

TAKELEY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Wed. 24th May 2017

SUMMARY OF 2017 ASSEMBLY

*The Annual Assembly of the Parish of Takeley was held on Wednesday 24th May 2017
at Takeley Station House at 7.30pm.*

The Chairman of Takeley Parish Council, Cllr. Carol Pratt, welcomed 19 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 Tina Domigan, Cllr Sue Sprules, Cllr Linda Steer, Cllr Richard Cheetham (Takeley Parish Council),
Cllr Jackie Cheetham (Takeley Parish Council) Cllr Trisha Barber (Takeley Parish Council)
Julia Peachey (Clerk Takeley Parish Council) Miss Jane Bridgeman (Asst Clerk of Takeley Parish Council)

District Councillors: Cllr Howard Ryles

Local Representatives:

Mrs Claire Berry (Takeley Primary School)	Pat Caiger (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Holly Murphy (Takeley Primary School)	Mandy Williams (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Braydon N (Takeley Primary School)	Barbara Johnson (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Georgia A (Takeley Primary School)	Susan Deeley (HEAL Cancer Charity - Takeley Branch)
Barbara Aviet (Takeley Ladies Circle)	Cllr Linda Steer (Takeley Youth Club)
Paul Burnett (Singing from the Heart & Holy Trinity Church)	Euan Kennedy (Lord of the Manor)
Steve Hazon (Takeley History Society)	Brian Baldwin (Takeley Community Centre)
Sue Sadler (TLC Defib Group)	Martin Peachey (Community Speed Watch & SSE)
John Monk (Trustee SJH & Royal British Legion)	Mr Steve Casey (Priors Green Community Hall)
Ruth Bodsworth (TLC Defib Group)	Marilyn Sayers (Takeley Resident)
	Anne Farr (HEAL Cancer Charity)

Apologies:

ECC Cllr Susan Barker
District Cllr Derek Jones
Cllr Geoff Bagnall
Cllr Dom Roque
Grant Widdowson (Takeley Cubs & Scouts)
Peter Sanders (SSE)
Samantha Davidson (Takeley Youth Club)
Michael Coleman (Silver Jubilee Hall)
Mrs Phyllis Altham (Bus Representative)
Rev Rob Burles (Holy Trinity Church)
Mrs Jackie Rogers (British Legion - Takeley Branch)
Mrs Baron (Roseacres Primary School)

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. A minutes silence was observed for the victims and their families of the Manchester attack on 22nd May 2017.

Minutes:

It was agreed unanimously by members of the community, that the published summary of the 2016 Annual Parish Assembly was a true and accurate record of events and was signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

None

Takeley Parish Council Chairman's Report

Clr. Carol Pratt reported:

- Thank you to all **Council members**: Vice Chairman Clr 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 The Councillors work with children, families and attend meetings on behalf of the council which is over and beyond their usual duties.
- **Thank you to:**
 - Bob Muddle,
 - John Monk – for co-ordinating the project
 - Martin Peachey – CSW co-ordinator
 - Michael Coleman for all the extra uncontracted help that he provides for TPC.
 - Steve Hazon – who edits the TPC Newsletter and maintains the Parish Council website.
 - Jane Heskey – for her previous work on the council as Clerk to Takeley Parish Council
 - Cllr Pat Burnett - for her work in the Community Café. The café attracts mums & babies to elderly. It really does bring the community together.
 - Cllr Sue Sprules – For her work on the planters around the village.
 - Welcome to Julia Peachey as the new Clerk for TPC. Julia is doing a sterling job and brings lots of enthusiasm.

Finance:

The 2016/2017 accounts have 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 TPC has focused on:

The purchase of the Old School House.

We are pleased to report that since last year, we have secured the old school house building through a long term public works loan, which provides a cheaper rate of interest than the banks. We will be looking to fund raise and seek donations over the coming year to help with the build and refurbishment costs.

You will be aware from the updates in the newsletter and website minutes that all preliminary work is progressing.

- ***The first Bat survey has been received and confirms no bats on the premises. (Bat surveys are required as part of the building regulation).***
- ***A planning application has also been submitted and a decision is expected in June 2017.***

We are especially thankful to those local individuals who have already agreed to donate the cost of a window replacement, which is very much appreciated.

The building upgrade and the keeping of costings to equitable levels is obviously something we are all keen to support. We would like to thank all those who have helped and are still helping with the project. We are also grateful to John Monk for his expertise, that he has offered free of charge.

The building is undergoing upgrade to include a parish office, area for a foodbank, a further community hall, as well as virtual citizens advice and designated area to continue the community café and youth club facility.

Do please get in contact if you are able to offer support or wish to make a donation towards the cost. We know that there are many in the community who are delighted that the old school will continue to provide a tangible benefit to the area and the local groups who will go on to use it.

Traffic

We know that traffic is a major concern for our parish and we are pleased to report that Highways have e-mailed us this month, stating that we should be having a traffic survey within the next month. We have specifically requested for it to be at the Four Ashes junction so are just waiting to hear back.

We have had traffic calming measures implemented through Takeley and we are always keen to hear how we can improve things further. The ultimate decision on what will be accepted however will be down to Highways who will make decisions based on legislation and highways safety.

Unfortunately, there is still concern that the last quarterly highways inspection of the badly surfaced area of the junction at the Four Ashes in April has not resulted in it being listed for works this year. This is despite our numerous requests and complaints. We will continue to log complaints in the hope that we are eventually listened to.

We are aware of various other complaints about traffic around and through the village and are reporting on an ongoing basis.

The M11 junction is also currently undertaking resurfacing works – but Highways England are trying to minimize disruption by carrying out works at night. They are due to finish this phase of work on the 12th June.

Planning

This year has been particularly busy with planning and we have all been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that planning applications are looked at in detail and responded to. Takeley and all parishes in the District of Uttlesford were written to earlier in the year requesting they identify sites for development. We did respond highlighting that Takeley had already undergone rapid growth – however we are being careful not to be unresponsive to the District, as our fears will probably mirror yours in that we may face a situation where even more housing is imposed upon us; without proper consideration to the sustainability, infrastructure and character of Takeley.

Housing targets set by central government have increased in Uttlesford. This is putting pressure on all areas to provide extra housing to meet the targets, that Uttlesford are bound to abide to. The Local Development Plan which looks at housing for the whole of the District is the most important document residents can respond to. We are aware that public consultation and engagement will be occurring in July and we would ask all residents to respond at the appropriate time.

In the meantime, the parish council continues to respond to planning applications as they come in. We have had a busy May with two planning meetings in the same month. It will remain a priority for Takeley to respond on an ongoing basis to all plans that we receive from the District. Members of the public are also able to respond directly by writing direct to Uttlesford Planning and quoting the respective planning policy number.

Obviously, the larger planning applications for the Bonnington site will mean we will have an immense amount of work to carry out over the coming months and we are fortunate to have some very pro-active members in our planning team.

We are also aware that the Gladman application may also be resurfacing as we have been notified, that an environmental risk assessment was being undertaken and this was exactly what happened prior to the last planning application being submitted.

Not only that there are concerns about 10,000 homes being built in the Gt Easton Park region which will all have a knock-on effect to other areas in respect of infrastructure requirements.

Sports Ground & Recreation Ground.

UDC enforcement notice was served on gypsy travellers who camped on the village green. A clean-up operation was carried out shortly after they left this month, by Essex County Council and the enforcement notice has now been closed.

Uttlesford Citizen Advice Bureau

- TPC are currently piloting a scheme which enables residents to use a direct video link to the CAB offices in Saffron Walden from the Station House.

Thank You for Attending.

County Councillor

ECC Susan Barker submitted a report which highlighted her re-election to the County Council and outlined her two new roles.

Chairman of Essex Pension Fund. This is the fund that has 147,000 active, deferred and retired members across Essex. The fund provides pensions for ECC staff, Districts and Borough Councils, Parish Councils, Police and Fire Staff, Teaching Staff etc.

Cabinet member for Culture, Communities and Customer Services which encompasses Libraries, the registration service, Art, working with voluntary organisations, the Army covenant, and many other areas.

Susan Barker will shortly be setting up a joint meeting of all my parishes to look at strategic issues across the region and will be asking each parish to send up to three people.

District Councillor

Cllr Howard Ryles reported:

- After 2 years as a District Cllr I have been promoted to Cabinet.
- Working on a broadband project for residents of Priors Green who currently do not have any service.
- UDC have invested in a 45 million project in Little Chesterford, this will help with UDC finance after the Govt cuts.
- Met with developers and attended presentations. New Councillors are now involved with the process who have experience in development which is a positive move,
- Cllr Carol Pratt thanked Cllr Howard Ryles who has been extremely helpful to TPC and attended many of their meetings for which the council are very grateful.

Summary of Reports from Local Organisations:

Takeley Primary School

Claire Berry (Deputy Head Takeley Primary School) reported that the school had enjoyed a very productive year and introduced Children from Year 6 who provided a short informative presentation on life at Takeley Primary School.

Cllr Carol Pratt, on behalf of the Assembly, expressed thanks to the children and wished Ms Clare Berry every success in her new position as Head Teacher for Birchanger Primary School.

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 next year will be their 20th year. Several trips are planned for 2017. There are 30 books now in circulation and the group are contacted from all over the world.

Takeley Ladies Circle

Mrs Barbara Aviet reported:

The membership stays steady at around 20. The group have a varied list of activities such as bingo and wildlife speakers. Last year they raised £220 for Support for Sight. This year as a request from a former member Mrs Jill Baldwin who sadly passed away they will be raising money for HEAL Cancer Charity, Jill will be remembered for her wonderful enthusiasm. Barber Aviet would like to thank TPC who nominated her for an award for services to the community.

Silver Jubilee Hall

John Monk reported on behalf of Michael Coleman:

SJH have had a successful year with the completion of phase 2 which was under budget and before the expected deadline. Thank you to TPC in particular Chairman Carol Pratt, Clerk Jane Heskey & Asst Clerk Jane Bridgeman for obtaining the low rate loan. Future works include stage curtains so that the hall can be used for pantomimes/plays. Thank you to everyone that donated money for the hall. The Takeley 10k is growing every year with a record number of runners from 4000 to 12,000.

Royal British Legion

John Monk reports:

The Takeley branch will be celebrating its 90th year. A lunch will be held for veterans & widows. Every year the group have a carol service performed by the military wives. Since taking their poppy selling to Stansted Airport they have increased their fundraising to £7000. Last year saw a very successful & well attended memorial & parade.

Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity (Takeley Branch)

Mrs Pat Caiger reported:

Sadly, the group lost one of their members and dear friend Mrs Jill Baldwin. The group celebrated their 20th birthday last year and also raised £4116. This year has started well with a plant sale which raised £1685 for plants and £710 for refreshments. Thank you to Brian Baldwin, TPC and the residents of Takeley for their continued support.

Priors Green Community Hall

Mr Steve Casey reported:

Things are progressing very well. 19 groups currently use the hall as a result the hire charges will remain the same for 2017. A UDC grant enabled the management committee to purchase better tables and hand dryers. The hall is now listed as a registered charity and soon hopes to sign a lease with TPC and take ownership of the S106 monies. The hall has also got their own Facebook page. New volunteers are needed on the management committee. Thank you to TPC for their continued support.

Takeley Community Centre

Chairman Brian Baldwin reported:

Lunch is provided for the over 55's every Tuesday & Friday. The centre is also hired out to a pre-school and an after-school club.

Takeley TLC Defib Group

Mrs Ruth Bodsworth reported:

The group formed less than 6 months ago and their aim was to raise money to provide and install 2 defibrillators, one at SJH and the other at PGCH. The group have done a great job and contacted businesses, residents and organisations and are able to buy all units with security boxes. Any funds left over will be used to maintain the equipment over the next 8-10 years. Training has been provided to residents wishing to take part. Once installed the group will disperse and TPC will take over the management of them.

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE)

Mr Martin Peach reported on behalf of Peter Sanders (SSE)

The main development is that the extra runway needed will not be in Stansted, however this is not a time to relax and MAG do intend to increase the amount of passengers using the airport. Residents entitled to compensation have still not received any and SSE are helping them to pursue this. SSE have also been assisting 328 residents occupying properties owned by MAG who were given a notice to quit at the end of 2016. They are also working on night flight consultation, change of flight path and the modernisation to airspace.

Community Speed Watch

Mr Martin Peachey reported:

The group have been in operation for ten years and currently have five volunteers. They aim to do two monitoring sessions per month. Essex Police are a great assistance and reinforce CSW actions. Survey's from previous years will provide essential information for TPC in their fight against the increase in traffic and more development.

Holy Trinity Church

Paul Burnett reported on behalf of Rev Rob Burles:

The church hosted a flower and photographs display for the Queen's 90th birthday. Church members continue to be active around the village in local groups & events. The yearly firework display which has changed location is going from strength to strength and takes place at Button Seed Meadow. There are weekly assemblies at Takeley & Roseacres Schools. Trimming is needed to tree's around the church this was reported in a recent tree survey. Thank you to TPC & residents for their grants & donations.

Singing from the Heart

Mr Paul Burnett reported:

From 2015 – 2017 the group met eleven times with attendance from eleven singers. Under the leadership of voice coach Angela Dennis, the group sang many genres of music including popular, classical, folk, calypso and many more. At the end of 2016 a discussion was had with Angela who decide that at the age of seventy she would retire. The group had six fantastic years of singing together but decided that December would be their final meeting.

Manorial Land

Euan Kennedy reported:

Jacks Lane is now a restricted byway and with the help from Essex Highways the lane has been resurfaced and is better utilised by residents for dog walking, horse riders and cyclist. We are now in a position to hand over the village greens to TPC, the maintenance is currently carried out by Michael Coleman.

Community Cafe

Cllr Pat Burnett reported:

The café has been in operation for 5 years. It is used by both young and old. A food & hygiene inspection was carried out by UDC and we were delighted to be awarded 4 stars (the maximum of 5 stars are only awarded to larger establishments). In June 2016, the café stepped back in time to 1926 for the Queen's birthday and a bowl of soup, sandwich and cake cost just 5 bob. In September, the café raised £140 for the Macmillan Coffee morning. Pat Burnett wished to thank her dedicated group of volunteers who without them the café

would be unable to operate.

Takeley Youth Club

Cllr Linda Steer reported:

The Youth Club have been in operation for three years. They meet at SJH on alternate Wednesday's. There have been some individual successes who with the support of the group have turned their lives around for the better. They have four volunteers running the sessions. Thank you to TPC, UDC, ECC and Essex Boys & Girls. A quality Assurance Assessment was recently carried out and the group maintained their 'outstanding' review.

Open Forum:

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

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Jane Bridgeman

Asst Clerk to Takeley Parish Council