

# Radwinter Parish Council

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Minutes of **Radwinter Parish Council meeting** held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at Radwinter Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richardson, Cllr Halls, Cllr Gerhard, Cllr Davidson, Cllr Rains, Cllr Duck  
Luke Brown (Clerk)

0 member(s) of the public

## Minutes

### 23/191 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Foley, DCllr Tayler, Cllr Boyden.

**Resolution:** Accept apologies of absence.

**Proposed:** Cllr Rains    **Seconded:** Cllr Halls

### 23/192 **Public Forum**

No public.

### 23/193 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this meeting.

### 23/194 **Minutes**

It was noted that Cllr Halls was acting Chairman for the February meeting.

**Resolution:** Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as a true record.

**Proposed:** Cllr Davidson    **Seconded:** Cllr Gerhard

### 23/195 **District & County Councillors Reports**      (APPENDIX A)

See appendix.

The council considered the consultation regarding areas for EV chargers and the council have suggested the car park as a location.

The council agreed to apply for £400 grant to go towards the D-Day landings anniversary event.

### 23/196 **Clerks Report**

Clerk noted that this year is the anniversary of the D-Day landings, and the council may want to put on an event.

The council has been asked if they want to purchase Daffodils for next year, a formal request to be submitted to the council.

23/197 **Action Tracker** (APPENDIX B)

The Chairman went through the action tracker.

Clerk to check the situation with footpath 85.

The petition has been delayed due to medical condition.

Light number 6 is the Gillon Way developers' responsibility.

A light at the bottom of Church Hill Road at Princes Well has gone out – Clerk to contact A&J Lighting.

Clerk to follow up with speed bumps and road crossing island repairs.

New salt bins to be located, Bottom of Golden Lane and Maple Lane to be replaced.

23/198 **Finance** (APPENDIX C)

**Resolution:** Agree payments for this month.

**Proposed:** Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Duck

Cllr Richardson appointed as authoriser.

23/198.1 **Grants**

**Resolution:** Approve the grant request of £3,500 for the Recreation Ground Committee for grass cutting for the 2024/25 year.

**Proposed:** Cllr Halls **Seconded:** Cllr Rains

23/199 **New Planning Applications**

No new applications.

23/200 **Recreation Ground & Pavilion**

None.

23/201 **Village Hall**

A meeting has been scheduled for the start of April to discuss issues related to the village hall.

23/202 **Highways and Footpaths**

23/202.1 **Footpath 85**

Covered under item 23/197.

23/202.2 **Parking**

Covered under item 23/197.

23/202.3 **Lighting**

Covered under item 23/197.

23/202.4 **Speed Indicators**

The council has acquired 2 quotes so far, council members to attain further details and come back to the council with a full proposal.

23/202.5 **Traffic Calming**

Council to clarify what would Essex Highways be willing to do.

23/203 **Stocking Green update**

Hedges have been cut back.

23/204 **Land at the Rear of Gillon Way**

Cllr Richardson to keep chasing.

23/205 **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Housing needs assessment has come back and will be considered at the next NB Plan meeting.

23/206 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

New Clerk.

23/207 **Date of the Next Meeting**

29<sup>th</sup> April.

23/208 **Meeting Close** @ 9:04 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

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## **APPENDIX A**

Note for Radwinter Parish Council 25/3/2023

### **Local plan Panel**

We have just had a public meeting of the Local Plan Panel, which was positive and largely dealt with:

- How the public can look at and review the more than 5000 comments on Reg 18. This is best done by going to The Local Plan page on the UDC website and immediately below the “consultation portal” link there is a further link to” Explainer Video - How to view comments on the consultation portal”.
- A discussion about the larger villages, (which does not include any of the settlements in the Sampfords) and how they may be grouped in different ways which may affect the allocation of housing numbers).
- The advantages (and disadvantages ) of these villages producing Neighbourhood Plans to enable residents to have more say in where building may occur within the overall outline of the Local Plan after its acceptance.
- The Local Plan timetable and how it is still on track, and how it can be achieved.

I specifically asked whether the smaller villages (which have not been discussed yet, and have no specific allocations) could join together to form a single Neighbourhood Plan and so gain some of the benefits in determining where the limited development which is possible within the Local Plan. The answer is yes, it would be possible and also that a Neighbourhood Plan can be a much less comprehensive document and deal with a limited number of specific and relevant details.

### **Littlebury Energy Project and Mission : No Fossil Fuel**

Following on from the Littlebury Energy Project open day on 16th March, there is a similar day , Mission No Fossil Fuel in Thaxted Church on 6th April 11am-3pm. The exhibitors in Thaxted will be similar to those at Littlebury Energy Project including Saffron Walden Community Energy where it should be possible to find out about thermal cameras to assess heating loss in your own home, and how to insulate more effectively, Uttlesford District Council, showing information about grants , and the new EV Car Club, CO wheels where it will be possible to hire an already charged EV. Jonathan Ashe Architects will be available to give information about “passive homes” and how feasible it could be to raise the thermal efficiency of a listed building to enable installation of a heat pump.

### **Do you want to reduce your energy bills and your carbon footprint at the same time?**

Does it feel like an impossible task?

#### **Introducing**

Mission: No Fossil Fuel

A local group, working with Thaxted Parish Council, with access to funds and expertise in reducing energy usage even in old and listed buildings.

### **Open Day at Thaxted Parish Church 6th April 2024 11am – 3pm.**

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to call in and learn how.

Contact us at [missionnoff@gmail.com](mailto:missionnoff@gmail.com)

Exhibitors:

· Saffron Walden Community Energy

Demonstrating a thermal camera and how it can help identify opportunities to insulate a house more effectively.

· Thaxted Eco Church

Examples of how the church and a private home have been better insulated at very low cost and with significant reductions in energy usage.

- Uttlesford District Council
  - Promoting government energy efficiency schemes, shared bike schemes and an upcoming bike training event in Saffron Walden and showcasing their EV Car Club car.
  - Jonathan Ashe Architects
- Information on “passive homes” and other architectural innovations
- Essex County Council’s Energy & Low Carbon Officer
  - Thaxted Parish Council

### **Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy.**

I have had some discussions with the other Parish Councils in the ward, and we have realised that there may be suitable sites for EV charging on public land some of which may already be owned by UDC. In the future, when possibly there will be more EV car hire possibilities, such as the CO Wheels car club based at the council offices charging point, such sites could be very useful for those who can’t afford a car, or don’t want to own a car. I see this as possibly an important way of reducing the risk of rural isolation, and meeting our climate change commitments. If councillors have ideas for EV charging sites, the Essex Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy closes at the end of the month, and you could let me or Vicky Reed, Climate Change Officer at UDC, know.

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DCllr Tayler

### **RADWINTER PC ECC BUDGET...**

ESSEX County Council is set to increase its portion of council tax by a total **4.99%** as the present ECC administration look to address "significant financial pressures" facing the authority. (Attached is a chart of how much goes to each council on average across Uttlesford)

County Hall is looking to raise just over £40million during the 2024/25 tax year by raising council tax paid by more than 500,000 homes in Essex by 4.99 per cent from April. In Essex, council tax will increase by £72.36 to £1522.53 for Band D residents, by £67.32 to £1,353.36 for Band C residents, by £56.28 to £1,184.19 for Band B residents and by £48.24 to £1015.02 for Band A residents. Essex County Council is also hoping to generate £32million by slashing the amount of funding it allocates to certain sectors. Nearly half of those savings will be accrued by cutting the amount of money given to adult social care, including a programme supporting adults with learning difficulties and autism. The current administration had to make £32million in cuts, which will also impact adults with disabilities, but that there had been a “spike in the requirements in children’s services”.

**(Btw UDC increase 2.99%)**

### **ECC HUGE FACEBOOK COSTS**

You will have seen on the news ECC payments of almost £500,000 for a comedian to run a coronavirus information social media page. Here are just some of the details in the Press and TV about this.

<https://www.gbnews.com/news/essex-council-raises-taxes-simon-harris-covid-facebook>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/essex-county-council-simon-harris-pandemic-covid-social-media-comedian-b1131751.html>

During the Full Council/Budget Meeting there has been much controversy over Council payments of almost £500,000 for a comedian to run a coronavirus information social media page have been described as "concerning". Essex County Council paid campaigner Simon Harris the six-figure sum during the coronavirus pandemic for his work as a "community engagement" contractor, which primarily included running a Facebook page. The payments to the 40-year-old, who is known for running the spoof Southend News Network as well as fundraising for charities, were detailed in finance documents released by the council. Analysis of Essex County Council's day-to-day spending breakdown reveals 34 payments were made to Mr Harris between 4 June 2020 and 24 April 2023, totalling £493,000.

### **Highways**

Just waiting on a Highways update and Local Highways Panel...to follow from my meeting with Julia Johnson and Sarah Tomlin LHP Highway Officers.

Following up further pothole list ...will update as information comes in.

ECC Highways are saying there is still a major resources issue to get important road safety schemes beyond validation.

### **Youth**

Putting together a significant grant bid for local Youth Clubs to counter budget cuts. ECC has been cutting youth funding for years. In fact, since 2010 -77% has been slashed from youth budgets.

I have been working with John Starr to use Locality Funding to help local Clubs...looks promising and I will update on this as we get confirmation of funds which I know will be put to good use.

I continue to push for Mental Health Practitioners for secondary schools which have seen a significant rise in self-harm over the last few years...even in some local schools.

Note: Attached is a report from ECC Mental Health – Young Peoples Task and Finish Group which came after my motion and reports to Full Council and working across all political parties and stakeholders. Also attached letter to our MP on a youth funding issue.

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Cllr Foley

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**APPENDIX B**

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
Feb '22	22/185	Footpath 85 indefinitely closed due to legal dispute.	Ongoing
Feb '24	23/180	Make grant payment to Bowls Club - Roof	Clerk to action
Feb '24	23/184.2	Members of the council to carry out the petition	Cllr Boyden & Cllr Halls
Feb '24	23/184.3	Light number 6 too bright – Clerk to follow up with A&J lighting	Clerk to action
Feb '24	23/184.5	Follow up regarding island bollards on Radwinter Road and installing new speed bumps	Clerk to action
Jan '24	23/120	Get quotes to add land to RRGc lease	Clerk to action (Ongoing)
		<b>PLANNING RESULTS</b>	

**APPENDIX C**  
**March Payments**

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
<b>Opening Balance</b>							<b>43,647.78</b>	-		-
11/03/2024	Rob	Coronation Bar Take	N/A	remit			161.50			
15/03/2024	A&J Lighting	Lighting	38087	DD				48.38	8.06	40.32
15/03/2024	BT Group	Internet	M103-A5	DD				52.46	8.74	43.72
18/03/2024	Friends of the Church	Donation	N/A	remit			5,921.40			
	Employee	Salary - March	N/A	BACS				402.62		402.62
	Employee	Expenses - March	N/A	BACS				20.80		20.80
	HMRC	Tax - March	N/A	BACS				17.80		17.80
	C W Low & Son Ltd	Hedge cutting	5032024	BACS				144.00	24.00	120.00
<b>Totals</b>							<b>49,730.68</b>	<b>686.06</b>	<b>40.80</b>	<b>645.26</b>
							<b>49,044.62</b>			