

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 8.00pm**

**Present** Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Lynn Smith, Cllr. Maggs Webb.

**In Attendance** 4 members of the public, District Cllr. Judy Emanuel and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **09.24.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

**09.24.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr. Ian Southcott, Cllr. Albert Edwards, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves

**09.24.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None

**09.24.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Thanks for the summer fete and the money raised for the village hall.

**09.24.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – None

**09.24.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – Local Plan Regulation 19 agreed by Full Council (UDC) and it is now open to public consultation. Newport Parish Council has an Appeal underway for 10 houses near roundabout at Sparrow End, Newport PC formulating response (it has been objected to by many of the statutory consultees due to protection). In the local plan Newport PC has been asked to suggest sites under the neighbourhood plan for development under the new local plan. Support from residents is for the Chalk pit site to be developed, difficult to find new viable sites within the existing settlement area, essentially Newport will develop 400+ houses from now until end of new plan. NPC negotiated with developer at London road for new land for the primary school and a car park that can be used by school and recreation ground, £150K available for new playground, move scouts and then pavilion for cricket club.

### **09.24.07 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.

### **09.24.08 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Defibrillator spare pads ordered – awaiting delivery.
2. New store ordered to replace damaged sand/salt bag store.
3. Village sign restoration completed.
4. External Audit completed with no comments.
5. Magazine article submitted.
6. Updated Equality Policy.
7. Met with play equipment provider.
8. Standards training booked.

### **09.24.09 PLANNING**

09.24.09.1 To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning application matters arising since July 2024 meeting.

09.24.09.1i. Land North of Cornells Lane – The applicants appeals were unsuccessful and the Planning Inspector upheld UDC planning committee decision to reject the applications. The appellant was awarded costs from WPC for costs arising only in relation to costs arising due to the ecology report that was withdrawn.

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09.24.09.1ii. UTT/24/2212/DOC- Pond Mead Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SB– Application to discharge condition 13 (lighting) attached to UTT/23/1569/FUL– [No comments](#).

09.24.09.1iii. UTT/24/2104/TCA- The Barns High Street Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SQ - Proposed works to 7 no. trees of various species as per proposed works– [No comments](#).

09.24.09.1iv. UTT/24/1956/CLP- Old Post Office Cottage High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SG - Change of use from separate main dwelling and annexe to 1 no. dwelling house– [No comment](#)

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

09.24.09.2i. UTT/24/1600/HHF- Ketteridges Wood End, Widdington Essex, CB11 3SN - Proposed 2 No. rear replacement roof windows and internal alterations – [Approved](#).

09.24.09.2ii. 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– [Discharge conditions in full](#).

09.24.09.2iii. UTT/24/1297/HHF- Amberden House Cornells Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3ST- Single storey front extension and dormer above.– [Approved with conditions](#).

## 09.24.10 FINANCE

**09.24.10.1** Ratified re-imburement to Cllrs.Smith £300 for band at summer event.

**09.24.10.2** External audit completed without comments.

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

Clerk Expenses and Salary	£870.79
Summer Fete Re-imburement to Cllrs. Smith	£378.57
External Audit	£504
Consultancy – Gardner planning – Appeals	£3300

They were [approved for payment](#).

## 09.24.11 PLAYPARK

1. Repair – Cllr. Webb proposed that the equipment was replaced, Cllr. Firmin seconded, resolved to repair the two spinners.
2. Surface under swings – Cllr. Webb proposed replacing the surface under the swing, seconded by Cllr. Firmin, resolved to get another quote for comparison and carry out work.
  - a. Cllr Firmin proposed moving £1000 pounds from General reserves to playpark reserves, seconded by Cllr. L. Smith, resolved to transfer funds.
3. Hedges and other vegetation – Resolved to get quotes for cutting back hedges and ongoing maintenance.
4. Playpark improvements – to look at long term maintenance of the growth and wait for plan for equipment replacement.

**09.24.12 PAYROLL SOFTWARE** – Resolved to pay existing provider for rest of tax year and find new free provider for 25/26 tax year onwards.

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**09.24.13 LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 19** – Resolved WPC comment to endorse the Local Plan regulation 19 and mention the water cycle study for Newport and waste water issues from the village to Newport.

**09.24.14 STREET CLEANING (GUTTERS)** – Contact UDC environment team reference being informed so residents can move cars and find out route.

**09.24.15 RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS POLICY** – Agreed no update required and review Sep-2026

**09.24.16 EQUALITY POLICY** – Updated and agreed, review Sep-2027.

**09.24.17 OTHER BUSINESS** – Cllr. Firmin proposed agenda item allotments for October meeting. Chair of village hall committee is resigning when a new chair has been appointed, ensuring that only clubs that use the hall appointed as trustees for the village hall.

**09.24.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **8pm** on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:21