

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 8.00pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, Cllr. Lynn Smith, Cllr. Albert Edwards.

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

04.24.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

04.24.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr. Maggs Webb

04.24.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

04.24.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

1 member of public joined the meeting.

District Cllr. Hargreaves joined the meeting.

Minute item, 04.24.09.1 – questions raised as to the current appeal & the Chair responded that no other residents had expressed concern on costs. Otherwise, ongoing process with the Planning Inspectorate.

Question re. SW reporter article on Stansted airport night flights request by MAG, question asked re. WPC action, we will be responding to the community survey following advice from Stansted airport watch.

04.24.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – None.

04.24.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – Uttlesford is a wealthy area of Essex but there is a large wealth disparity. Widdington in the Newport ward, which is one of the wealthiest but also has the 2nd highest % of families seeking help from Citizens Advice. The main issues Citizen's Advice are helping with this year: benefits, universal credit, housing, charitable support, food banks and debt, 43% universal credit claimants in Uttlesford are employed, main purpose of contact, is benefit, debt, charitable support showing there is wealth disparity within the ward. Levelling up grants – to support Rural residents, people struggling financially. Government appointed consultants have come to UDC to check on whether funds are being appropriately used in the local area.

2019 UDC produced a climate change action plan, financed with £1M from commercial income. Progress reported regularly, latest covers 55 different actions from decarbonisation of council operations to restoring, protecting and enhancing quality and diversity of district's natural habitats and wildlife. Extra external funding has been sourced, £517K from DEFRA for SW clean air project, 3.8M for decarbonising council housing (prioritised by properties in most need) and government funding for environmental projects.

04.24.07 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.

04.24.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Started updating website, information pages.
2. Reported fly tipping.
3. Advertised Village Litter Pick 14th April 2024.
4. Started preparing end of year accounts for audit process.
5. Submitted response to ECC reference Hollow Road engineering report from Widdington Recycling.
6. Responded to ECC sustainable travel survey.

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04.24.09 PLANNING

04.24.09.1 Land North of Cornell's lane, Appeal – awaiting decisions from Planning Inspectorate. 2 appeals still pending.

04.24.09.2 To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning application matters arising since March 2023 meeting.

04.24.09.2i. UTT/24/0810/NMA- Land Rear Of Malt Place Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Non Material Amendment to UTT/21/2649/FUL - amendments to floor plans. [Determination deadline – 18th April, elevation height is missing from the amended plans & WPC agreed to object on this basis.](#)

04.24.09.2ii. UTT/24/0886/CLP - 1 Church View Widdington Essex CB11 3GU - Enclosure of existing porch including wall and brick pier to match existing, with windows to match house and access door. [Determination deadline – 28th May.](#)

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

04.24.9.3i. UTT/24/0154/HHF- Redwood Church Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SF- Single storey side extension and changes to boundary treatments. [Approved with conditions.](#)

04.24.9.3ii. UTT/24/0719/CC - Widdington Pit Hollow Road Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SL - Consultation on ESS/49/22/UTT/LA3/2 - Highway works scheme (commencement) pursuant to Schedule 3 of legal agreement associated with planning application ESS/49/22/UTT (Excavation of minerals; use of land for skip hire, waste recycling, waste transfer and composting; and restoration of land with the deposit of inert waste). [Opinion given.](#)
2 members of public left the meeting.

04.24.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£527.61
Appeal – consultancy invoice 045.27	£15,150
EALC/NALC affiliation	£167.77

The consultancy invoice is for work over a 3-month period, for 2 ongoing Appeals. They were [approved for payment](#).

04.24.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING – Access to river Cam is clearer now and easier remedial work has been carried out. Hoping to continue relationship with WR on keeping this clear for drainage. A response has been submitted by WPC to the S106 submission relating to road and drain maintenance. County Cllr. Gooding has meeting next week with ECC planning officer to discuss S106 condition implementations and appropriate oversight by ECC.

04.24.12 FLOODING – Area by Hollow road/New Hall road is level 3 flood zone with 15 drains in a small area, due to Hollow Road and surface water from the motorway but they need to be kept clear. Now all blocked, some tarmac filled. The digging out of drainage to Cam has improved flow from the road reducing some flooding.

Cllr. Edwards is continuing to chase Anglia water reference sewage on road via the manhole when heavy rain falls. Photo has been sent showing manhole cover lifted clear by the water, this is a clearly hazardous. Anglia water have stated issue cannot be easily resolved and further housing in the

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village will compound the issue. Cllr. Edwards chasing for them to raise with planning as a concern for development. Beadle lane and Shipton's farm drainage now been cleared by Essex Highways.

04.24.13 D-DAY COMMEMORATION – 80th anniversary, Cllr. Southcott proposed, Cllr. Firmin seconded – vote unanimously resolved hold a commemoration event. Cllrs. Smith to come back with details & costs for May meeting for agreement.

04.24.14 KING'S BIG HELP OUT – Cllr. Smith proposed clearing the area coming into the village where tree has been felled – see what it looks like after the litter pick and then see if it needs to be included as a project.

04.24.15 STORAGE SHEDS – Cllr. Smith, sand one is fine, salt store is broken and needs to be replaced. Clerk to source replacement.

04.24.16 CHANGE JULY MEETING DATE – Cllr. agreed moving meeting to 25th July at 8pm.

04.24.16 OTHER BUSINESS: Litter pick date – 14th April, 10am Village Hall.

WPC would like to thank Cllr. Edwards and Cllr. Firmin for all the work they have done to help alleviate some of the flooding prior to remedial works by Essex Highways and their persistence in liaising with Essex Highways to prioritise these works.

A Widdington representative has been invited to present to the next Local Highways Panel meeting reference speeding on Springhill, Clerk to attend.

Annual Parish Meeting – May 2nd 8pm in the Village Hall, speakers from Foodbank and Citizen's advice, all welcome.

04.24.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 2nd May 2024**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:05