

Widdington Parish Council

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

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

In Attendance 7 members of the public, District Cllr. Judy Emanuel and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

09.23.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

09.23.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr. Ray Gooding

09.23.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr. Firmin 09.23.09.1iii non-pecuniary interest.

09.23.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Pot holes; concern raised by residents due to lack of repair and state of the roads. Traffic from Carver Barracks, Chalk pit to main road has increasingly heavier traffic. ACME buses have moved to Saffron Walden which will reduce some of the traffic on routes into the village.

09.23.09.1i – question reference awarding of costs for the Judicial review, Chair explained we were awarded full costs from UDC and this was not challenged by UDC.

09.23.09.1iii.- Applicant spoke and questioned whether the Village Planning Guidelines were still fit for purpose and we answered that they had recently been reviewed and updated.

09.23.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – See Appendix A

09.23.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT –

Judicial review – 13th September legal briefing at UDC on the implications of the JR, a history has been compiled of the history for applications and appeal decisions at the site, on a purely factual basis.

Planning committee – solar farm in Berden, panels will be Hertfordshire, battery pack etc.. will be Essex. Essex and Hertfordshire highways had met and decided that building traffic would come through the Essex villages not straight to the A120 from Berden. Decision has been differed as more information is required to understand basis of the traffic route.

09.23.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

09.23.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Sourced quotes for clearing playground as required through the year.
2. Compiled documentation and supporting material for Assets of Community Value.
3. Submitted PC article for village magazine.
4. Reported potholes to Essex highways.
5. Contacted landowner Springhill ref. ditch and dead tree clearance.

09.23.09 PLANNING

09.23.09.1 To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning application matters arising since July 2023 meeting (including those outlined below plus any arising after 31st August 2023).

09.23.09.1i. Land North of Cornells Lane

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- UTT/23/1918/CLP - The formation, laying out and construction of a means of access to Cornells Lane, Widdington, in connection with the use of land for charitable and private hire events for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year - [Determination deadline 21st September 2023](#)
- UTT/22/2278/FUL - Proposed erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated works – Initial decision process challenged successfully at the Judicial Review - [Deadline for comments 18th September 2023](#).
- UTT/22/3191/FUL - Proposed erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated works - [Determination deadline January 2023](#)
- 2278 & 3191 are being heard together at planning committee on 27th September.
- 1918/CLP – decision being made by planning at UDC following legal advice.
- Unanimous decision that WPC objections continue.

09.23.09.1ii. UTT/23/1619/LB - May House, The Green Widdington Essex CB11 3SD – Internal alterations including the removal of modern partitions to ground floor bathroom and first floor bedroom/shower room – [Determination deadline 30th August 2023](#).

09.23.09.1iii. 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. – [Deadline for comment 26th September 2023](#).
WPC decision: To object on basis of development beyond the village development zone.

09.23.09.1iv. UTT/23/2086/FUL - Land West of The Willows Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Erection of 2 no. dwellings and a garage together with associated boundary works (alternative scheme to UTT/21/1509/FUL, approved) – [Deadline for comments 13th September 2023](#).
WPC decision: To continue to object to the development of this site.

09.23.09.1v. UTT/23/2034/LB - Annexe At Bishops High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SQ - Variations to previously approved application UTT/17/3391/LB including new staircase to split previously approved single annexe to x2 annexes – [Deadline for comments 12th September 2023](#).

09.23.09.1vi. UTT/23/1998/FUL - Midsummer House Now Demolished High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SB - S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of UTT/22/2260/FUL (erection of 2 no. dwellings) to enable single storey extension to car ports. – [Determination deadline 28th September 2023](#)

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

09.23.09.2i. UTT/23/1821/DOC - Water Tower Cornells Lane Widdington Essex- Application to discharge condition 4 (contamination) attached to UTT/23/0731/FUL - [Discharge Conditions in Full](#).

09.23.09.2ii. UTT/23/2118/NMA- Land Rear of Malt Place Cornells Lane Widdington Essex – Non-material amendment to UTT/21/2649/FUL - changes to elevations to comply with building regulations. – [Split Decision](#)

09.23.09.2iii. UTT/23/2198/TPO - Mulberry House High Street Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SB – 1 x Cedar- prune. 1 x pine- fell – [Approved](#)

09.23.10 FINANCE

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

Planning Consultancy	£3,412.50
Clerk Salary + Expenses	£429.88

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Clearing of Vegetation – Garage/Car Park Area	£75.00
External Audit Invoice	£252.00
Internal Audit Invoice	£75.00

They were [approved for payment](#).

09.23.11 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – Cllr. Edwards explained what an asset of community value application means, the implications if approved, that many parishes in Uttlesford have nominated assets of community value, many are pubs and in Widdington to date we have not nominated any. The council believe that we have a number of sites within the village could be nominated.

Motion: Council submit nomination for the Fleur de Lys and the Fleur Field as Assets of Community value.

Proposed - Cllr. Edwards

Seconded - Cllr. Firmin

Voted unanimously to submit the application.

Council would like to thank the resident who has put lots of effort into completing the nomination forms supporting documentation.

09.23.12 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – Unanimously agree to new Christmas lights, volunteer who puts them up to choose. Budget for new lights already in place.

09.23.13 FLOOD INVESTIGATIONS/ACTIONS ON HIGH STREET FLOODING UPDATE – Work by Anglia water has shown that surface run of water is entering the sewage and causing overload of the system. Village hall is one of the properties identified, the mapping is continuing, and information will be shared with residents. Trying to find some easy, quick fixes. However, surface runoff pipework is the responsibility of Essex Highways and is neglected.

09.23.14 POTHoles – Letter to be sent to ECC reference lack of action on fixing potholes and improving the process. It is recommended that residents also report potholes regularly as this raises their profile at Essex Highways, multiple reports are a higher priority than a single report for a particular pothole.

09.23.15. WIDDINGTON RECYCLING – 1st community liaison meeting scheduled 19th September 2023 as per requirements of S106 agreement.

09.23.16 ALLOTMENTS – Some discussions with landowner, information to be circulated, more promotion of allotments has been happening. Defer item to October meeting.

09.23.17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Updated to align with UDC code of Conduct – Cllr. have read and approved adoption of updated Code of Conduct.

09.23.18 OTHER BUSINESS: Old Parish Council Minutes have been found.

A fund raiser is been organised for village hall and Church.

Proposal to produce a calendar of old photos of Widdington, to raise money for village hall – interest was expressed by attendees.

Giant Hogweed, near pudding stone and off hollow road.

Can Volume and Speed Survey on Spring Hill by the Donkey Field be used to put pressure on potholes.

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09.23.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **8pm on Thursday 5th October 2023**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:30

Appendix A:

Cllr Ray Gooding - Member CC

Sent 07/09/2023

Can I give my apologies for this evenings meeting please because I have two other Parish Meeting and a School Governors meeting that I chair.

- I confirm though that the Widdington Pit Liaison meeting is arranged for 19th September.
- I have carried out visit to the area with Highways and the potholes have been scheduled for repair and the work for the Member led Pothole scheme is completing the works quickly now that they have 11 additional teams.
- The speed survey for Spring Hill is now scheduled and should be completed soon.