

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2022 at 8.00pm

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

In Attendance District Cllr. Hargreaves, District Cllr. Emanuel, 21 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

11.22.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

11.22.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from County Cllr Gooding

11.22.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None

11.22.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Requested update reference the Spring Hill Speed control – answer read out that was supplied by County Cllr. Gooding. Clerk to raise Possible blockage near Thatch cottage and Stavely with flood water – Clerk to raise with Essex highways.

Bus service – driver collided with fence and a car, buses in the evening not being used, beepers and lights are intrusive to people who live near the end of the route. No longer goes to Tesco's not of use to the elderly or disabled. Resident had to walk back from doctors appointment in Newport as bus was over 50 minutes late. Drivers claim there is a shortage of driver. Chair Southcott has started conversation with Essex County Council reference the bus service and the issues.

Member of the public recorded the meeting but declined to speak when offered the opportunity.

11.22.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

See Appendices.

11.22.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

After conversation with Cllr. Lee Scott there seems to have been an improvement in flooding on the main route from Saffron Walden to Quendon.

Grants funds – green, carbon neutral fund up to £35K.

Littlebury – decarbonising the village plan. Information on UDC website, grants information, what is good to do/not do. Parish online has the energy certificate for all houses sold within 30 years. For targeting properties that can be improved, also has tool to see those properties that could be improved to a level C.

UDC grant to improve local business online presence up to £2.5K.

East of England all party parliamentary group, MPs from the area and different parties. Talking about decreasing funding and effect on local services.

11.22.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

11.22.10 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Barclays Bank spoken to on phone after registering a complaint. New forms received, filled in and sent with Cllr. Southcott and Cllr. Firmin's ID documents.
2. Notified UDC of more fly tipping near Hollow Road bridge.
3. Contacted ECC and Central Connect residents to find senior employee and register resident concerns.
4. VAT rebate for April – August 2022 has been received into the bank.

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5. Allotments requirement for next year chased, no response from allotment association to date.
6. Garages questions asked of previously responsible person, no response to date.
7. Quiet lane petition for Church Lane sent to UDC.
8. Contacted guides reference Commemorative tree.

2 Members of the public joined the meeting.

11.22.09 PLANNING

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

i. UTT/22/2825/OP - Land South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex- Outline application with all matters reserved except access for demolition of existing buildings and for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage: **Deadline for comments** – 16th November – WPC voted to object to application.

ii. UTT/22/2278/FUL - Land To The North Of Cornells Lane Widdington CB11 3SG - Proposed erection of 4 detached dwellings and associated works: **Approved** – wpc need to investigate options in light of ongoing appeal and strength of feeling within the village.

Concern from residents that correct procedure may not have been followed at the planning committee. Chair Southcott explained the recent history of applications and the appeal. Appeal hearing dates 11/12th January 2023. The subsequent application was once again supported by planning department and only took 2 months to reach the committee (previous took 9 months). Also had an application approved in the summer for certificate of lawfulness for new access to the site for a market (fallback position), committee split 4:4 with Chair voting for approval – transcript is available. Appeal is still outstanding. WPC has explored the possibility of challenging the planning committee decision, there is a possibility to request a review, but support required of the WPC councillors and the residents within the village, with significant financial implications for the WPC.

Questions over how the planning committee felt during the process and if appeal requires 1-2 days of the planning inspectorates time how the planning committee can decide within 1 hour. Residents expressed an interest in pursuing a judicial review and helping with the funding.

Cllr Emanuel and Cllr Hargreaves received an aggressive 5-page letter from applicants' lawyers. It is the first time in 18 months that such a letter has been received from an applicant.

Chair – requested vote on whether to go forward with judicial review – unanimous vote from WPC.

Support shown by all members of the public not directly involved in the application.

WPC will review the financial burden imposed by this decision regularly.

1 member of the public joined the meeting.

iii. UTT/22/3003/NMA - Land To The North Of Cornells Lane Widdington CB11 3SG - Non material amendment to UTT/22/2278/FUL- Variation of condition 3 (construction management) 4 (Archaeology) 5 (Post Excavation Assessment) 8 (Ecological Area) 13 (Renewable Energy/climate change mitigation): **Deadline for comments** – no dates yet associated with application (determination deadline 29th Nov 2022). WPC – vote unanimously to comment not to support change due to objecting to original application.

iv. UTT/22/2773/DOC - Land South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex- Application to discharge condition 8 (contamination) and 9 (remediation) attached to UTT/21/0545/FUL (approved under Appeal APP/C1570/W/21/3281527) Outline application with all matters reserved except access for demolition of existing buildings and for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage:

Determination deadline– 2nd December

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

v. UTT/22/2260/FUL - Midsummer House High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SB 3SA - Proposed erection of 2 dwellings including one new access, parking and garaging. Installation of 2 no. air source heat pumps. – **Approved with conditions.**

vi. UTT/22/1574/LB - Dove House The Green Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SD Proposed replacement of 5 first floor windows. **Approved with conditions.**

vii. UTT/22/2513/LB - Martins Farm High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SG - Add partitions to form a shower room in bedroom 2. Remove modern cupboard to expose the chimney in Bedroom 2.

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Increase the height of existing internal partitions of bedroom 1. Add a Conservation roof light on the rear elevation above the stair: [Approved with conditions.](#)

11.22.10 FINANCE

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

11.22.11.1 Invoices;

Clerk Training - Budget & Precept Course	-£84.00
KL Clerk Salary	-£369.08
KL Clerk Expenses	-£59.90
Gardner Planning - Land North of Cornell's Lane Application	-£1,211.20
Village Hall Hire May 2022 - October 2022	-£83.00
Councillor Expenses for Training days - Cllr Petchey	-£35.28
George Maskall – Cherry Tree felling	-£480.00

They were [approved for payment.](#)

11.22.11.2 Reserve Bank Account – New documents sent to Barclays with new mandate form, Cllr Southcott now received log in details.

11.22.11.3 Budget - 3 different budget proposals were provided to the councillors for their consideration. To be adjusted if necessary and agreed at December meeting.

11.22.11 GARAGES – R. Dennison – proposal by Chair to buy back garage as per previous scheme and suspend the waiting list. WPC voted unanimously for these two actions.

11.22.12 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING – T. McCarthy from ECC has inspected the site the new bund is stored top soil for finishing the site. The workshop height has been reduced in line with the plans. Still no sign of the 1st draft of the S106, Chair Southcott has requested that further delay should mean that the Chair of committee comes out to the site. ECC have said if S106 not drafted by end of year it will go back to the committee.

11.22.13 WIDDINGTON WINTER SUPPORT – Clerk to contact neighbourhood watch to see what decisions were made at their meeting today. Cllr Harris willing to volunteer. Newport has started their initiative.

11.22.14 COMMEMORATIVE TREE – Awaiting vote from guides, they have agreed to provide the plaque and help care for the tree.

11.22.15 EMERGENCY PLANNING EQUIPMENT – Cllr Webb 1st aid box is out of date, batteries WPC Voted unanimously to provide funds as required.

11.22.16 COMMUNITY ASSET PROTECTION – Cllr Edwards – investigating community asset protection. Looking at areas in the village and speaking to those with experience, can be used to protect future use of

11.22.17 OTHER BUSINESS –

- Parish Forum – 7pm, Monday 7th November - UDC Little Canfield Depot - High Cross Lane East, Little Canfield, CM6 1TH – Send Apologies.
- UDC Climate Change/UDC zero carbon communities grant – webinar – Tuesday 15th November 7:30pm – Cllr Webb.
- EALC – 20 is plenty update – webinar – 2 dates – Tuesday 15th November; 7 – 8.30pm or Thursday 17th November 1.00pm – 2.30pm – send apologies.
- Document Archiving – 10am Wednesday 16th November
- Litter Pick – 27th November 10am. Clerk to post on Facebook.

Decision tree – December agenda.

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Cllr Webb – needs to be formally nominated as the Council representative on Village Hall committee – December agenda.

Cllr Webb – do we need a social media policy, care needs to be taken when commenting and councillors cannot comment on behalf of the council. But stay aware that residents know who is a councillor.

11.22.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **8pm** on **Thursday 1ST December 2022**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:40

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Appendices – County Councillor Report – received 3rd November 2022

Cllr Ray Gooding - Member CC

My report for this evenings meeting: -

Firstly my apologies for not attending this evenings meeting but I have another commitment for the County Council.

I have been asked for an update on the progress of the speed controls on Spring Hill that are currently being addressed by the Local Highways Panel. I can confirm that the proposal is currently, as reported previously, being validated, which means that it is being checked for feasibility and compliance with Highway Policies. The results of that validation will be reported to the LHP in Quarter 4 and assuming that this is successful will be added to the list for implementation from the 23/24 financial budget. I should add that this years budget is now committed save for a very small contingency. Those schemes that have received validation will be presented to the Panel at the March meeting and it will be incumbent upon the members to approve the expenditure against the respective schemes within the 23/24 financial year. Apologies if this appears to be somewhat convoluted but the LHP is set to work on these principles albeit that over the last two years the speed of the process has been enhanced.

On another matter, I can confirm that I have been in contact with Touchpoint, the charitable organisation that operates from Stansted and provides a range of support to people and families who are struggling through the financial crisis. Could I request that I have a separate discussion with the Chair and the Clerk because I understand that an extension of this service to Widdington may be of assistance to residents of the village. I will contact the clerk to discuss this further.

Regards,

Ray