

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Skype Meeting held on Thursday 27th April, 2020 at 4.00pm

Present Chair Maria Orr, Cllr Chris Firmin, Margaret Hudson, Cllr Ian Southcott and Cllr Maggs Webb.

In Attendance District Cllr Neil Hargreaves and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

04.20.01i CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

04.20.02i APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Jill Brookman.

04.20.03i DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None

04.20.04i PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The clerk detailed concerns raised by the public regarding;

- i. UTT/20/0860/FUL - Land Rear Of Malt Place, Cornells Lane, Widdington. Concerns include;
 - a. The absence of two ponds detailed within the application, abutting the neighbouring property.
 - b. The lack of clarity regarding sewage drainage.
 - c. The ditches abutting the neighbouring property, not the applicant, and were dug out by the neighbour upon purchasing their property.
 - d. Approval was given to a single derelict dwelling on the site, whilst a barn owl was living in the building, please can adequate investigations be undertaken to ensure this is not repeated.
 - e. The application involves utilising a different footprint to the current buildings.
- ii. Concerns regarding the number of large vehicles driving through Widdington to access the recycling site, some of which are driving too fast.

04.20.05i MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 2nd April Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chair Orr authorised the Clerk to sign the minutes on her behalf.

04.20.06i COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

None.

04.20.07i DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

District Cllr Neil Hargreaves noted;

- i. UDC held their first full council meeting last week virtually, teething problems included difficulty in voting for those attending on the telephone and Councillors needing to submit complex questions in advance of the meeting to ensure meetings can run efficiently and enable informed debate.
- ii. UDC's next full Council meeting is 30/04/2020, with a recommendation to withdraw the Local Plan and start again. A consequence of withdrawal is that the number of houses being catered for increases from 4500 to 13-15,000 new houses for the district. The 5 year housing supply is currently 2.68, but would fall to 2.2 if the Plan is withdrawn.
- iii. UDC have been working hard amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council Offices are basically empty, with officers and staff working remotely, and with nobody currently furloughed, although Council finances have been impacted by the lack of car parking and planning application related income.

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iv. The garden waste collection has restarted and bulky waste collections recommence 28/04/2020, although there is not currently any update regarding the reopening of the recycling centre in Saffron Walden.

04.20.08i CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

- i. Asbestos warning signs have been put in place as advised by the Asbestos Survey.
- ii. Collection and disposal of asbestos confirmed within garages quotation received.
- iii. Email sent requesting the two fallen trees blocking the footpath behind Bishops are cleared.
- iv. The Council has been advised that The Annual Parish Council meeting may be postponed until May 2021. It is up to the Council whether they are able to go ahead as a virtual meeting. The Council resolved to proceed with the Annual Parish Council Meetings at the May Council meeting.
- v. The fly tipping on Hollow Road has been reported to UDC, who have arranged collection.
- vi. PKF Littlejohn have advised regarding the 2019/20 AGAR, there has been some flexibility given regarding final dates. I am awaiting bank statements to finalise the end of year finance, but once these have been received will be able to co-ordinate with the Internal Auditor, although this may not be straightforward due to the social distancing regulations.
- vii. Allotment rental invoices despatched electronically, in the main, requesting payment by BACS if possible.
- viii. Garage rental invoices ready to despatch, requesting payment by BACS if possible.

04.20.09i PLANNING

The Parish Council agreed to submit the following comments to Uttlesford District Council relating to planning;

i. UTT/0876/FUL - Land Rear Of Malt Place, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Replacement of Existing Single Storey Agricultural Building with 1no. dwelling (Revised scheme to approved UTT/17/2960/PAP3Q)(25/05/2020) - The Council objects to this application as the temporary agricultural building is not suitable for development and is contrary to regulations surrounding the redevelopment of agricultural buildings on the same footprint. Concerns also include the submission of out of date representation (a 2017/18 ecology survey and 2018 bat survey) and the Parish Council requests updated reports for consideration.

ii. UTT/20/0860/FUL - Land Rear Of Malt Place, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of 4no. dwellings with associated parking and landscaping (19/05/2020) The Council objects to this disingenuous application, and in particular the accuracy of the supporting statement. Concerns include;

a. The submission of out of date representation(a 2017/18 ecology survey and 2018 bat survey) and the Parish Council requests updated reports for consideration.

b. The derelict buildings have not been used for thirty years, during which time the natural environment has grown and thrived, this proposal will further damage this natural environment. (Policy ENV8 and GEN7)

c. The application claims to reuse agricultural buildings, but actually involves knocking them down and more than doubling the size of the footprint to be developed, contravening the agricultural building renovation legislation regarding the reuse of agricultural buildings on the same footprint, height and specifications.

d. The application is clearly backland development.

It was agreed that the clerk would forward a draft response to the Planning Consultant and request a quotation to review and restructure, for consideration at the 07/05/2020 PC meeting.

iii. UTT/20/0853/LB - Thatched Cottage, High Street, Widdington

Proposed porch extension, addition of roof lights to existing single storey rear extension and new door and windows to existing garage associated with new use as amenity space. (19/05/2020)- No objection.

iv. UTT/20/0852/HHF -Thatched Cottage, High Street, Widdington

Proposed porch extension, addition of roof lights to existing single storey rear extension and new door and windows to existing garage associated with new use as amenity space. (19/05/2020))- No objection.

v. UTT/20/0829/LB - The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Widdington

Proposed upgrade of electrical and heating mechanical and electrical plant and services. Rewiring of property. Removal of 3 no. internal modern studd partitions and construction of 1 no. internal stuff partition wall. Installation of new security and CCTV system. Repair 2m square pitched roof to rear. Repairs and redecoration of windows. (21/05/2020))- No objection.

vi. UTT/20/0763/FUL - Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington

Construction of 1 no. detached dwelling and associated works (Revised scheme for plot 3 previously approved under UTT/19/2643/FUL - revised external design and material finish only) (07/05/2020) - The Council objects

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to the inclusion of the velux window and chimney from a previously refused application, and requests updated documents to enable accurate consideration of this revised scheme.

The following planning decisions were noted;

vii. UTT/20/0530/FUL - Ringers, Debden Road, Newport

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 1 no. replacement dwelling. Approved with conditions.

viii. UTT/20/0440/HHF - Willow House, Wood End, Widdington

Demolition of existing attached triple garage. Proposed two-storey extensions to both sides and single-storey rear extension. Approved with conditions.

04.20.10i WIDDINGTON RECYCLING

Following receipt of complaints regarding the number of vehicles accessing the recycling site through Widdington, and concerns regarding the absence of transparency of the long term plans at the site, it was resolved that Cllrs Hudson, Southcott and Firmin will review Essex County Council minerals and waste policies and obtain contact details for the cabinet member responsible for planning, and the case officer overseeing the applications at the recycling site, with a view to demanding a site visit with the case officer as soon as possible.

It was resolved that the Clerk will write to the recycling centre reiterating the previous request that the council are notified when large vehicles are anticipated, noting the concerns raised by residents regarding the frequency of the large vehicles, particularly during lockdown when children are mostly not at school and are walking and cycling with their families as part of keeping active, and requesting an update on the anticipated date that the large vehicles will cease access through the village.

04.20.11i HAMEL WAY GARAGES

It was agreed that the Clerk will despatch letters noting the presence of asbestos being stored in the relevant garages and notifying individuals that the asbestos must be safely disposed of within current health and safety guidelines as storage of asbestos is not permitted.

04.20.12i OTHER BUSINESS

The dog waste bin outside Willow Cottage has still not been replaced, Cllr Firmin to forward photographic evidence to the clerk to pursue with UDC.

04.20.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 7th May, 2020

The meeting closed at 17.23