

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 8.00pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Maggs Webb. Cllr. Lynn Smith

In Attendance 3 members of the public, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

12.23.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

12.23.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Albert Edwards, County Cllr. Ray Gooding

12.23.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

1 member of public joined the meeting.

12.23.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Speed survey data, has come in and distributed via email. It will be put on website for everyone to see. Average speed is low, however there are some major outliers of people driving over 70 in a 30 zone. Question over placement of survey points (outside Wellsmead would be better), potholes acting had traffic calming effect.

12.23.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT - None

12.23.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – UDC have had bin collection issues, due to breakdowns of 8-wheel lorries, high use vehicles, back up of older 6 wheel lorries which have less capacity. Essex CC are responsible for disposal and have moved swap over point from Dunmow to Braintree. Have put in Cap Ex for 3 new 8-wheel trucks.

Blueprint Uttlesford – cost savings, plus limited council tax increases, commercial investments. They are going to rent out office space etc. looking at introducing AI programs for answering FOI and SAR requests to reduce man hours and increase productivity.

12.23.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

12.23.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Attended zoom call for Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
2. Attended zoom meeting Stansted Area Parish Meeting
3. Wrote November Widdington magazine article.
4. Prepared proposed budget for next tax year 24/25
5. Discussions with wood carvers reference restoration of village sign.
6. Corresponded with WAGS reference WPC_WAGS agreement to maintain playground.
7. Distributed Speed Survey Data to residents on village email list.

12.23.09 PLANNING

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

12.23.09.1i. UTT/23/2718/DOC - Land Rear Of Malt Place Cornells Lane Widdington Essex – Application to discharge condition 4 (surface water drainage scheme), condition 5 (scheme to minimise the risk of offsite flooding), condition 6 (maintenance plan), condition 18 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) and condition 19 (lighting design scheme for biodiversity) of UTT/21/2649/FUL. [Deadline for comments: 13th December 2023.](#)

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12.23.09.1ii. UTT/23/2870/LB - Martins Farm High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SG - Internal alterations to form an ensuite shower room in bedroom 2. – [Deadline for comments 15th December 2023.](#)

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

12.23.09.2i. UTT/23/2651/NMA - Land West Of The Willows Cornells Lane Widdington Essex – Non Material Amendment to UTT/23/2086/FUL - Correct the incorrect time limit Condition 1 on planning permission UTT/23/2086/FUL to the standard 3 year time limit and amend wording in conditions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 so that it relates to the information submitted in application UTT/23/2086/FUL.. [Approved.](#)

12.23.09.2ii. UTT/23/2537/ACV - Fleur De Lys High Street Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SG - Nomination of Fleur De Lys public house as an Asset of Community Value.– [ACV Listed.](#)

12.23.09.2.iii. UTT/23/2141/FUL- Land South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Demolition of existing stables and buildings. Erection of detached dwelling with wildflower meadow and planting. [Approved.](#)

12.23.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£622.09
Christmas light fitting parts.	£13.98

They were [approved for payment.](#)

12.23.10.2 Budget items for 2024/25 – Proposed precept demand £36,000 – Agreed unanimously.

12.23.10.3 To note new SCP salary agreement as per NALC bulletin (valid from April 2023, to be back paid).

12.23.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING – Bonfire village & WPC were not informed, burned for a couple of days. Cllr. Southcott spoke to Neil Byford and it had been inspected prior to lightning by Fire Service and the calls, the Fire service did not regard the incident as an issue. It will be raised at the February public liaison meeting. Neil Clay had apologised for more trucks going through the village while he was away, will remind drivers of route they are supposed to take.

12.23.12 LOCAL PLAN WPC RESPONSE– Cllr. Edwards has drafted the WPC response with input from Cllr. Southcott and District Cllr. Emanuel. Sewage infrastructure will be affected by expansion of Newport and is too small and old support increased housing. Residents are also able to respond to the draft local plan, deadline for comments – 18th December.

12.23.13 LETTER TO LOCAL REMINDING RESIDENTS TO CUT BACK OVERGROWTH OVERHANGING PATHS – Letter approved unanimously.

12.23.14 VILLAGE EVENT: ITALIAN DINNER – Village Hall will be hosting a high quality but affordable dinner (owners of Pond Mead cottage is a chef) 9th March 2024 with an early bird tariff and BYO. Cllr. Webb to give us more information.

12.23.15 OTHER BUSINESS:

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Village hall has applied for zero carbon grant – for double glazing, loft insulation and low energy light bulbs (£10,600) with CO2 emissions and support letters from residents. Mentioned WPC were happy to provide volunteer work to support the zero-carbon initiative.
Plaque from guides for tree – Clerk to chase again.

12.23.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **8pm** on **Thursday 11th January 2023**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:00