

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 8.00pm**

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

**In Attendance** 7 members of the public, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **07.24.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

**07.24.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – County Cllr. Ray Gooding, District Cllr. Judy Emanuel

**07.24.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None

**07.24.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Question ref. Newport Road traffic lights and road closure how long – Cllr. Southcott explained they are due to finish next week. Cornell's lane road closure concern for carer access due to lack of access, no useful information from Essex Highways, also concern over size of vehicles accessing the lane, barely clearing electric and phone wires. Opposite shared entrance with Oaks a layby has been put in on highways land. Widdington Recycling – fill rate report, filed with ECC and has updated the prediction for infill complete, on target for ECC completion date.

**07.24.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – Cllr Gooding is raising damage to Hollow Road follow recent Cadent Road closure near Newport and use as an informal diversion route.

**07.24.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – North Essex parking partnership – Essex Act 1987, local councils can ban parking, driving on well-maintained grass verges and appropriate signage is available, can be placed on areas in village if needed. Following election, 3 MPs represent district, council leader has written to all to brief them on projects, concerns in the district and proposing areas of cooperation. Local plan – 30<sup>th</sup> July full council meeting presentation then will move to Regulation 19 and further consultation before consideration by planning inspectorate. Uttlesford design guide has now been completed.

### **07.24.07 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.

### **07.24.08 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Signed agreement for Bakers Joinery to carry out sign restoration.
2. Defibrillator fixed
3. Allotment rent renewal letters sent.
4. Car park and garage renewal letters sent.
5. Insurance agreed with new provider.
6. Booked 2 councillor places on the Local Plan Stage 19 presentation.
7. Sent statement to be read at planning committee, 24<sup>th</sup> July, Land to rear of Malt Place.
8. Contact made with playground provider to discuss issues.
9. Contacted environment department UDC ref. giant Hogweed.

### **07.24.09 PLANNING**

07.24.09.1 Land North of Cornell's lane, Appeal – awaiting decision from Planning Inspectorate.

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

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07.24.09.2i. UTT/24/1600/HHF- Ketteridges Wood End, Widdington Essex, CB11 3SN - Proposed rear dormer and changes to existing fenestration (rear master bedroom window)– [Determination Deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – no comments](#)

07.24.09.2ii. UTT/24/1737/DOC - Midsummer House Now Demolished High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SB - Application to discharge condition 4 (landscape) attached to UTT/22/2260/FUL.– [Determination Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 – no comments.](#)

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

07.24.09.3i. UTT/24/1535/TCA - Widdington Village Hall High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SG - Proposed removal of two branches and cutting back of other branches to 3m back from roof on 1 no. Beech tree, trimming back of 1 no. overgrown Beech Hedge, trimming overhanging branches of 1 no. Bird Cherry – [No Objections.](#)

07.24.09.3ii. UTT/24/1386/TPO- Woodlands Wood End Widdington Essex CB11 3SN - Reduce 4no. Chestnut trees by 30% to reshape and uplift away from phone lines and house- [Allowed.](#)

07.24.09.3iii. UTT/24/1106/HHF- Pond Mead Cottage High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SB - Single storey rear/side extension to kitchen. Proposed external door in south east facing elevation. Pitched roof window "Velux" type over existing living room. Internal alterations including a replacement stair flight to improve accessibility between the ground and first floor. - [Approved.](#)

07.24.09.3iv. UTT/24/1495/NMA - Land Rear Of Malt Place Cornells Lane Widdington Essex- Non Material Amendment to UTT/21/2649/FUL - amendments to floor plans for units 1-10 - [Approved.](#)

07.24.09.3v. UTT/24/1384/HHF- 1 Church View Widdington Essex CB11 3GU - Erection of wood framed carport, set back and attached to existing garage, over existing tarmacked parking area.- [Approve with conditions.](#)

## 07.24.10 FINANCE

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

Parish Online Subscription	£60.00
Car Park/Garage Vegetation cutback	£90.00
Summer Event – various receipts	£188.39
Clerk Salary + Expenses	£582.06

They were [approved for payment.](#)

**07.24.10.2** Quarterly Bank reconciliation 2<sup>nd</sup> councillor check and signature completed.

**07.24.11 WIDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS** – treasurers report as presented at the Village Hall AGM, see Appendix A. Councillors agreed - village hall accounts are up to date & finances are being well managed.

**07.24.12 GIANT HOGWEED** – Cllr. Smith has treated Springhill patch, Clerk to chase answer from UDC environmental team.

**07.24.13 STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING 24/00082/NEWDEV** – Council resolved to respond that new name should ideally include Malt & The Nook was inappropriate.

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**07.24.14 SUMMER VILLAGE EVENT** – Planning is going well, final meeting 29<sup>th</sup> July, Crockery smash, coconut shy, face painting, penalty shoot-out, adult and child tombola's, stocks, pub providing bbq, cake stall, guess number of sweets, ice creams, pub providing bouncy castle, perhaps fire engine from Newport fire station, CHIPS motorbikes, military vehicles, music from Skin Tight (5pm), military wives choir from Debden (4:30pm), quilt raffle. **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2 - 4:30pm** fete on field behind pub and 5pm onwards at the pub. Cllrs. Smiths & Cllr. Petchey would like to thank residents for their generosity in supporting the fete with donations and time.

**07.24.15 POTHOLES BETWEEN CORNELLS LANE & HAMEL WAY** – To be discussed with County Cllr. Gooding. Please report to ECC and UDC environmental services in UDC for Hamel Way pothole.

**07.24.16 HOLLOW ROAD DAMAGE** – See reference **07.24.05**

**07.24.16 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE** – Defibrillator fixed, new spare pads to be purchased.

**07.24.17 OTHER BUSINESS** – Agreed standards training sessions for councillors (presented by UDC), Cllrs. Southcott and Edwards will represent WPC at local plan regulation 19 presentation, next meeting with Widdington Recycling September.

**07.24.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:27

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APPENDIX A:

## WIDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023/24

Copies of 2023/24 Profit and Loss account available.

Breakdown of hiring income and some expenditure costs.

	<u>23/24</u>	<u>22/23</u>	<u>Change</u>
Income from hiring	£11,319.60	£10,708.90	+5.7%
Total Expenditure	£17,821.24	£15,851.88	+12.4%
Including:			
Building Maintenance	£0	£ 6,737.20	-
Equipment Maintenance	£4,775.11	£ 1,113.27	+321.4%
Electricity	£3,891.72	£ 3,899.00	-0.2%
Insurance	£1,395.44	£ 1,353.17	+3.1%

This is the first year the 200 Club money has been included in our accounts, so this has obviously increased our bank balance by approximately £6,800 compared with last year.

In our accounts this year we have included 'restricted' monies. This is money that we have received to pay for specific projects but haven't been able to spend it in the year that it was received: -

- A grant of £7910 from UDC's Zero Carbon Fund for replacement of our single glazed windows to double glazed, this work will be carried out in June this year.
- A donation of £5000 towards ongoing electrical work. We would like to thank our very generous anonymous donor. This money was initially to do all the electrical work that needed to be undertaken to comply with our insurance policy but we were fortunate to receive 2 grants to cover this work, from UDC Community Fund and Stansted Airport Community Fund, for which we are very grateful to them both. This money will now be used to replace the lighting in the main hall to make it more energy efficient, enabling us to further reduce our carbon footprint.
- 200 Club prize money and surplus to use for village hall equipment.

We have been fortunate to have been supported by several villagers who have arranged fundraising events this year including the village calendar, the Christmas Fayre and the Italian Evening all of which were a great success. These raised just over £4,600.

The Art Sale put on by the Kemp family raised over £2,400 which they donated equally between the Village Hall and the Church, we greatly appreciate their amazing generosity. We also received smaller donations, all of which we are able to recover Gift Aid on.

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Back in December we had a very large electricity bill, this encouraged us to assess the current heating system and we decided that it needs to be updated. We have had 3 quotes and this work will be taking place this summer.

Our water supply is currently non metered, we applied to have a water meter fitted in January, this was eventually fitted in May.

At the last AGM it was mentioned about looking into solar panels. We decided that the most cost-effective way to reduce our overall carbon footprint would be to replace the single glazed windows with double glazing and also re-insulate the loft. When UDC announce their next round of zero carbon funding we will apply for funds to install solar panels or heat source pumps depending on their criteria.

A question brought up at the last AGM was “why are the cleaning costs were much higher than the previous year”. This was because cleaning and supplies were combined. This financial year they have been separated, so cleaning is just hours worked.