

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm**

**Present** Chair Maria Orr, Vice-Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr Chris Firmin, Cllr Lynn Harris, Cllr Steve Smith, Cllr Maggs Webb, Cllr Teresa Petchey

**In Attendance** District Cllr Neil Hargreaves, 7 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **05.22.01 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Cllr Southcott was nominated as Chair.

Proposed: Chris Firmin . Seconded; Cllr.Harris

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Southcott was unanimously elected Chair and resolved to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair which was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

### **05.22.02 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Cllr Firmin was nominated as Vice-Chair.

Proposed; Cllr Webb. Seconded; Cllr.Harris

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Firmin was unanimously elected Vice-Chair and resolved to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice-Chair which was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

### **05.22.03 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **05.22.04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from County Councillor Ray Gooding

### **05.22.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Webb – for minute 05.22.17

### **05.22.06 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Question reference amount of budget spent on consultants to object to planning applications. Does decision tree need to be updated and village resurveyed? Response from council was that village have access to all councils' records, both financial and minute meeting and only objected to 9 applications in the last 12 months. 4 years grown by 10% of houses.

*Member of public joined meeting.*

### **05.22.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

See Appendix 1.

### **05.22.08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

Little Canfield depot, for bin lorry operations to all be moved to there (from shire hill and Dunmow) – 10 times the size with good facilities. Has commercial space, 20-year tenancy agreed, plus council office space. Will leave 50 desks in Saffron Walden, many will continue working from home, two other sites and will reduce costs.

### **05.22.09 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the April Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chair Southcott signed the minutes.

### **05.22.10 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Clerk attended – Minutes and agenda course

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2. Allotment and garage/car park rental letters have been prepared and sent.
3. End of year finances completed and circulated to councillors.
4. AGAR forms started and completed as part of audit process.
5. Submitted WPC comments ref. Planning appeal 21/00136/REF to planning inspectorate
6. Organised dates for meeting with Tom McCarthy prior to S106 Liaison committee ref. Widdington recycling
7. Jubilee Grant - £1000 confirmed + £200 for tree planting. Need to submit proof of paid invoices and send back acceptance of offer.
8. Organised Annual Parish Meeting.
9. Shared Pond Grant scheme with residents
10. Discussion with Essex Highways, residents and County Cllr. Ref. PROW notice in village, requires further investigation and decision on next steps by council.
11. Updated Assets register
12. Reviewed Standing Orders – for inclusion in June PC meeting.

## 05.22.11 PLANNING

To consider response and decide required representation to [Planning Inspectorate](#) reference:

i. [UTT/21/2137/FUL](#)- Land To The North Of Cornell's Lane Widdington CB11 3SG

Proposed erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated works. – G. Gardner appointment as WPC representative unanimously agreed by councillors.

To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning applications:

ii. [UTT/22/1122/HHF](#) - Blackthorn Lodge Cornells Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SP

Erection of first floor side extension – Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> May – decision no objections/comments from WPC – unanimously agreed by Councillors.

## 05.22.12 FINANCE

The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and approved for signature.

### 05.22.12.1 Invoices;

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| London & Cambridge Pony Parties Ltd., - Invoice no. 236            | £400.00 |
| Serge Rossetto - new chain needed for overgrowing bushes on verges | £28.00  |
| Book a Buffet Invoice - #201 - final payment                       | £700.00 |
| Rainbow Robin Face & Body Art - Invoice No. 010                    | £75.00  |
| EALC - Clerk Training courses - Invoice 15561                      | £84.00  |
| KL Clerk Expenses April 2022                                       | £68.40  |
| KL Clerk Salary April 2022 (PAYE £69.60)                           | £279.00 |
| Prosecco for Jubilee Event   | £119.80 |

They were [approved for payment](#).

05.22.12.2 Read through and approved the Section 1 Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22.

05.22.12.3 Approved the annual accounts, signed the Section 2 Accounting Statements 2021/22

## 05.22.13 TREE HEALTH SURVEY –

Quote received from Place Services for full tree risk assessment survey and report £260+VAT

Quote received from Ligna Consultancy for Tree Condition survey and report £285+VAT

No quotes received from Haydens and Tree tops.

Decision: Place Services to be appointed.

## 05.22.14 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE VILLAGE EVENT - 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> June

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Cllr Smith & Cllr Harris update: Flyer will be delivered to all houses in the village, 3 pages for each day. Slip for application for tickets on the Saturday night buffet, dance. Banners have been ordered, will go up Monday, Chair Southcott, suggested that flyers put out asap and social media promotion. Volunteers will be needed for various events over the weekend.

Cllr Smith – designing field layout so everyone knows where they need to situate on the Sunday.

KL – to help committee get more volunteers for the weekend.

**05.22.15 FLOWERS FOR J BROOKMAN** – Due to amount she does for the village, £20 budget agreed by whole council. KL to organise.

**05.22.16 WORK ON THE GREEN** – Tim Harding will continue looking after village green 2022.23 & are set aside for wildflowers. KL – to send letter to instruct to continue as normal and have wildflower area.

**05.22.17 DITCH OPPOSITE POND MEAD** – . defer to June 2022 agenda.

**05.22.18 OTHER BUSINESS**

**05.22.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **8pm** on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20:00

## Appendix 1

### Widdington Parish Council – County Councillors Report – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### 1. Widdington Pit

As the Parish are aware and as discussed last month the Essex County Council D&R Committee approved the application from Widdington Recycling. I can confirm that the associated S106 Agreements that are required to mitigate the impact of the ongoing operations at the pit are currently being negotiated via Essex Legal Services (ELS) and the applicant. It is evident from the conversations that I have had with officers of the County over the last weeks that the caveats associated with the legal agreement will be better drafted than perhaps they have in the past and the powers to enforce breaches by the operator will be far more easily enforced.

A meeting between the Parish Council and the Essex Planners is being arranged and the intention of establishing an ongoing and regularly meeting liaison meeting between the Parish and the Operator will be explored and progressed. The intention of that meeting will be to build a working relationship between the two parties so that the needs of the operator can be progressed with, most importantly, a reduction in the inconvenience and disruption to residents of the village.

#### 2. North Hall Road

It is known that North Hall Road has been closed for some considerable time because of the collapse of the retaining wall that supports the carriageway together with the degradation of the substructure beneath a considerable length of the road.

The current position for the repairs is as follows: -

Essex Highways in March received and reviewed the preliminary design for works to North Hall Road and are satisfied with the proposal. Therefore, they have instructed the contractors to carry out the completion of the submission documents to the Environment Agency.

The full application was submitted in March 2022 and consultations are being held with the Environment Agency to ensure that approvals are gained for the preferred design. It is anticipated that the consultation period and approval time will be between 8-12 weeks. That response is now imminent.

Essex Highways have also discussed the preferred option with the utility companies whose apparatus is within close proximity to the works location, and they have accepted the proposed design.

The necessary vegetation works were carried out within the Highway land in February 2022 to avoid bird nesting season. Please be assured we are working very closely with the design and build contractor and as soon as we receive a detailed construction programme, we will be able to share this information.

In any event the completion of the works is now anticipated to be within the timing of the current closure notice and by Autumn this year.

**Ray Gooding**