

**Little Bardfield Parish Council
ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**



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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15th May 2024 7.15pm, Little Bardfield Cricket Club Pavilion. Present: Andrew Davies, Colin Simpson, Juliet O'Brien, Jessica Ashbridge (Clerk). Also present County Cllr Martin Foley, and District Cllr Mike Tayler, plus 1 Parishioner.

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed those present.
- 2. Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting on 10th May 2023 were approved.
- 3. District and County Councillors' Annual Reports - District Cllr Mike Tayler** – Raised the rurality of the Ward, and the marked lack of services. He had two meetings in the last few weeks, both not directly relating to Little Bardfield, but had stimulated Cllr Taler to ask questions, why were some services not available in this community, were they wanted and were they needed?

The meetings were for services which should be available for all ages, but happened to focus on the young, namely Buffy Bus – bus for preschool aged children, and older, namely lunches predominantly for older people in Pam's Place, Thaxted. Buffy Bus did not visit Little Bardfield nor anywhere else in Cllr Tayler's ward, even though it acts as an outreach into the community for early years play and development. He understood some of the difficulties with the service, but wondered if more could be done. Pam's Place was a community centre in Thaxted offering facilities, food, socialisation and friendship. He realised the Cricket Club offered some of these benefits, but not as regularly. Would transport being provided to Pam's Place help with increasing use from the village?

Cllr Tayler had spoken to Peter Holt, the CEO of UDC, and he had sent him part of the Blueprint Uttlesford relating to rural issues. These rural aspects had now for the first time been incorporated into the Corporate Plan. He had also attended meetings regarding the future of waste disposal and recycling and The Local Plan Panel.

County Cllr Martin Foley – Reported the frustrations of Parishioners and Highways department at the state of the roads, particularly Hawkspur Green. The rural nature of the area and huge mileages that needed to be covered were hindering progress, however Cllr Foley had had enough of the lack of support, and was trying to make a difference to increase safety. He was trying to get a review of the contractors initiated, to ensure better repairs were carried out.

- 4. Update on Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee (WASC)** – Cllr O'Brien provided an update from WASC. The site was transferred to the Ministry of Justice

for two prisons, then the Home Office acquired the site for an Asylum Centre, which houses 600 men, but the figure is transitory. There was a burden on the community due to far right protesters, requiring local resources. Contamination services and an operational management plan were needed. The operational limit was 800 up to 1700. The Home Office had the site for 3 years, it may then revert to the Ministry of Justice. A positive plan was needed, forming a solar farm, or for business use. Essex County Council had been very supportive in rewilding projects.

5. Public Forum – There were no additional comments from Parishioners.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.16.

Signed.....10th September 2024
Cllr A Davies