



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 7th May 2025 at 7pm

Speakers:

Councillor Philip Bodsworth – Chairman
Clerk Jackie Deane on behalf of County Councillor Susan Barker
Jennifer Versey – Takeley Rotary
Suzanne Jones - Takeley Scouts
Anne Regeli - Takeley Fundraisers (formerly Helen Rollason Cancer Charity HEAL) and Sports and Social Club Silver Jubilee Hall
Rev. Colin Fairweather - Holy Trinity Church
Paul Chambers – Touchpoint
Cllr Maggie Sutton – on behalf of Citizens Advice Bureau
Emlyn Humphries – Takeley Congregational Church and former Christian School
Christine Chester – Kinder Essex
Clerk Jackie Deane – Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan
Daniel Turpin – Manchester Airport Group

Attendees:

TPC Councillors – Phil Bodsworth, Patricia Barber, Sam Moore, Sue Sprules, Jackie Cheetham.
Cllr Maggie Sutton (UDC)
Cllr Geoff Bagnall (UDC)
Jackie Deane (Clerk)
Amanda Collins-Klimcke (Ast. Clerk)
14 members of the public.

1.	Chairman's Welcome Cllr Bodsworth opened the meeting and welcomed guests and read the Chairman's Report. There were no questions for the Chairman.
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Mark Coletta (UDC), Takeley PC Cllrs John Boyle, Jim Backus, Helen Carter, James Banks, Hugh D'Alton and David Daykin.
3.	Summary of the last meeting Clerk Jackie Deane gave a summary from the minutes of the meeting.
4.	Minutes of the 2024 Parish Assembly The minutes of the meeting held on 17 th May 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Patricia Barber and seconded by Cllr Jackie



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	Cheetham).
5.	Report from Parish Council Chairman Covered in Item 1.
6.	<p>Reports from District and County Councillors</p> <p>Jackie Deane read Cllr Barkers report.</p> <p>Cllr Barker chairs the Essex Pension Fund which has over 700 employers and 180,000 members. In December the government invited expressions of interest to be submitted for Elected Mayors and new Unitary Authorities. Essex, Southend and Thurrock submitted an application which has been accepted. The Essex County Elections for May 1st this year were postponed, on the basis that Essex along with District Councils will be abolished to be replaced with a number of Unitary Authorities, three four or five to be decided. The next Elections will be held in 2026 for a Mayor for Greater Essex. Elections to new “Shadow” Unitary Authorities will be in either 2026 or 2027. The Government is also pressing ahead with Local Government Pension reform, looking to use some of the money to invest in local infrastructure. She thanked the Clerk and Parish Councillors for the excellent job they do for the village and for keeping her updated on local matters.</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Bagnall</p> <p>The majority of his time is spent on local matters, particularly parking, planning and enforcements. Airport Parking is especially difficult to manage. He explained his role is to liaise with the parish and try to solve any issues raised and to be the connection between the residents, Parish and District Council. He thanked Cllr Sutton for her tireless work within the community, with Touchpoint and the Community Café in particular. He discussed Cllr. Mark Coletta’s involvement, who is a Ward Cllr and Chair of Hallingbury Parish Council, who has funded numerous projects, including the Priors Green community hall project. The s106 legal agreement for the Priors Green development included financial contributions to be transferred to UDC from Countryside Properties, to maintain the public open spaces on the development. This transfer is yet to take place and is now unlikely, due to the forthcoming devolution for Greater Essex. Cllr Bagnall suggested that Takeley Parish Council should consider taking on this responsibility and liaise with UDC prior to devolution of the councils. Cllr Cheetham stated that the sum offered might not be sufficient to maintain the open spaces in the longer term. She added that it would not be fair to raise the precept for residents of the whole parish to cover the maintenance of the areas.</p>
7.	<p>Reports from Local Organisations</p> <p>Jenny Versey Rotary explained that Rotary is an international organisation. Last year they raised £200 for a project, the district raised £1000, and then Rotary internationally match funded it, increasing the initial small project to an eventual sum of £4000. This is an example of how one small project can gather</p>



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momentum and end up as a large sum of money to donate. She asked that if anyone has any projects that would help the local community Rotary will support them. Rotary, in conjunction with the parish council, has organised a community Litter pick 'Keep Takeley Tidy' She thanked Cllr Moore and the Assistant Clerk for their work on this event. Rotary have their annual Open Gardens on 22nd June with 14 gardens and 2 church gardens that will be open to the public.

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

They decided to rebrand as Takeley Fundraisers in May 2024 after 25 years of supporting Helen Rollason Cancer Charity. This means they can support multiple charities at the same time. Now supporting Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, Accuro, Craftability and the British Legion. They have a tabletop sale coming up at the Silver Jubilee Hall.

Anne Regeli – Sports and Social Club Silver Jubilee Hall

They currently have 370 members. Anne thanked the council for the loan to refurbish the hall. They are currently in the process of refurbishing the toilets. They have live entertainment most Saturdays, and also hold family nights, bingo, quiz nights which are proving to be very popular. If you live in Takeley please become a member.

Reverend Colin Fairweather – Colin said his role is 'Cure of Souls' which means Care of People for the whole of Takeley village. Holy Trinity Church operates from a spiritual direction and provides counselling. They hold their annual Flower Festival, coffee mornings and fireworks to connect with the community. He has also re-introduced the Grapevine in paper form in December 2024 after many comments from parishioners. It was a very difficult task without a vicarage, but he has achieved it and intends to keep the paper copy for the residents.

Paul Chambers Touchpoint was formed in April 2021. Now it has 180 volunteers. They are currently reaching 2000 people per week. Touchpoint is a Community Wellbeing Project. They have the food share here every Thursday, which has approximately 60 people per week. Free Chair Yoga classes and bootcamp on a Thursday also. He explained that Touchpoint has no criteria, they are here for everybody; their aim is to remove all barriers. Paul thanked District Cllrs, for the Christmas project in 2024 where 60 families received £25 Amazon vouchers.

Cllr Maggie Sutton Citizens Advice has requested a pot of funding which could be used locally in Takeley, to support those in need, when this is identified during their appointments with residents. The organisation asks that anyone who could offer a small grant or donation should contact CA.



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	<p>Emlyn Humphries – Takeley congregation church. Christian school closed May 2024. They carried on in the chapel and have a Wednesday meeting. The school building is now leased. The Chapel has gardens which are maintained by volunteers and are open to the public on Saturday afternoons. He gave an open invitation to the family meetings which are held on Sundays.</p> <p>Daniel Turpin – Stansted Airport. As the community engagement manager, Daniel has been in post for 9 months. He remarked on how welcomed he was by all the surrounding parishes, and particularly Takeley. So far, they have given £150k to local communities within a 10-mile radius, £200k to local organisations, including a project in Harlow, and the community building at Molehill Green. He will support the next Litter Pick with staff who are encouraged to do two days volunteering per year. They can fund small events and so he invited the groups present to contact him for future events. There has been a new planning application submitted to UDC for increased passenger numbers. A new domestic arrival lounge has been built, alongside the terminal extension. Their Sustainability Plan includes more Stansted Express buses and more trains that connect with flight times. Their college on site is partnered with Harlow College and they want to double the size of it in the very near future. They currently offer training in events, engineering, aviation.</p> <p>The Clerk enquired when will the airport’s solar farm be complete and he responded that it is due to be completed by the end of 2025.</p> <p>Christine Chester – Kinder Essex, part of Essex County Council wellbeing service. They hold events to communicate the services they offer, including weight loss, frauds, scams, stopping smoking, blue badge assistance, attendance allowance for carers, a variety of benefits. Their next meeting is 12th of May at Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall, and all are welcome to attend. Part of Christine’s role aims to reduce loneliness and support carers and dementia sufferers. There is a new initiative in Saffron Walden on the 20th May for dementia awareness. The project takes place in virtual buses where non-dementia sufferers and carers can experience how dementia sufferers might think and feel. The buses will be in Gt Dunmow the following week. Christine has recently set up a carer group for new and existing carers, at Dunmow Day Centre, with monthly sessions. These meetings cover the whole of Uttlesford and all are welcome.</p>
8.	<p>Update from Clerk for Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>As the government increases their housing requirements each year, the district is not keeping up with their housing targets. The new Local Plan is going to examination in June and it includes policies and housing employment allocated sites, with provision for education and other infrastructure. For Takeley, 1500</p>



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	<p>homes are proposed at Priors Green and there is a large employment site at The Street. The Parish Council will be represented at the hearings to ask for changes to be made regarding the plans for Takeley. UDC hopes that the new plan will be adopted next April.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is encouraged in conjunction with the new local plan. The Local Plan prioritises details of the local area which are provided by local people. Having a Neighbourhood Plan in place can influence where funds from new development can be spent locally in the future. When UDC establishes a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) the parish would receive funding automatically of 25% which would otherwise be 15%, for parishes with no Neighbourhood Plan. Different parts of the parish have different needs, therefore the Parish Council is appealing for involvement from people in all of the areas in Takeley to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
9.	<p>Open Questions</p> <p>No further questions were raised. The Chairman asked for any ideas to be submitted to the council on encouraging more residents to attend the annual meetings, as there is a wealth of wonderful groups and events in Takeley.</p>
10.	<p>Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Annual meeting is scheduled for 6th May 2026 at 7pm in the Old School Community Centre.</p>

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Date