

TAKELEY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Wed. 11th May 2016

SUMMARY OF 2016 ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly of the Parish of Takeley was held on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at Takeley Station House at 7.30pm.

The Chairman of Takeley Parish Council, Cllr. Carol Pratt, welcomed 28 members of the local community to the Annual Assembly.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Carol Pratt (Chairman of Takeley Parish Council)
Cllr Trevor Allen, Cllr Pat Burnett, Cllr Geoff Bagnall, Cllr David Daykin, Cllr Tina Domigan, Cllr Sue Sprules,
Cllr Linda Steer,
Miss Jane Bridgeman (Asst Clerk of Takeley Parish Council)

District Councillors: None

County Councillor: Cllr. Susan Barker

Local Representatives:

Mr. Peter Sanders (SSE)	Pat Caiger (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Mrs Claire Berry (Takeley Primary School)	Jill Baldwin (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Evie Muir (Takeley Primary School)	Mandy Williams (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Emma (Takeley Primary School)	Barbara Johnson (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Hayden Costall (Takeley Primary School)	Susan Deeley (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Rebecca Smith Wilson (Takeley Primary School)	Mrs Phyllis Altham (ECC Bus Passenger Rep)
Adam Brazier (Takeley Primary School)	Cllr Linda Steer (Takeley Youth Club)
Chloe Brazier (Takeley Primary School)	Euan Kennedy (Lord of the Manor)
Paul Costall (Takeley Primary School)	Mrs Anne Daykin (Resident)
Yvette Costall (Takeley Primary School)	Brian Baldwin (Takeley Community Centre)
Barbara Aviet (Takeley Ladies Circle)	Martin Peachey (Community Speed Watch & SSE)
Paul Burnett (Singing from the heart)	Lyn FitzGibbon (Holy Trinity Church)
Graham Thompson (Takeley History Society)	Grant Widdowson (Takeley Scout Group)
Steve Hazon (Takeley History Society)	Michael Coleman (Takeley Village Hall)

Apologies:

Rev Rob Burles (Holy Trinity Church)
Mrs Jackie Rogers (British Legion - Takeley Branch)
Mr Parminda Badhan (Priors Green Community Hall)
Mr Steve Casey (Priors Green Community Hall)
Mrs Baron (Roseacres Primary School)
Cllr Richard Cheetham (Takeley Parish Council)
Cllr Jackie Cheetham (Takeley Parish Council)
Mr Eric Rogers (Takeley Sports & Social Club)

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Carol Pratt opened the meeting. She explained that the purpose of the meeting is to welcome residents and representatives from community groups, to hear about what is going on in Takeley, and to share the success of local groups.

Minutes:

It was agreed unanimously by members of the community, that the published summary of the 2015 Annual Parish Assembly was a true record of events and be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

None

Summary of Reports from Local Organisations:

Takeley Primary School

Claire Berry (Deputy Head Takeley Primary School) thanked everyone for their continued support throughout a very difficult year for the school and is delighted to announce that the school were recently given a 'Good' rating from Ofsted Children from Yr. 5 provided a short informative presentation on life at Takeley Primary School. Cllr Carol Pratt, on behalf of the Assembly, expressed thanks to the children.

Takeley Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr. Carol Pratt reported:

- Thank you to all **Council members**: Vice Chairman Cllr Geoff Bagnall, Cllrs Richard Cheetham, Tricia Barber, John Green, Trevor Allen, David Daykin, Susan Sprules, Pat Burnett, Linda Steer, Tina Domigan, Jackie Cheetham.
- Special thanks also to Clerk Jane Heskey & Asst Clerk Jane Bridgeman.
- **Thank you to:**
 - Bob Muddle
 - Martin Peachey - CSW coordinator
 - Michael Coleman for all the extra uncontracted help that he provides for TPC,
 - Steve Hazon - TPC Newsletter & website
- In 2015/16 TPC has **provided £5k to support for Local Groups**, as well as continued funding for the Takeley Youth Club
- **Finance:**

The 2015/16 accounts have been approved by the internal Auditor, and will be signed off by TPC & submitted to the Audit Commission in June. TPC finances are a matter of public record and are open for inspection at any time of the year. The formally inspection period this year is June to early July. Please contact the Clerk.

In the past year TPC has focused on:

- The delivery of the Traffic Calming Scheme in Takeley Street. We know the scheme is not perfect and there are a number of outstanding items. We continue to liaise with Essex Highways who have promised to carry out a 'post implementation review' within 6-12 months. We will be working with the Community Speed Watch Team volunteers and Essex Police to gather our own feedback and findings to contribute to the review.
- Takeley roads are under siege from the volume and speed of traffic, and the amount of HGV vehicles passing through the village. TPC is most grateful for the endeavours of the Community Speed Watch Team volunteers who stand out in all weathers to collect data, and also provide a visual deterrent to speeding motorists. It is not acceptable that some of our residents choose to verbally abuse members of the CSW Team. They are fully trained volunteers sponsored by Essex Police & the Parish Council. In conjunction with CSW we will continue to campaign for additional measures to encourage reduced speeds and limit HGV traffic.
- **Mud on the roads:** TPC continue to report the poor condition of our roads on a weekly sometimes daily basis.
- **Village Planters:** The planters in our village are looking glorious again thanks to the efforts of Cllr Sue Sprules
- **Jacks Lane/Byway 25:** This is now a restricted Byway preventing any motorised vehicles from using it. We have secured some funding from the Uttlesford Highways Panel, and in conjunction with Essex Public Rights of Way Team and Euan Kennedy the landowner, the byway will be resurfaced making it easily accessible to walkers and horse riders.
- TPC & Gt Canfield PC's worked together to oppose the **Gladman** development of 211 homes at Hope End. TPC agreed that this application, which sought to breach the southern boundary of Takeley along the Flich Way, must be opposed. We jointly engaged planning consultants to defend our position. This extra pressure from the two parishes resulted in Gladman withdrawing their appeal on 18th Dec 2015.
- TPC has been fully engaged in responding to UDC's new **UDC Local Plan**. We have raised concerns over the shortened consultation process and that Takeley has had enough development. Takeley and surrounding villages are swamped with housing developments that place a considerable pressure on local schools and health facilities. TPC agreed that we engage professional support to deliver a robustly reasoned response to UDC's recent 'Site Assessment' review process. This has been submitted and we are waiting for a meeting with UDC Leader Howard Rolfe to discuss further.
- **Neighbourhood Plan:** TPC has asked for local residents wishing to get involved in making a Neighbourhood Plan for Takeley to come forward. A workshop will be held at the Station House on 9th June at 7pm. Any one wishing to attend please contact the Clerk.
- In September we saw the re-opening of **Roseacres Primary School**. This is something that the Parish Council has campaigned for

since ECC announced that it would close. We welcome the new school to our community.

- Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Pat Burnett and volunteers from the village. The **Station House** opens on a Thursday afternoon & Friday morning providing a **Community cafe** & public information point to the community. This is a non-profit making operation to encourage residents to participate in their community. In addition, the Station House provides residents access to the Citizen Advice Bureau via video link for advice & information..
- The Station House is an outpost to **Uttlesford Foodbank**. TPC are working together with UDC Foodbank Team to offer the service to local residents not able to travel further afield.
- **Tidy Takeley** has just completed its 2nd campaign with lots of involvement from the residents. Volunteers have given up their time in order to keep our village looking clean & tidy.
- **School House:** After careful consideration and consultation with local residents we have started the process to purchase the Old School House. It's an exciting time and it will be a great asset for the local community.
- **Sports & Recreation Grounds:** Work continues on the maintenance and upkeep of our green spaces and play areas. New play equipment will be installed in Morrells Green play area in the next couple of months.
- **Police Presence:** Regrettably the recent restructuring of Essex Police means that this year we have seen a decline in Police presence in our village. We no longer have a drop in session once a month at the Station House. We all have to make changes to keep ourselves and our property safe and stay vigilant at all times.
- TPC continues to deal with incidents of **vandalism** to community property in the village. With the warmer weather approaching we may see an increase of this in the area so please encourage your neighbours to report any anti-social behaviour to the Police (101) or TPC. As a community we must let the vandals know that their behaviour will not be tolerated.
- **Superfast Broadband:** The process of upgrading the broadband for the village goes on. Most of the village has seen an improvement however there are a few remaining roads that are not currently included in the upgrade. TPC are looking into this and will give further updates.
- **Airport Land:** TPC are trying to establish a better working relationship with Stansted Airport to improve the areas owned by MAG on the outskirts of Takeley. The illegal parking operation, unauthorised footpaths into the airport and littering from waiting vehicles are at the top of our list of priorities.
- **Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations:** On a lighter note, our village will soon be a hive of activity as we celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Clubs and organisations have come forward to host a number of events around the village. There will be street parties, children's parties, exhibitions and afternoon teas. The Parish Council has provided funds to many of these groups and hopes that the whole community will enjoy this momentous occasion.

County Councillor

ECC Susan Barker explained the various roles she performs for County & District Councils.

- £472,000 to be spend on roads 2016/2017
- A120 has a weekly clean.
- £300,000 on litter & street cleaning.
- Green Belt review – Designated areas will stay the same.
- CPZ to be reviewed.
- Vast amounts of money is being spent on looking after young adults who need special long term care.
- Business tax is being abolished next year.

Summary of Reports from Local Organisations:

Takeley Youth Club

Cllr Linda Steer reported:

The club currently has 133 members and many are now coming from further afield. Smoking awareness, drugs & alcohol, sexual health, African drumming & cake decorating are just a few of the activities that have taken place this year. 1563 attendances since the club opened in March 2014. Some of the members attended a UDC Youth Celebration event in Sept 2015 and the speaker said that Takeley Youth Club were an inspirational group.

Community Cafe

Cllr Pat Burnett reported:

The café is run by volunteers, recently increasing to 7 and with an average of between 40-60 visitors over the 2 days. There is however always room for more volunteers. The café recently featured on BBC Essex Quest show so our fame is spreading. The range of refreshments has changed from just tea and cakes to light lunches, baguettes and homemade soups. Thanks were relayed to all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication and to TPC for their continued support.

Priors Green Community Hall

Cllr David Daykin reported on behalf of Steve Casey Secretary PGCH Management Committee:

After a hard year things are progressing well at the hall. The committee has 6 members but they would like to expand this with representatives from the user groups. Facilities at the hall have improved with a recent grant from the Stansted Airport Trust they have been able to rack out the equipment store cupboards and replace the hand dryers in the toilets. These changes have contributed to an improvement in operation and maintenance of the building, while also helping towards the customer experience at the hall. Bookings for parties and regular hire slots are good. The Committee would like to thank Cllr Carol Pratt and her team for their tremendous support.

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE)

Mr Peter Saunders reported:

Last year we were in a state of limbo waiting for the election and the publication of the Airports Commission's final report. Even though the report has been published we are still waiting for the new Government's response, this is now expected in the summer. The Commission has made its choice and its preferred airport for the additional runway is Heathrow. An extra runway has been ruled out at Stansted as it is only carrying 20m passengers where it could take 35m so the market is telling you that it is not a currently a preferred solution. SSE remains on guard and its campaign continues.

Manorial Land

Euan Kennedy reported:

Documents that have been missing since 2004 have been found. These documents will allow some parts of land to be registered as village green and be handed over to TPC.

Community Speed Watch

Mr Martin Peachey reported:

Takeley CSW is now in its tenth year of operation. The areas being monitored are Brewers End, Parsonage Rd, Station Rd and B1256. Essex Police have announced that they will be looking to enhance their support of CSW using Essex Fire & ECC to provide day to day management and development which would allow Essex Police to focus on enforcement. We have seen the completion of the traffic calming measures in Takeley Street. Essex Highways will carry out a safety audit and a Post Implementation Review on its effectiveness. This will be within a year of its completion.

Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity (Takeley Branch)

Mrs Pat Caiger reported:

The Committee were happy to welcome Jill Baldwin back with them again this year. Events held in the past year raised £4621. Since 2003 the group have raised £40282. Sadly we lost Nia Watkiss who died in June 2015. We would like to thank Brian Baldwin, TPC and residents of the village for their support.

Singing from the Heart

Mr Paul Burnett reported:

Singing from the heart is now in its 5th year and continues to grow with an average of 18 singers at each session. The group are fortunate to have a natural voice coach Angela Dennis. Due to restrictions the sessions are only open to individuals of 18yrs & over although at some point in the future they are hoping to work together with the youth group for a one off evening of music.

Silver Jubilee Hall

Michael Coleman reported:

Phase 2 has started at the hall which will improve the entrance hall and toilets. Unfortunately it has not been possible to raise a large amount of funds from grants etc. The renovation is being funded with the help from TPC and a loan. Lettings are good and a considerable amount is raised every year from the Takeley 10k run. SJH would welcome music and drama groups to make use of their stage.

Holy Trinity Church

Lyn FitzGibbon reported on behalf of Rev Rob Burles:

Thank you to TPC for the grant given last year for the maintenance of the churchyard, it is looking better than it has done in recent years. Thank you also for the donation towards the flower festival at Holy Trinity for the Queens 90th birthday celebrations. We said farewell to Kim who took up a new post in Southend however we are pleased to welcome Hugh Mascetti as a licensed Lay Minister.

Takeley Ladies Circle

Mrs Barbara Aviet reported:

The group has had a good year with a varied selection of speakers. They have raised £244 which will be donated to Support for Stroke. The membership stays steady at around 20.

Takeley Local History Society

Steve Hazen reported:

Membership remains healthy at around 50 but visitors are also welcome to any events. There is a new booklet available about the first Takeley Scout Camp. We have been lucky to inherit 3 large photographs of Percy Read's Garage, these will hopefully be display in the Station House. The group meets 4 times a year.

Takeley Community Centre

Chairman Brian Baldwin reported:

Lunch is provided for the over 55's every Tuesday & Friday at a cost of £4. The venue is also available for hire.

Takeley Scout Group

Grant Widdowson reports:

This year the group have said goodbye to Les & Joan Thurston after 30 years of being involved with the group. Since introducing our Beavers Colony it has gone from strength to strength and currently has 18 members and a waiting list in operation. Cub membership has risen but we still have low numbers in Scouts. District Explorers regularly meet at the HQ, this is for 14-18 year olds. We are trying to recruit new helpers. Thank you to TPC for their support.

Takeley Transport

Phyllis Altham reports:

The 308 service has been replaced by the 508 route which runs from the Four Ashes to Harlow every 30 mins. Unfortunately the updates from the bus companies are always too late to be included in the "Grapevine", however Phyllis has delivered new timetables to key locations around the village.

Takeley Sports & Social Club

Cllr Carol Pratt reported on behalf of Eric Rogers:

The club is doing well with new members joining from the new houses being built. They hope to make a profit this year.

Open Forum:

Cllr Carol Pratt reminded all attendees that any of the groups can advertise in the TPC Newsletter which is issued 4 times per year.

Mr Paul Burnett offered thanks on behalf of the community to Cllr Carol Pratt, Jane Heskey (Clerk for Takeley Parish Council) and Jane Bridgeman (Assistant Clerk for Takeley Parish Council) for keeping village life going which at times must seem like an uphill struggle.

Meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Jane Bridgeman

Asst Clerk to Takeley Parish Council