

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd December, 2020 at 8.00pm

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

In Attendance County Cllr Ray Gooding, District Cllr Neil Hargreaves, 2 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

12.20.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

12.20.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

12.20.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor Ian Southcott declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.20.10iii, as a neighbour of the applicant.

12. 20.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public noted;

- i. The wildlife park sign at the bottom of Springhill remains in situ, Clerk to request removal by Essex Highways. County Cllr Gooding agreed to get involved if necessary to ensure prompt action.
- ii. The fallen and/or dead trees and over growth on the verges at Springhill are the responsibility of Essex Highways, as highlighted by the circulated Land Registry Search. This information has been forwarded to Essex Highways by the clerk, reported on by County Cllr Gooding. The public suggested that the necessary works should be undertaken during the planned closure of Springhill 10/12/2020 for 5 days for roadworks. The clerk relayed a member of the public's support of UTT/20/2977/HHF - Midsummer House, High Street, Widdington, noting that the removal of the pathway would ensure retention of the hedge and be visually preferable.

12.20.05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

12.20.06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Ray Gooding detailed;

- i. Essex County Council's extensive work with the track and trace system has gained interest from 10 Downing Street.
- ii. Infection rates in Uttlesford are currently dropping, although Harlow and Basildon remain areas of concern.
- iii. Calls to close schools for Christmas a week early have been resisted by the Council.
- iv. Although a letter to the Secretary of State did not get a response, several of the requested contingency plans for next year have been put into practise.

12.20.07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr Neil Hargreaves noted;

- i. There is a £500 ward initiative available as a result of the resignation of the second District Councillor.
- ii. Two experts from East England are helping with the Local Plan, and also aiming to improve the core workings of the planning department.
- iii. Despite the pandemic, planning applications continue to flood in.

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- iv. The Governance Performance Committee met last week, and noted that 99.8% of bin collections continue to be made first time, despite bubbles and other covid related restrictions.
- v. UDC have purchased a former banana ripening warehouse in Canfield which they will use to store bin lorries at night, on weekends, and also for maintenance, rather than in Dunmow and Shire Hill in Walden.

12.20.08 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

- i. The leak outside Bridgetts, Cornells Lane was reported to Affinity Water 20/11/2020, they believed there was a burst water main, but their initial dig did not reveal the source of the problem. Cllr Firmin noted that he believes that the burst pipe has been located.
- ii. The new mobile Post office operating on Tuesdays from the Village Hall car park is getting great feedback.
- iii. Widdington Play Park remains closed (since 19/10) due to works from a neighbouring property , the homeowner hopes that the play park can reopen early next week.
- iv. The correct replacement defibrillator pads are now in place.
- v. Widdington Recycling received a copy of the site review and an invitation to attend this meeting, but have declined to attend and say that they do not believe that there is any merit in having further discussions directly with the Parish Council and that in future all correspondence will be via the Mineral Planning Authority.
- vi. Widdington Village Hall have to replace their 20 year old boiler and are looking for financial support, the new boiler costs £4191.32.

12.20.09 FINANCE

- i. The council agreed to renew annual membership of the Rural Community Council of Essex.
- ii. The council resolved to renew annual membership of Stop Stansted Expansion and agreed a donation of £200.
- iii. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and approved for signature.
Cheques; 101277 - Tool Station - play park maintenance - £30.82
101278 - Direct 365 - replacement defib pads - £66.29
101279 - Clerk's salary November 2020 - £334.00
101280 - Clerk's expenses November 2020 - £110.20

were approved for payment.

- iv. The Council considered the circulated draft budget on a line by line basis. It was agreed that any unspent legal costs would be carried forward and earmarked for legal costs in the subsequent year.
Due to the poor internet connection, it was agreed that the budget would be finalised at the January Council meeting.

12.20.10 PLANNING

The following responses were agreed for return to Uttlesford District Council regarding planning applications;

- i. UTT/20/2977/HHF - Midsummer House, High Street, Widdington
Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) and removal of condition 6 (provision of footway) attached to planning permission UTT/20/1213/FUL for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no. dwellings - No objections.
- ii. UTT/20/2978/DOC - Midsummer House, High Street, Widdington
Application to discharge condition 3 (external materials), 5 (hard/soft landscaping) and 10 (gates) attached to UTT/20/1213/FUL - No objections.
- iii. UTT/20/2890/DFO - Meadowcroft, Church Lane, Widdington
Details following outline application UTT/19/2310/OP - details of scale, landscaping and appearance of the development - No objections.
The following planning decisions were noted;
- iv. UTT/20/2286/DOC - Plot 4, Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington
Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials), 4 (tree protection measures), 11 (hard/soft landscaping) and 12 (biodiversity enhancement strategy) attached to UTT/19/2648/FUL - Discharge conditions in full.
- v. UTT/20/2193/FUL - Land to the north of Cornells Lane, Widdington
Proposed erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated works - Withdrawn.
- vi. UTT/20/1779/DOC - Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington

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Application to discharge condition 2(external materials), 4 (tree protection measures), 10 (hard/soft landscaping) and 12(Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) attached to UTT/20/0763/FUL - Discharge conditions in full.

vii. UTT/20/1371/LB - Fleur De Lys, High Street, Widdington

Erection of first floor rear extension to house relocated public lavatories. New doors to north elevation, new rooflight to rear elevation and internal alterations including new staircase (amended scheme to that approved under Listed Building Consent UTT/17/2211/LB in order to remove jettying detail of first floor extension - Approved with conditions.

12.20.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING

Following extensive discussion, the Parish Council agreed by a majority to adopt the Review of Operations Report at Widdington Recycling.

It was agreed that the clerk would draft and circulate a response to Widdington Recycling, asking them to take action on the following topics; traffic through the village, noise and light pollution, control of heavy machinery on the skyline and shielding of the large new building.

Cllr Brookman left the meeting.

It was also agreed that the clerk will forward the report to UDC, ECC, Kemi Badenoch and the Mineral Planning Authority, reporting the Parish Council's concerns and requesting that action is taken to ensure all issues are appropriately addressed.

12.20.12 VILLAGE HALL

As Cllr Brookman had left the meeting, it was agreed that the matter will be considered at the next Council meeting.

12.20.13 OTHER BUSINESS

i. Extraordinary General Meeting to be held 08/12/2020 to enable consideration of a planning application received today; UTT/20/3016/FUL - Land rear of Malt Place, Cornells Lane.

Conversion of existing single storey agricultural building to 4 residential units.

ii. Village Hall - boiler and sand bag storage- EGM.

iii. Consideration of reducing the 30mph speed limit in the village to 20mph - January PC meeting.

iv. Playground lease - January PC meeting.

v. Cllr Webb reported enrolment on UDC's CBI course.

vi. District Cllr ward initiatives.

12.20.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 7th January, 2021, on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.47pm.