

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2022 at 8.00pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr Maggs Webb, Cllr Lynn Harris, Cllr Steve Smith.

In Attendance District Cllr Emanuel, 2 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

07.22.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

07.22.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr. Edwards, Cllr Petchey, Cllr Firmin, District Cllr Hargreaves and County Cllr Ray Gooding,

07.22.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None

07.22.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Car abandoned on Hamel Way – Clerk to chase again. Water leaking from Bishop’s and running across the road.

07.22.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

Not available.

07.22.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

New director of planning D. Armitage has started in role, local plan has been pushed back to consider new plot of land that has been put forward, not in Newport ward. Census figures show that this district has had highest growth in new houses compared to national average and population growth. Could allow argument that housing requirement be reassessed as current demand is based on 2016 figures. Cllr Emanuel would like a policy for development in high noise areas and solar farms reference planning applications. Newport parish council are going to put in multi-use games area using grant from Sports England on the recreation ground, this will be available for use by Widdington residents too.

Member of public joined the meeting.

07.22.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

07.22.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Attended Parishes meeting hosted by Peter Holt at Newport, with Cllr. Webb
2. Lodged WPC comments ref. planning application UTT/22/1367/FUL - Old Chalk Pit Hollow Road Widdington Essex - Doggy Day Care, and Keeping of Horses).
3. Contacted Essex Highways with WPC concerns ref PROW notice.
4. Lodged WPC comments ref. Widdington Recycling application for extended hours.
5. Sent proof of invoice and payments for Jubilee events to support grant application.
6. Drafted new document retention policy.
7. Started enquiries ref. access to reserve account, with view to moving funds to Unity trust.
8. Distributed Tree Survey – recommendation is Cherry tree needs felling, due to age not disease.

07.22.09 PLANNING

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

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i.UTT/22/1523/CL - Land to The North Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex

The formation, laying out and construction of a means of access to Cornells Lane, in connection with the use of land (up to 14 days per calendar year) for the purposes of the holding of a market. Determination Date: 25th July – [Decision – unanimously agreed extra funding for QC legal advice.](#)

ii. UTT/22 /1860/TPO- The Old Rectory Church Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SF

Remove 1 conifer to ground level and reduce in height 6 conifers to 10ft. Determination deadline: 26th August.

To note the following [Uttlesford District Council](#) planning decisions:

i.UTT/22/1633/TCA- Wrays Cottage The Green Widdington Essex CB11 3SB

1 Oak- raise canopy on all sides by approx. 2-2.5m. remove deadwood throughout crown. Trim back. 1no. Hazel-reduce height by approx. 3-4m. Trim back. 1no. purple plum- reduce height by approx. 3-4m. remove deadwood and shape round – [Tree, no objections.](#)

07.22.10 FINANCE

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

07.22.10.1 Invoices;

Essex Place services - tree survey	-£312.00
1st Quarter HMRC payment	-£254.60
Planning Consultancy	-£3,600.00
Membership subscription - Rural community council of Essex	-£52.80
EALC New Councillor Training - 1 day - Smith, Harris & Petchey - invoice nos. 15762,15761, 15773	-£324.00
KL Clerk Salary (PAYE 87.80)	-£351.06
KL Clerk Expenses	-£59.50

They were [approved for payment.](#)

07.22.10.2 Jubilee donations distribution – Wilkinson’s tent was damaged due to weather, resident offered to find out amount required for reimbursement. Could funds be used to organise a social occasion in the village hall to welcome the new Vicar to the village. More details needed in September meeting. Cllr Webb to add to the Village Hall AGM minutes.

07.22.11 PUBLIC FOOTPATH RECOGNITION CHURCH LANE – Cllr Southcott to ask resident to investigate this further for further discussion and decisions. Clerk to forward emails on this topic.

07.22.12 SPRING HILL CUTTING BACK – Clerk to raise with Essex Highways reference speed limit signs obscuring, slow down signs and Widdington sign.

07.22.13 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING UPDATE – Shared proposed agenda for 1st Community meeting on 11th July 2022.

07.22.14 PARISH MEETING WITH PETER HOLT UPDATE – Similar message to that given at the general meeting. Remembered our questions ref. iterative planning applications and cost of constant appeals to the local parish councils. P. Holt felt that maybe this would be a question for MP to raise with minister responsible for housing within Levelling up department.

Member of public left the meeting.

07.22.15 APPROVE NEW DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY– [Approved to be reviewed in 6 months.](#)

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07.22.16 OLD DOCUMENTS – Look through the one draw to estimate man hours/costs for all filed documents to allow decision in September.

07.22.17 RESERVE BANK ACCOUNT – Need mandate forms from bank to remove A Lindsell from account and add K Levy.

07.22.18 PLAYGROUND RoSPA REPORT - September meeting

07.22.19 OTHER BUSINESS – Widdington fishing competition at Amberle Hall to raise funds for village hall solar panels fitting. Carp fishing at reservoir, match fishing in lake in front of house. On village hall August agenda.

Clerk – passed probation period of 1st 6 months. Raised KL's pay level by 3 points.

07.22.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 1st September 2022**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:10