

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd December, 2021 at 8.00pm

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

In Attendance District Cllr Judy Emanuel and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

12.21.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

12.21.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Jill Brookman and District Cllr Neil Hargreaves. Apologies for delayed arrival were received and noted from County Cllr Ray Gooding.

12.21.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

12.21.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

12.21.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

The Council noted that County Cllr Gooding had explained that he would be arriving later, and that he would have his slot at that point.

12.21.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

District Councillor Judy Emanuel reported that John Lodge, the current leader of UDC and member of R4U has announced his retirement. Petrina Lees, the current deputy leader is anticipated to be voted in as UDC`s first female leader at next Tuesday`s meeting. District Cllr Neil Hargreaves is standing for deputy.

12.21.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

12.21.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

- i. The replacement waste bin for South Green has been delivered and will be dropped to Cllr Southcott to coordinate installation.
- ii. Two missing drain covers on Hollow Road, near the junction with North Hall Road reported to Essex Highways (13/10/21) ref 2744674 and 2744676. EH notified 25/11/2021 that they will carry out works within five days, although this could be a temporary fix.
- iii. Damaged drain cover on Hollow Road reported to Essex Highways (13/10/2021) ref 2744678. EH notified 25/11/2021 that they have risk assessed the issue and it is not as serious as issues elsewhere and will only be considered for future works.
- iv. Collapsed stile and wobbly posts reported to Essex Highways (23/10/2021) ref 2746379. EH notified 29/10/2021 that they have investigated and it is not a maintenance issue and will be addressed as part of their structured approach to such situations.
- v. County Cllr Gooding has confirmed that the petition and residents data were registered with the Local Highway Panel Officers and they will be taken forward. Further liaison may be necessary, regarding the details because there are some variations in the administrative requirements, but they will be included as a part of the next budget setting round.
- vi. The white scamell lorry regularly driving through Widdington has been reported to County Cllr Gooding and Tom McCarthy, who reported back 15/11/2021 that Widdington Recycling have said that immediate action will be taken to stop the contractor using this vehicle to access the site.

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- vii. A letter was sent to MP Kemi Badenoch 21/11/2021 requesting support in ensuring that only one recycling plant is allowed to operate in the environs of the village. Kemi has responded saying that she will write directly to ECC and get back to WPC once she has a response.
- viii. A letter was sent (21/11/2021) to Commanding Officer Colonel Garcia explaining that their articulated army trucks cannot pass through Widdington and should be directed through Thaxted when heading towards Bishop's Stortford. The Barracks have responded noting that military drivers have been advised not to take military vehicles through Widdington.
- ix. A meeting has been requested with County Cllrs Lesley Waglund and Lee Scott to discuss a number of concerns relating to Widdington, including the opening of a second recycling site within our parish, ditch maintenance and other highway matters. Availability for a Teams meeting towards the end of the day week commencing 13/12/2021 has been requested.
- x. E.On have been contacted to update the PC details, following receipt of a letter from Roy Darling for the Christmas lights on The Green. E.On advised to notify UK Power Networks what we have used and they will then send a bill. UKPN don't have the facility to charge retrospectively so WPC won't have to pay for 2020. E.On advised to contact UKPN (08081014131) to notify them the number of bulbs, and wattage of said bulbs, the hours they will be on and switch on and off dates, have been confirmed as timed to come on at 1600hrs and off at 2300hrs each day and will "run" from 22/11/21 until 03/01/22. WPC have 60 lamps @ 3Watts each and 10 (legacy) lamps @ 25W on for 7 hours/night for 41 nights. So, that'll amount to $((3 \times 60) + (25 \times 10)) \times 7 \times 41$ /1000 kWh. That comes out to be 123.4 kWh. UKPN have responded saying that they do not provide electricity and WPC need to contact the Local Authority.
- xi. There have been two applications to date for the clerk's role. It was agreed that the clerk would co-ordinate interviews to take place as soon as possible subject to Councillor, Clerk and hall availability.

12.21.09 PLANNING

The following UDC planning decisions were noted;

- i. UTT/21/2669/HHF – Camfield, Hollow Road, Widdington
New residential driveway with gate and brick piers and formalised access onto Hollow Road – Approved with conditions.
- ii. UTT/20/1344/FUL – Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington
Construction of 2 no. new detached dwellings and associated works following the demolition of existing dwelling – Refused.

12.21.10 FINANCE

- i. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and approved for signature.
Invoices; Clerk's salary November 2021 - £264.46
Clerk's expenses October 2021 - £122.32
They were approved for payment.
- ii. The 2022/23 Budget was agreed at £25,916.
County Cllr Ray Gooding arrived.
- iii. The 2022/23 precept was agreed at £10,000.

12.21.03 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Cllr Gooding reported;

- i. Officers attended Widdington Recycling 01/12/2021 as part of their routine site monitoring. Two extension applications are pending determination. Last week WR submitted supplementary information (ref ESS/67/21/UTT) relating to the waste transfer/ skip hire. This seeks to formally scope condition 28, the 70%/30% import/export split, and change it to 50%/50%. The current intention is to take both applications (ESS/68/21/UTT) together with the application for the replacement workshop (ESS/80/21/UTT) to January's Development and Regulation Committee (28/01/2022). WPC are entitled to make representation and County Cllr Gooding requested that he is kept informed. WPC agreed to ask their planning consultant to attend on WPC behalf and to submit his formal full response to the applications.
- ii. Planning permission has been granted for the importation of inert material, installation and use of recycling plant to produce secondary aggregate and the final disposal of inert residues to facilitate restoration of the site to calcareous grassland, together with the continued extraction of chalk reserve at the chalk pit site on the edge of Newport (ESS/42/18/UTT) and it is understood that they intend to start infill works at the end of spring, although an exact date is not currently known.

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iii. Widdington`s applications for to the Local Highway Panel will be approved at the March LHP meeting for a speed survey at Springhill. If validated, the survey will follow.

iv. ECC have been negotiating with Essex Police and have agreed an increase in speed checks.

v. Cllr Webb reported that she has a contact who is prepared to clear the various areas of dead or fallen trees, and has appropriate insurance. It is likely that some traffic calming measures and/or signage may be required and the Council requested County Cllr Gooding`s support in achieving this. County Cllr Gooding agreed to check on procedure regarding road closures, and asked Cllr Webb to email details of the proposed works to him.

County Cllr Gooding left the meeting.

12.21.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the planning consultant to submit a detailed response to the three applications including a request for more established protected planting as the current planting proposals will take a long time to establish.

12.21.12 DITCH MAINTENANCE

Covered within County Cllr Report.

12.21.14 SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

Covered within County Cllr Report.

12.21.15 VILLAGE EVENT

The Council resolved to organise a village event as part of the Jubilee celebrations planned for the 4th June 2022 weekend.

District Cllr Emanuel shared details of a £270 beacon that Newport are purchasing.

12.21.15 MEETINGS

It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm that WPC are interested in attending both the proposed Local Government Liaison Forums and Neighbouring Parish Meetings and would suggest highways and planning as topics for discussion at both events.

12.21.14 OTHER BUSINESS

i. District Cllr Emanuel described her experiences helping to create Newport, Quendon and Rickling`s Neighbourhood Plan and offered to help the Parish Council should they wish to consider writing a plan for Widdington and or meet to talk it through. Cllr Southcott and Firmin resolved to take a look at the NQR Plan in the first instance.

iii. Village sign requires maintenance.

iv. Defibrillator flashing, maintenance company being investigated.

v. Overgrown hedge hiding road signs.

12.21.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 6th January 2022, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:47

Approved as accurate;
06/01/2022