

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th May, 2021 at 7.30pm

Present Chair Maria Orr, Cllr Chris Firmin and Cllr Maggs Webb.

In Attendance 2 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

05.21.01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Maria Orr was nominated as Chair.

Proposed; Cllr Firmin. Seconded; Cllr Webb.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Orr was unanimously elected Chair and resolved to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman which was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

05.21.02 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Ian Southcott was nominated as Vice-Chair.

Proposed; Cllr Firmin. Seconded; Cllr Webb.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Ian Southcott was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

05.21.03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Ian Southcott and Jill Brookman, District Councillor Neil Hargreaves and County Councillor Ray Gooding.

05.21.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

05. 21.05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

05.21.06 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR AND COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

No applicants.

05.21.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the two April Parish Council Meetings were approved by Councillors as accurate representations and Chair Orr authorised the Clerk to sign the minutes on her behalf.

05.21.08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

None submitted.

05.21.09 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

District Cllr Neil Hargreaves reported;

During the last year UDC has;

- i. Continued with the commercial investment strategy, which has now covered the £4.8m pa income shortfall which would otherwise have happened as a result of the ending of the Govt Rate Support Grant and New Home Bonus, and continual delay on doing the 'Fair Funding Review' for all authorities.
- ii. The investments came on stream earlier than budgeted and so made £2.45m available as one off spend to do Climate Change work, business recovery post covid and provide grants for sport provision
- iii. Work on the Local Plan has involved a significant consultation process and now goes to the next phase, following a Call for Sites

- iv. An extra £240k is included in this year's budget for the Planning Department, and a further announcement will be made shortly on upgrades to its operation. Throughout covid the flood of applications has continued.
- v. As well as one-off spending on climate change work, the council has built environmental upgrades into its core budget. One example is at the former banana warehouse recently bought at Canfield as a bin lorry depot a water recycling lorry washing machine is installed which will substantially reduce water use
- vi. Strongly defended the airport appeal. The previous administration approved the application. This left UDC only to defend the conditions to go with the approval, which had not been agreed. One of which was on CO2 emissions. The recent Government decision to include aircraft CO2 output in the urgently needed CO2 reduction regulations means the owners claims to have nothing to do with this are even less plausible.

05.21.10 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

1. The Environment Agency has provided copies of the site inspection reports from the last two years at Widdington Recycling, and also the details of the two current environmental permits for waste transfer station and composting relating to the site.
2. £722.50 has been received of the £1087.50 garage rental fees for 2021/22.
3. Following my letter to the resident Cllr Firmin has received verbal confirmation from the resident that he has removed the asbestos from the garage he rents from the PC. I have emailed the contractor requested that the asbestos is removed from garage 9.
4. Following Cllr Firmin's collation of photographs of the potholes, 24 potholes on Beadle Lane and Springhill have been reported to Essex Highways and Cllr Kevin Bentley.
5. A letter has been sent to MP Kemi Badenoch, highlighting WPC's concerns following the cessation of powers 07/05/2021 for Parish Councils to meet remotely, and the instruction to return to public meetings, despite the covid restrictions still in place.
6. An account has been set up with Unity Trust Bank, once Councillors have completed online registration I can start the bank account switch, and then add other councillors to the account.
7. The latest lease with UDC was forwarded to District Cllr Hargreaves.
8. The allotment rental invoices have been despatched. Current site occupancy is 62%, a modest increase from last season.

05.21.11 FINANCE

i. The Council resolved to continue affiliation with EALC and NALC and approved the payment of the respective annual fees.

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

Cheques; 101303 - Gardner Planning ref Widdington Recycling - £150.00
101304 - Gardner Planning - ref Malt Place - £450.00
101305 - EALC/NALC 2021/22 Affiliation - £165.98
101306 - Clerk's salary April 2021 - £427.52
101307 - Clerk's expenses April 2021 - £46.28

were approved for payment.

iii. The Council agreed to appoint Yvonne Morton to carry out the internal audit of the Council accounts.

iv and v. The Council resolved to cover items 05.21.11iv and v at the end of the meeting.

05.21.12 PLANNING

The following responses were agreed for return to Uttlesford District Council regarding planning applications;

i. UTT/21/1375/HHF - Ashcroft, Wood End, Widdington - No objections.

Single storey rear extension to infill an existing patio area.

ii. UTT/20/3157/DOC - Midsummer House, High Street, Widdington

Application to discharge condition 14 (Biodiversity enhancement plan) attached to UTT/20/1213/FUL - No objections.

The following planning decisions were noted;

iii. UTT/21/1157/DOC - Meadow Croft, Church Lane, Widdington

Application to discharge condition 9 (Archaeology) attached to UTT/19/2310/OP - Conditions discharged in full.

iv. UTT/21/0782/HHF - Hollycroft, Hamel Way, Widdington

Widdington Parish Council

Demolition of existing conservatory, replacement single storey rear extension and internal alterations. Erection of boundary wall with access gate allowing for new off road parking arrangement. Removal of gravel driveway and garden landscaped - Approved with conditions.

v. UTT/21/0545/FUL - Land to the south of Cornells Lane, Widdington

Proposed single dwelling on land adjacent to The Old Piggery. Alternative scheme to that approved under Planning Ref : UTT/20/0711/FUL - Refused.

vi. UTT/21/0198/DOC - Fleur De Lys, High Street, Widdington

Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials) attached to UTT/17/2211/LB - Discharge conditions in part.

vii. UTT/20/3016/FUL - Land rear of Malt Place, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Conversion of existing single storey agricultural building to 4 no. residential units - Approved with conditions.

05.21.13 VERGES AND HIGHWAYS

It was agreed that the clerk would request traffic monitoring at Spring Hill and Beadle Lane, and also enquire whether weight monitoring of vehicles can be achieved.

Cllr Firmin agreed to forward photographs of the pot holes on Hollow Road for the clerk to report to Essex Highways.

05.21.14 OTHER BUSINESS

i. The garage being used to assist a resident requires emptying so that it can be leased out.

ii. EGM to consider new planning applications, before 03/06/2021. The Council resolved to actively encourage attendees to demonstrate a negative lateral flow test result and be vaccinated against Covid. It was agreed that the clerk would investigate the purchase of a dongle to allow the clerk to attend the meeting virtually if necessary.

05.21.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd June, subject to further NALC and Government advice as it becomes available.

05.21.11 FINANCE (continued)

iv. The Clerk read through and Councillors approved the Section 1 Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21, which was then signed by the Clerk and will be signed by chair Orr as soon as is practicable.

v. The Council approved the annual accounts, and approved the Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21, which were signed by the Clerk and will also be signed by Chair Orr as soon as practicable.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm