

SOCIETY



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THAXTED SOCIETY Constitution

Policies 2018

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The Society in Brief

THE THAXTED SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

Ratified by the Membership AGM May 2018

1. **Name**
The name of the Society shall be The Thaxted Society
2. **Objects**
The Objects of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the following by charitable means but not otherwise:
3. To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in the Parish of Thaxted,
4. To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of the area of the town and its surroundings,
5. To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest,
6. To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction and publicity and promotion of schemes of a charitable nature,
7. To scrutinise, robustly, planning applications and long-term developments concerning Thaxted and its environs.
8. **Membership**
Membership shall be open to all who are interested in the objects of the Society.
Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid six months after it is due.
9. **Subscriptions**
The Annual Subscription of the Society shall be set by the Executive Committee and proposed at the Annual General Meeting in May, after which the agreed subscription is immediately payable or up to six months thereafter.
10. **Meetings**
An Annual General Meeting shall be held in April or May of each year to receive the Executive Committee's Report, the Independently Examined Accounts and to elect Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.
11. The Executive Committee shall decide when Ordinary Meetings of the Society shall be held and shall give at least ten days notice of such meetings to all members.
12. Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the request of twenty or more members.
13. Twenty five members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a Meeting of the Society.
14. **Officers**
Nominations for the Election of Officers shall be made at least ten 10 days, or before, the Annual General Meeting. Such Nominations shall be in writing supported by a Secunder and the consent of the proposed Nominee must first have been obtained. The Election of Officers shall be completed prior to the Election of further Committee Members.
15. The Officers of the Society shall consist of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
16. **Executive Committee**
The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not more than seven further members. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members, who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity.
17. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made at or at least ten 10 days before the Annual General Meeting. They may be in writing but must be supported by a Secunder and the consent of the proposed Nominee must first have been obtained. If the Nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place.

- 18. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for running the affairs of the Society and may take decisions on its behalf. Included in these responsibilities is the right to set the Annual Subscription for the ensuing year, which must be proposed to, and voted on by a clear majority of the Members at the Annual General Meeting. A quorum for Meetings of the Executive Committee shall consist of six members.**
- 19. Appeals**

The Executive Committee shall have the power to make appeals, solicit donations and canvass monies for carrying out the objects of the Society.
- 20. Expenses of Administration**

The Executive Committee shall, out of the monies received by the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society and shall use the residue of such monies as it thinks fit for, or towards, the objects of the Society.
- 21. Investment**

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its objects shall be invested by the Executive Committee in such investments, securities or property as it may think fit. The monies shall only be invested in such securities as may, for the time being, be prescribed by law.
- 22. Borrowing**

The Executive Committee may borrow for the objects of the Society, such monies at such rates of interest and in such a manner, as it may think fit.
- 23. Amendments**

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that ten days notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been sent to all Members, and provided that nothing contained therein shall authorise any amendment permitting the expenditure of funds of the Society on any object which is not a charitable object.
- 24. Winding Up**

In the event of the winding-up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to one or more charitable bodies having similar or reasonably similar objects to those of the Society. This choice shall be made and declared to, and approved by, the Members of the Society, before being approved by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Thaxted Society Adopted Policy 2013

- i. To oppose all building outside the current development limits. Design Statement
- ii. To resist all matters of creeping urbanisation of Thaxted and most vigorously the Historic Chore.
- iii. To: discourage parking on pavements, ancient pathways, and ancient cobbles.
- iv. To: resist and oppose change of use from commercial business to residential.
- v. To: encourage the use, and style and form, of hanging signs within the conservation area.
- vi. To: robustly discourage the use of concrete kerbstones and asphalt public pavements and pathways.
- vii. To vigorously defend and seek conservation of our original gas light lamp-stands and to robustly discourage installation of modern unsympathetic public lighting.

(And resulting from the adoption hereto to publish a guide to policy, including and explanation and guidance on: suitable vernacular style and form, for the built environment of Thaxted.)

Thaxted Society FURTHER Adopted Policy 2017

- i. To: oppose all building outside the current development limits.
- ii. To: actively encourage the use, protection, and designation, of Thaxted's public open green spaces in perpetuity for the benefit of all of Thaxted.
- iii. To: resist all matters of creeping urbanisation of Thaxted and most vigorously the Historic Core [Clarson Clause]
- iv. To: discourage parking on pavements, ancient pathways, and ancient cobbles.
- v. To oppose all planning for the conversion of garages car-ports and car parking in any form resulting in the loss of parking for said dwelling.
- vi. To: resist and oppose change of use from commercial / business to residential.
- vii. To: encourage the use, and style and form, of hanging signs within the conservation area.
- viii. To: robustly discourage the use of concrete kerbstones and asphalt public pavements and pathways.
- ix. To: vigorously defend and seek conservation of our original gas light lamp-stands and to robustly discourage installation of modern unsympathetic public lighting.

(And resulting from the adoption hereto to publish the Thaxted Building Design Guide 2016.)

Thaxted Society FURTHER Adopted Policy 2018

- i. **To oppose all Outline Planning applications which: impinge, abut, or affect, in any manner, the Historic Core including the Conservation Area of Thaxted.**
- ii. **The Society expects reserved matters and their conditions to respond adequately to both Thaxted's historic and local vernacular as well as those details designated unique and particular whilst complying with the Essex design guide and the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan.**

(Adopted unanimously by the Committee on April 26th 2018)

(And resulting from this adoption to re-publish the Thaxted Building Design Guide 2018.)



THE THAXTED SOCIETY IN BRIEF

2013 saw the fiftieth anniversary of the Thaxted Society. Early records show the Society was formed as a conservation organization for Thaxted. Its goals remain the same today as they were then. (*Refer to the Societies constitution*) The Constitution of the Society reflects this. The Society is constituted as a Charity as set out in guidance and regulation from the Charity Commissioners.

It has met regularly with an AGM usually in May or April. The current voting membership of the Society stands at two hundred and forty eight, whilst everyone receiving the Bulletin and resident in Thaxted are non voting members.

The Society publishes the Thaxted Bulletin bi annually and this volume is delivered to every home in Thaxted, and many beyond, free of charge.

Funding for this considerable endeavour is made available by the following: Thaxted Parish Council, local District Councillors, the Stansted Airport Community Trust. Further costs are covered by advertising revenues.

Funds are raised on a project-by-project basis and include our, 50th anniversary reception in 2013, the publishing and delivery of the Thaxted Welcome Pack, educational visits, and visiting speakers, planning Appeals, additional publications : The Thaxted Design Statement, the Donald Insall Survey of Thaxted, the Mark Armer historic guides.

We endeavour to receive professional advice on a pro bono basis and are pleased to do so from Andrew Arnold at Pellys of Bishops Stortford who are our legal advisors. Also on building and estate matters, advice from John Arkwright of Arkwright & Co London.