used for clubs, parties, weddings and a pre-school. Refurbishment cost approximately £450k, therefore the facilities are of a very high standard. The Takeley 10k run was established to cover cost of the loan for the refurbishment and this is supported by the Parish Council and local businesses.</p> <p>Takeley Rotary - John Versey New activities have taken place in Takeley, including litterpicking and a race night which funds raised for the Accuro charity. Forthcoming events include a food bank initiative on Saturday 18th May, where they will collect tinned food donations for the food bank. There will be collection boxes at the church, the village sign and door to door in Brewers End. It was reported that Takeley and Dunmow South are the two highest levels of deprivation in Uttlesford. Support was requested for an Open Gardens Event – where 14 gardens in Takeley and Lt Canfield will be open for visitors on 23rd June.</p>
10.	<p>Open Questions No further questions were raised.</p>



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11.	Date of the Next Meeting The next Annual meeting will be scheduled for 14 th May 2025.
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Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Date