

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 8.00pm**

**Present** Chair Maria Orr, Vice-Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr Chris Firmin, Cllr Lynn Harris, Cllr Steve Smith

**In Attendance** County Cllr Ray Gooding, District Cllr Judy Emanuel, 5 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **04.22.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting. Chair Maria Orr will be resigning from Widdington Parish Council effective next month

### **04.22.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Maggs Webb and District Cllr Neil Hargreaves.

### **04.22.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None

### **04.22.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Wickes Delivery Lorry; South Green 6<sup>th</sup> April, approximately 10 am when a Wickes delivery lorry misjudged the width of the Green! It ran over and left tyre marks on the Green and hit the post causing more damage. It also damaged the bumper of the lorry. Photographic evidence is available. Report to Wickes and send through photographs.

Resident – Thanked Maria for her service to Widdington Parish Council.

Resident – speeding and pathways around Widdington, atrocious, verges down spring hill. Particularly public footpaths too, ploughed by landowner. Need to remind landowner that they need to re-instate footpath within 14 days.

Trees – spring hill, reported previously, across the ditches. Also Hollow Road, Near Pumping station, open drain since last reported. Cllr Emanuel to flag as safety issue with Ian Scott, road blocked 4 times this winter by fallen trees. Clerk – to email District Cllr Emanuele, report. Open drain report to environmental health because they have powers to force Anglian Water to take action.

Widdington Parish council offer special thanks to Albert Edwards, Cathy Southcott, Chris Peacock and Geoff Gardner for representing the village's concerns reference Cornell's Lane (UTT/21/2137/FUL) planning application at the last Planning committee.

*Member of Public joined the meeting.*

### **04.22.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Widdington Recycling/Pit – consultative committee offered to Chair.

LHP – Spring Hill, speed control alterations request has been logged and currently being validated (survey), recommended solution likely to be approved after June LHP meeting. Possibly white lines or notional narrowing of road in places most likely solutions. County Councillor Gooding pushing for design and implementation within this year's budget.

North Hall road – Design complete, submitted to Environment agency as affects river bed, timing of concern and no spoils to contaminate the river. Services, BT, Gas, Gigaclear running under road where the support wall has washed away so will need temporarily moved, designs still awaiting approval (4-8 weeks more probably) – scheduled to be completed by Autumn.

### **04.22.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

UDC - New Head of planning Dean Armitage has been appointed, for more than 10 houses developers can go directly to the Planning inspectorate and time for decision making. 21 days from point of application to all material coming in. No direct applications so far, most staying with applications via Uttlesford. Planning committee – all applications over 10 houses will go via

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committee, even those recommended for refusal and meetings will be fortnightly. Neil will be at next meeting and happy to represent.

Visited Newport quarry that has ceased digging, looking at plans for refill with soil, gravel and clay and looking at longer term usage of the site either for housing or employment opportunities.

Cllr Emanuel has asked about Cornell's Lane designation updated in 2012, may need to reviewed. To make clear what protection "protected lane" status means in practice. Visual, use, enjoyment, biodiversity all aspects of designation of protected lane. In top third in Essex could lose protected status due to entry gate looking at integrity, due to retaining walls resulting in decrease in biodiversity.

## **04.22.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

*County Councillor Ray Gooding Joined the meeting*

## **04.22.08 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Clerk attended – New Clerk course, financial regulation course, Annual meetings course and council finance course.
3. Peter Holt has replied that he will be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting
4. Police are also possibly interested in attending the Annual Parish Meeting, probably member of the rural policing unit.
5. VAT reclaim form has been submitted to HMRC £1227.46
6. Jack Jordan car, Hamel Way – now responsibility of Essex County Council, they are establishing authority with DVLA and will then arrange removal of vehicle.
7. Stolen storm drain cover in Hamel way, trying to see if replacement is down to residents or another organisation.
8. PKF Littlejohn have advised that WPC will have a basic level external audit for 2021/22
9. New internal auditor has been identified, subject to PC approval.
10. Confirmation from insurance company that WPC insurance covers public liability for the Jubilee event.
11. Public firework displays safety information from HSE website sent to Jubilee committee
12. Clerk attended the Local Council forum meeting on behalf of WPC – Essex highways were answering questions.
13. Clerk attended the Parish Forum and planning were the guest speakers.

**04.22.9 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR** –Council agreed to co-opt Teresa Petchey, resident of Hamel way since January 2016.

## **04.22.10 PLANNING**

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

i.[UTT/22/0595/HHF](#) - Belmont Spring Hill Widdington Essex CB11 3SA

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory, upvc structure above kitchen and workshop and erection of single storey rear extension – No objections.

ii.[21/00136/REF](#)- Pond Mead High Street Widdington CB11 3SB

Construction of 2 new detached dwellings and associated works following the demolition of existing dwelling. Appeal to refusal UTT/20/1344/FUL. Deadline for response: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Options presented by appellant – board it up, look at issues if again refused and reapply with plan that meets the concerns. WPC resubmit original objections.

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

iii.[UTT/22/0133/HHF](#)- Broad Leys Cornell's Lane Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SP

Proposed relocation and replacement of oil tank– [Approved](#).

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iv. UTT/21/3481/FUL- The Green Barn Shipton's Farm Spring Hill Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SU

Creation of outside parking area including the provision of earth bunding and landscaping – [Refused](#).

v. UTT/21/2137/FUL- Land To The North Of Cornell's Lane Widdington CB11 3SG

Proposed erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated works- [Refused](#).

vi. ESS/67/21/UTT, ESS/68/21/UTT and ESS/80/21/UTT- Widdington Pit, Hollow Road, Widdington, CB11 3SL

- Continuation of use of land for skip hire, waste recycling, waste transfer and green waste composting operation.
- Continuation of excavation of sand and restoration of land to agricultural use.
- Demolition of an existing workshop and the construction of a replacement building (in a revised location).

– [Approved](#).

## 04.22.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING – Update from Cllr. Southcott

Development & Regulation committee sat 25<sup>th</sup> March, Cllr Southcott and resident spoke, Cllr Southcott felt the committee had insufficient time to give the attention required to the complex arguments presented. Cllr Gooding spoke to Chairman and was impressed with Widdington's presentation and thought they were more thoughtful and considered than majority of representations that they hear. Cllr Southcott felt that there would be more issues from state of site than pressure from parish council. Cllr Southcott has spoken to T. McCarthy, S106 document now being prepared, Essex legal services engaged with Widdington Recycling. Recommended WPC formally approach T. McCarthy reference a liaison committee, WPC councillor, Cllr Gooding, member of public, representative from Widdington Recycling to influence the S106. Must be a definitive end date – Cllr Southcott said the committee didn't want to go this route.

- Rate of pit filling, completion of cells, independent oversight.
- Planting proposal needs improvement.
- Consider not using WHIPS for screening and 5 year monitoring and replacement of dead plants.
- Noise monitoring, when & where that occurs, independently verified.
- Traffic movement.
- Litter accumulation.

Clerk and Cllr Gooding to arrange meeting date.

Cllr Firmin suggestions of reporting issues directly to Tom McCarthy and Clerk to create log of reported events for Parish Council.

*2 Member of public left the meeting.*

## 04.22.12 FINANCE

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

Invoices;

EALC - Clerk Training courses - Invoice 15256	£108.00
KL Clerk salary March 2022 ( PAYE £133.60)	£534.01
KL Clerk's expenses March 2022	£167.38
AL - adjusted salary for pay increase backdating April 2021 (PAYE £18.00)	£72.67
Gardner Planning _ Tees Application _ Cornell's Lane	£900.00
EALC/NALC Affiliation Fees 2022/23	£169.76
SR Events - Jubilee celebration - bouncy castle & prosecco	£351.00
HMRC quarterly payment	£528.20

They were [approved for payment](#).

**Garage rentals**, Chair Orr, Vice-Chair Southcott, Cllrs Harris & Smith made declarations of interest.

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Cllr Firmin – Agreed to maintain rental figures from last year: Garage £50 pa, Commercial Vehicle £10 pa, Car parking £25 pa, Wayleave £10 pa

**Internal Audit** – Council agreed to appoint Michelle Gowlett as the internal Auditor.

**04.22.13 TREE HEALTH SURVEY** – Quote received from Place Services for full tree risk assessment survey and report £260+VAT, awaiting response from Haydens and Tree tops.

On verges Wood end – Uttlesford or WPC ownership? Need to look into ownership. Cllr Southcott will speak to resident. Parish Online can see land registry, Cllr Emanuele has access, Widdington House entry way from woodend.

## **04.22.14 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE VILLAGE EVENT - 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Cllr Smith & Cllr Harris update:

Visited land owner for Beacon/Fireworks – cars can be parked in driveway, mortar fireworks, fire brigade have visited and given advice and approval.

Ponies will be at Church Lane not on field.

Dog show with classes decided and rosettes, food vendors, bouncy castle organised.

Jubilee mugs for children. Committee has received request for something for older children not just younger children on the Sunday, considering options.

Saturday event – Donations on the night proposed by the committee, Cllr Firmin proposed leaflet drop by Cllrs to advertise and gauge interest.

Photographer appointed for village photography on the Green and during the festivities. Cllr Southcott will ask ref access to the house where photos are usually taken.

Cllr Smith to outline days, tasks for volunteer requests. Clerk to ask for volunteers to help with organisation on the weekend.

**04.22.15 NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS** – decide on strategy to encourage residents to become councillors. Wait until after June meeting to advertise.

**04.22.16 DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING** – Clerk update Paul Doe off with long covid. No cost but he requested a donation be made to unknown charity.

The first people on the first session for training would be the people who have the codes. The next session would include the 3 D of E youngsters who have been litter picking around the Village as their project. Can then decide who should take up the remaining 5 spaces. Cllr Southcott suggested offering remaining places to staff at the pub.

**04.22.17 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** [date agreed 5th May](#),. Peter Holt has agreed to attend, Police enquired whether community officer or Rural officer would be preferred, would it be possible for rural office to attend via Teams if we have projector etc..

Promotion of Annual Parish Meeting – post cards printing etc.. and delivery of post cards via councillors.

**04.22.18 MEMORIAL SIGN GREEN LANE** –Update from Cllr Southgate, not yet been able to meet, spoken to land owner of that piece of America Brook but no action possible until have a meeting and walk with Cllr Southcott so confident on location.

## **04.22.19 OTHER BUSINESS**

Request from guides ref. planting tree on the green – need to be clear that whatever is done on behalf on the village but need to wait for tree survey and works to be completed first. Couldn't be planted now until autumn. Reply in principle will follow up on it. Cllr Southcott expressed reservation as Council receive many similar requests and often turn down as it is a village green for all.

## **04.22.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:51

