

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **dMinutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 8.00pm**

**Present** Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr Teresa Petchey, Cllr. Lynn Harris, Cllr. Maggs Webb, Cllr Albert Edwards

**In Attendance** 3 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **04.23.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **04.23.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Steve Smith, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves, District Cllr. Judy Emanuel

### **04.23.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None

**04.23.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Land south of Cornells Lane the outline planning was refused. Another full application will be put in for one dwelling and with respect to the current environment.

*Cllr. Webb joined the meeting.*

*2 members of public joined the meeting.*

Springhill speeding – Cllr. Gooding still taking it forward, Chair Southcott has spoken to Cllr. Gooding & hoping for update when Cllr. Gooding able to join the meeting. Still not resolved or surveyed.

Widdington Recycling – next liaison meeting? Need to have S106 signed and in place before next one and Widdington Recycling's responsibility to organise.

Opposite Shipton's Farm lots of hedgerow going into road and creating hazards on road.

**04.23.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – Progress with S106 and Widdington Recycling, Cllr. Gooding acknowledged that progress is slow and is pushing the relevant team at ECC planning/legal service to call it back if necessary. However, no update on completion dates or what would cause it to be called back to the main committee at this stage.

Local Highways Panel (LHP) – meeting pushed back until after elections, Springhill speeding survey will be on the agenda. New powers and money been allocated for footpath repairs, upgrades, refurbishment. Need to increase the speed of response so hope that this will move more quickly. Will also investigate the broken sump lid near the pumping station, it is designated highways responsibility.

Quiet lanes application – will also be on the May LHP agenda.

Flooding at Hollow road, environment agency and Essex highways discussed, good to have an update on actions to be taken and timeline.

Springhill potholes have been allocated by Cllr. Gooding as urgent and remedial work should be carried out soon.

**04.23.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – See Appendix A.

### **04.23.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

### **04.23.08 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Contacted Essex County Cllr. Lee Scott reference S106 for Widdington Recycling and heavy goods route signage into the village via Springhill.

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2. Participated in the Essex Transport meeting.
3. Shared survey for Cultural Engine/UDC project with councillors.
4. Application for Coronation Grant from UDC submitted.
5. Contacted various organisations reference Annual Parish Meeting.
6. Contacted Cllr. Gooding for update on Springhill and reference Widdington Recycling.

## 04.23.09 PLANNING

1. Update on planning applications for Land North Cornell's Lane - Judiciary review actions and finances (applications UTT/21/2137/FUL (UTT/22/2278/FUL and UTT/22/3191/FUL). JR – 14/15<sup>th</sup> June court dates have been set. To ensure the court allocated has room if residents wish to attend please contact the clerk so the court can be informed (by end April 2023).
2. To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning application matters arising since March 2022 meeting.

9.2i. UTT/23/0756/FUL- Mole Hall Farm Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Extension to existing agricultural building with hardstanding. [Deadline for Comments – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023, no comments to be made.](#)

9.2ii. UTT/23/0731/FUL- Water Tower Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Proposed conversion of redundant water tower to form 1no. residential dwelling including single and two-storey extensions with lift. [Deadline for Comments – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.](#) Pre-planning application advice has been requested & implication is permission would be given for single storey building and conversion. Discussions covered development outside village envelope, but it is an existing site with change of use but sets precedent of residence on that section of north side of Cornells lane. The structure exists and any new structure should be sensitive to the environment, the visual impact – WPC voted to comment with the concerns raised.  
*Cllr Gooding entered the meeting.*

9.2iii. UTT/23/0600/DOC - Midsummer House (Now Demolished) High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SB - Application to discharge conditions 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10 attached to UTT/22/2260/FUL. [Determination deadline – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023](#)

9.2iv. UTT/23/0566/LB/ UTT/23/0565/HHF - Mount House High Street Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SG- Single storey side and part two storey part single storey rear extension. [Deadline for comments – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023](#)

3. To note [Uttlesford District Council](#) planning decisions, decided since March Parish Council meeting.

9.3i. UTT/23/0310/DOC - The Old Piggery Cornells Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SP - Application to discharge condition 8 and 9 attached to UTT/21/0545/FUL approved under APP/C1570/W/21/3281527. [Discharge conditions in full.](#)

9.3ii. UTT/22/1367/FUL- Old Chalk Pit Hollow Road Widdington Essex - Change of use to Sui Generis (Doggy Day Care, and Keeping of Horses). [Refused](#)

9.3iii. UTT/22/3465/HHF- Ringers Farmhouse Debden Road Newport Essex CB11 3RY - New swimming pool and outbuilding – [Approve with conditions.](#)

*1 member of public left the meeting.*

## 04.23.10 FINANCE

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

KL Clerk Salary + holiday owed	-£519.36
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KL Clerk Expenses	-£62.82
Solicitors – Appeal	-£3130.80
Commemorative Tree	-£210.00
Protection etc. for new tree	-£37.00
Village Hall Hire – Nov 22 – Mar 23	-£63.30
Cllr Harris – Ink cost rebate	-£32.16
EALC/NALC afflation fees	-£168.02
Banners for Coronation celebration	-£81.85

They were [approved for payment](#).

**04.23.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING** – see previous comments. Chair Southcott will write to head of ECC department responsible.

**04.23.12 CORONATION VILLAGE BIG LUNCH** – Marquees to be set out on the Friday, in pub garden and field. Electric supply will be provided by the pub. Everybody will be invited to bring their lunch and the community will eat together (1230-2pm), 2 gofindit hunts (for children and adults). Ongoing organisation.

**04.23.13 CORONATION BIG HELP OUT** – Playground jobs and cleaning up, pond near hollow road needs clearing out, store needs clearing out. Volunteers wanted please see flyers for contacts (flyers will be sent out w/c 10<sup>th</sup> April).

**04.23.14 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE** – AGM for Village Hall Committee so all members need to stand down and be reappointed. Accounts and minutes should be viewed by Parish Council once a year.

1. Cllr. Firmin proposed and Cllr. Southcott seconded Cllr. Webb continue as WPC representative, Vote – unanimously agreed.
2. Review of Village Hall accounts – Cllr Webb to circulate before next meeting & vote to be taken at next meeting. Parish Council to review the AGM minutes for approval and view minutes as required.

**04.23.15 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – confirmed 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, police and fire brigade have offered to come. Will also ask citizen’s advice.

**04.23.16 ECC TRANSPORT UPDATE (BUSES)** – Uttlesford has the most complaints for unreliable bus service and the largest number of subsidised services in Essex reflecting the rural nature of Uttlesford. They are aware of the additional problems in Widdington caused by the size of the buses on the route and this is being reviewed. However, there is an ambitious target to move people to using buses, the main route between Saffron Walden and Bishops Stortford should be attracting more custom therefore size of bus is complicated. ECC are currently working with Central Connect to improve the reliability once this has been improved there will be meetings in the parish and ECC also want to visit Widdington to evaluate how to run the bus and avoid damage to property. There will be meetings with residents to promote using the service at a later date. ECC will also send contact details for use by WPC and residents, they recognise that Central Connect communication is below the expected standard and want to be informed of any issues. WPC also request that residents tell Chair Southcott and Clerk of any issues.

**04.23.17 OTHER BUSINESS** – Anglia water and sewage outside pumping station. Cllr Edwards update, the underground chamber at the pumping station is emptied via two pumps to back of Newport Station, one pump was broken and has now been fixed. If bigger pump was used a larger pipe would be needed. Need to inspect houses to identify which gutter rain water is being added into the sewage system as this is part of the issue and not used in Anglia Water’s calculations for how

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much water is being added to the system (older houses this was standard but illegal on new houses but builders use as shortcut).

## **04.23.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7pm** on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:57

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## **Appendix A – District Councillor report from District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves**

1. Objecting to the Walden Amenity Site booking system as not needed – the chief exec has written on behalf of the council to Essex asking for a rethink.
2. To government concerning Essex ‘devolution’ and requirement to have an elected mayor as a n extra tier of government in order to obtain levelling up funds. The funds potentially on offer sound large but over 30years and spread across the county on an annual basis would not even cover the 23/24 budget unspecified cuts made just by one council (ECC) never mind what is being cut by the other 15 or so councils in Essex. So the chief exec has written to Michael Gove who heads the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking that council finances be put on a sound long term basis so we can plan properly.
3. Another motion and letter to Michael Gove on Right to Buy which has cut UDCs social houses from 6000 to just under 3000, and we still lose 12 a year, but the requirement to house people has grown not diminished. The request is either give councils 100% of the proceeds from sales, which are currently significantly discounted to the buyer and then councils don’t get to keep all the remaining cash either, and spending it is hedged with rules, or abolish Right to Buy as already done in Scotland and Wales.