

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st April, 2021 at 8.00pm

Present Chair Maria Orr, Cllr Jill Brookman, Cllr Chris Firmin, Cllr Margaret Hudson and Cllr Ian Southcott.

In Attendance County Cllr Ray Gooding, District Cllr Neil Hargreaves, 2 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

04.21.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

04.21.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

04.21.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

04. 21.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public raised the following matters;

- i. The survey of verges at Springhill undertaken by a resident and two Parish Councillors, has been forwarded to the Parish Council. Alongside the publically available Essex Highways map it clarifies ownership and responsibility, and a joined up operation between landowners and Essex Highways to clear the blocked drains and valley gutters, and remove the dead wood and undergrowth would be the most efficient solution, utilising one contractor to complete the works. The Parish Council were asked to support this proposal.
- ii. A letter from a resident to Tom McCarthy has been shared with the Parish Council. The resident hopes that ECC`s site meeting at Widdington Recycling will result in a greater understanding of the local concerns and solutions available to remedy them. The resident noted the importance of getting the S106 reimposed and achieving noise and visual protection for residents.

A member of the public joined the meeting.

04.21.05 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR AND COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

No applicants.

04.21.06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

04.21.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

County Cllr Ray Gooding resolved to take the verge issues forward at Springhill, and agreed to submit a request to Essex Highways to coordinate the proposed joint works.

County Cllr Ray Gooding reported that the extended closure of North Hall Road continues as the work is significantly more difficult than initially thought. The Environment Agency require a 2m high retaining wall to be built on the base of the river, and in order for the work to be executed a legal agreement needs to be in place. It is hoped that works will commence in the near future, although the extent of the work is considerable.

04.21.08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

District Cllr Neil Hargreaves reported;

- i. Election mode has commenced with leafleting and door knocking underway.

Widdington Parish Council

ii. Uttlesford District Council has been investigating how they will run operations post covid. The government are mandating that we return to public meetings for anything that requires a vote. UDC's offices have been practically empty all year, and the Council will not return to fully occupying the offices. Instead they are moving towards using the banana sheds recently purchased in Little Canfield, plus some units on the edge of Stansted, to allow a distributed set up that will allow a reduction of travel and an increase in working from home opportunities, whilst the expensive to run UDC building can be partially retained and the remainder relet.

Chair Orr raised concerns regarding the cessation of emergency powers to hold meetings remotely and the clerk noted the Local Authority Remote Meetings twelve week Call for Evidence consultation received and shared by email today. County Cllr Ray Gooding suggested additionally writing to MP Kemi Badenoch to highlight concerns, and the Council resolved to do so.

04.21.09 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

1. Gigaclear have not responded to my email regarding the reinstatement of gulleys and verges on Cornells Lane. Residents have raised concerns that Gigaclear failed to reinstate gulley's when they laid down the fibre cables hence the constant pooling of water in certain places etc. If the gulleys were reinstated it would certainly fix this issue and prevent further erosion of the verges of this historical protected lane.
2. The grant funding has been advertised on the notice board.
3. The author of the review of operations at Widdington Recycling has not replied to my email 21/03/2021 asking if they have any response to ECC's claims.
4. A member of the public has asked when the PC will release the review of operations for the public to see.
5. The Environment Agency has not responded to my freedom of information request (22/03/2021) to access 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.
6. The PC insurance failed to respond to the request for confirmation that the Parish Council could permit the passage of the digger through the play park, to the residents garden, without impacting the PC insurance.
7. PKF Littlejohn have advised that WPC have been selected for intermediate review for the 2020/21 reporting year. I note that WPC cannot declare themselves exempt as income and/or expenditure exceed £25,000. the intermediate review requires the submission of additional documentation, evidence of compliance and evidence of corrective action taken to address prior years "except for" matters.
8. The Government has announced that they will not be extending emergency powers to hold meetings remotely when the power expires 7th May.
9. The garage rental invoices for 2021/22 are ready for despatch, subject to PC approval to maintain fees as per 2020/21.
10. We have not had confirmation that the resident has removed the asbestos from the garage he rents from the PC, the removal costs were quoted as £375 garage 8, plus £150 garage 9 (vacant). It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the resident to enquire whether the asbestos has been removed, with the intention of taking action to resolve at the May PC meeting if necessary.

04.21.10 FINANCE

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

Cheques; 101296 - P Hudson - reimburse telephone box paint - £127.10
101297 - Clerk salary March 2021 (including annual leave) - £951.37
101298 - Clerk's expenses March 2021 - £121.13
101299 - HMRC - PAYE quarterly payment - £533.21
101300 - Gardner Planning - Malt Place planning appeal - £2000.00
101301 - Gardner Planning - advice Widdington Recycling - £300.00

were approved for payment.

ii. The Council resolved to again apply for online banking.

Widdington Parish Council

04.21.11 PLANNING

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

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

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 No objections.

ii. UTT/21/0992/HHF - Orchard House, Wood End, Widdington

Proposed removal of existing dormer and erection of single storey first floor extension including roof light - No objections.

The following planning decisions were noted;

iii. UTT/21/0382/DOC - Pond Mead Cottage, High Street, Widdington

Application to discharge condition 5 (Biodiversity enhancement strategy) attached to UTT/20/0029/FUL - Discharge conditions in full.

iv. UTT/21/0240/DOC - Thistley Hall, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Application to discharge conditions 2 (partition details), 3 (new entrance details), 4 (historic fabric), 5 (materials), 6 (insulation details), 7 (rainwater goods), 8 (additional drawings) and 9 (repair details) of application UTT/19/0862/LB - Discharge conditions in full.

v. UTT/21/0243/NMA - Willow House, Wood End, Widdington

Non material amendment to UTT/20/0440/HHF - Eaves amendment to northern elevation - Approved.

vi. UTT/21/0165/DOC - Land West Of The Willows, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials), 3 (hard/soft landscaping) and 5 (loading/unloading, store and vehicle manoeuvring) attached to UTT/18/1806/FUL - Discharge conditions in full.

vii. The Council resolved to reiterate their objections on grounds of access relating to UTT/20/1904/FUL and now planning appeal APP/C1570/W/20/3265660 - Plot adj Ringers, Debden Road
Erection of 1 no. 2 bedroom chalet bungalow with new access

04.21.12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Council resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting on Zoom on the 6th May, 2021. The clerk resolved to approach White Trees Surecare Residential to ask if they would like to send a representative to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting, and County Cllr Ray Gooding agreed to organise a Highways Representative to also speak.

04.21.13 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING (part one)

County Cllr Ray Gooding agreed to obtain an update on the time frame for decision making on the current application, as the Parish Council were told the decision would have been made by now.

04.21.14 VERGES AND HIGHWAYS

i. Covered during Public Participation.

ii. It was agreed that the clerk would forward the survey of verges at Springhill to County Cllr Ray Gooding, and also write to cabinet member Kevin Bentley asking him to take action.

04.21.15 HAMEL WAY

Following UDC's communication to Hamel Way residents and some High Street residents, notifying that a contribution towards the resurfacing of Hamel Way will be requested, the Parish Council noted that UDC have stated that the Parish Council are not being asked to contribute.

Chair Orr asked District Cllr Neil Hargreaves to resolve the situation definitively and it was agreed that the clerk would forward a copy of the latest lease from UDC with WPC, to District Cllr Neil Hargreaves.

04.21.16 MEMORIAL PLAQUE ON THE GREEN

The Parish Council agreed that the proposed memorial plaque on a golden elm tree on The Green would not be permitted.

04.21.17 OTHER BUSINESS

i. Cllr Hudson noted that the telephone box has now received an undercoat.

ii. The clerk noted that she has requested an update regarding the agreed traffic survey on Cornells Lane.

Widdington Parish Council

iii. Local Plan submission deadline 21/04/2021. District Cllr Neil Hargreaves recommended looking through the topic headings for items of interest and submitting punchy, concise responses.

iv. Cllr Brookman confirmed that the Christmas Fayre is booked for 04/12/2021.

v. Chair Orr extended the Parish Council's thanks and gratitude to Councillor Margaret Hudson for the eleven years she has served on Widdington Parish Council.

04.21.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 6th May, 2021, on Zoom, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.30pm, also on Zoom.

Chair Orr suspended the meeting and the public left the meeting.

04.21.13 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING (part two)

The Council resolved to engage planning consultant Geoff Gardner to immediately write to Tom McCarthy, head planner at ECC, and request that decision making is paused.

Meeting closed at 10.14pm

**Approved as accurate;
06/05/2021**