

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021 at 8.00pm**

**Present** Chair Maria Orr, Cllr Jill Brookman, Cllr Chris Firmin, Cllr Ian Southcott and Cllr Maggs Webb.

**In Attendance** 3 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

### **08.21.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **08.21.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from District Councillors Judy Emanuel and Neil Hargreaves.

### **08.21.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

### **08.21.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public noted that alongside their current permitted development application, they will also be imminently submitting an additional planning application to move their drive on safety grounds as there have been a number of recent near misses as a result of vehicles trying to access their property.

A member of the public requested that the Parish Council prepare for the much anticipated planning application from Widdington Recycling Ltd and noted their frustration at Essex County Council's continued use of meaningless completion dates that have not been implemented or addressed and suggested that restoration could in fact mean making the site safe and re-establishing it as a wildlife area

### **08.21.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

None submitted.

### **08.21.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

None submitted.

### **08.21.07 PLANNING**

The following responses were agreed for return to Uttlesford District Council regarding planning applications; *County Cllr Ray Gooding arrived.*

i. UTT/21/2260/CLP – Camfield, Hollow Road, Widdington

Proposed outdoor swimming pool with two pool pavilions, general landscaping works and proposed garden store building. – No objection

ii. UTT/21/2127/HHF – The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Widdington

Construction of a detached 2 bay cart lodge with lean to store – No objection

iii. UTT/21/2051/LB - Corner Cottage and White Cottage, High Street, Widdington

Renovation of roofs for Corner Cottage and White Cottage. Change colour of render of Corner Cottage – No objection

iv. UTT/21/2401/HHF – The Weft House, Cornells lane, Widdington

Rear minor extensions, demolition and alterations to the house and garage including construction of a glazed link between them, and landscaping of garden – No objection

The following planning decisions were noted;

v. UTT/21/1546/LB – The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Widdington

Proposed replacement of front and rear gates – Refused.

vi. UTT/21/1593/HHF – The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Widdington

Proposed replacement of front and rear gates – Refused.

vii. UTT/19/2542/CC - Widdington Pit, Hollow Road, Widdington

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Essex County Council Application ESS/83/19/UTT - Embankment stability works and incorporation of a surface water treatment system – Permission granted.

## **08.21.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Cllr Ray Gooding confirmed;

- i. He believes that it is likely that the application from Widdington Recycling will be received in September.
- ii. The results of the recent speed surveys have now been forwarded to the clerk and circulated to the Parish Council and interestingly do not highlight speeding as an issue in the areas, and that speeding isn't the problem in those areas that it is perceived to be. Cllr Southcott commented that the particular location of the survey, outside the village hall, was not useful as the location on the High Street would be naturally slower due to the high rates of parking on the High Street and did not represent the issues highlighted to the Parish Council. County Cllr Gooding commented that a resident had raised concerns within this area and that was the reason for selection of the location and offered to request a further survey. It was agreed that Cllr Brookman would investigate the best location for a survey between Wells Mead and Elmstead and liaise with the clerk to forward to Cllr Gooding so the already requested surveys at Springhill and Beadle Lane can be co-ordinated together.

Following discussion relating to the possibility of installing a no right turn sign at the Village Hall end of The Green, the Council agreed that drivers should be relied upon to use their common sense and that the signage would cause further issues.

## **08.21.08 FINANCE**

- i. The Council resolved to continue annual affiliation with the Rural Community Council of Essex.
- iii. The Council approved the repayment of the over paid garage rental.
- ii. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and approved for signature.

Cheques; 300001 – refund of garage rent over-payment - £352.50

300002 – RCCE – annual membership - £52.80

300003 – Clerk's salary – July 21 - £433.59

300004 – Clerk's expenses July 21 - £53.17

300005 – WALGA – overpayment by resident - £10.00

300006 – Gardner Planning – inv 045.13 - £2700.00

300007 – Railton TPC Ltd – inv 2112 - £1000.00

were approved for payment.

## **08.21.09 DEFIBRILLATOR**

The defibrillator is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service CAD system CPAD2391. It was agreed that the clerk would check the defibrillator each month, when posting the agenda on the notice board and investigate emergency override should the alarm need turning off.

## **08.21.10 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING**

- i. Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would request a quotation for noise monitoring for a prolonged period of two or three (preferably not consecutive) weeks with the possibility of including an additional location and enquire as to when the work could be undertaken. It was agreed that the clerk would request that the monitoring is undertaken when the weather forecast offers the best opportunity of getting the best results and that it is undertaken during a period that the site is known to be operating. Cllrs Southcott and Firmin resolved to speak to residents on Wood End regarding permission to locate the equipment on their properties, away from the property with ongoing building works and a resident offered for the equipment to be placed deeper into their plantation if it would assist for insurance purposes. The Council agreed that the most appropriate locations for monitoring would be Holly Cottage and the rear of the houses on Wood End.
- ii. The Council resolved that it would be challenging to accurately undertake traffic monitoring. Cllr Firmin noted the recent daily afternoon visits through the village of a scammell commercial waste truck. A member of the public also noted a double trailered vehicle from Widdington Recycling passing through the village at 6.20am today. The Council recommended that residents report these issues directly to the Enforcement Officer Suzanne Armstrong at [suzanne.armstrong@essex.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.armstrong@essex.gov.uk) using the "planning enforcement complaints form"

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iii. A member of the public noted the need to change plans for the closure of the site, including the motivation and the view regarding restoration. Cllr Firmin suggested that the resident forwards his communications to MP Kemi Badenoch, copying in County Cllr Gooding.

The Parish Council agreed that there are certain things that need reinstating, dates need to be made legally binding and penalties need to be implemented. The planning consultant has noted that the county council need to have these services somewhere. WPC are trying to achieve the most liveable compromise for residents and hope to work with the site to make it workable within the village and are frustrated that they have still not been permitted to sit down and discuss the grander picture with the operator and ECC.

It was agreed that the clerk will chase a response to the letter to Newport Fire Station and copy into the Fire and Chief Commissioner.

County Cllr Gooding agreed to raise WPC's concerns with Cllr Lesley Wagland, and it was agreed that the clerk would set up a meeting with LW, the planning consultant and WPC, before the application is submitted.

## **08.21.11 OTHER BUSINESS**

Missing drain covers – clerk reported – and to chase

Village events being planned – Xmas Fayre, November bric a brac, weekly coffee mornings.

## **07.21.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.22

**Approved as accurate;  
27/08/2021**