

# Widdington Parish Council

---

## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th February, 2020 at 8.00pm**

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

**In Attendance** 4 members of the public, District Cllr Anthony Gerard and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

---

### **02.20.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **02.20.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from County Cllr Ray Gooding.

### **02.20.03 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

None.

### **02.20.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllrs Cllr Chris Firmin, Margaret Hudson, Ian Southcott and Maggs Webb declared an interest in agenda item 02.20.11i as a friend or neighbour of the applicant.

### **02.20.05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public shared the rationale behind their current planning application to create a fully accessible home within their current garden to accommodate their anticipated future need, due to a progressive auto-immune condition.

### **02.20.06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

### **02.20.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

None submitted.

### **02.20.08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

District Cllr Gerard reported;

- i. New Homes Bonus applications must be forwarded by the end of February.
- ii. The Planning Inspectorate have reported back finding the Local Plan flawed, options moving forward include trying to fix the current plan or starting again, either way the district will be at least 2/3 further years without a local plan.
- iii. District Cllr Gerard recommends parishes commence Neighbourhood Plans to help protect villages, and suggested joining with other small parishes such as Debden or Henham. It was resolved that the clerk would request advice from Geoff Gardner. The clerk noted that Neighbourhood Plans are required to be pro-development.
- iv. The Stansted Airport application has been refused on grounds of public health, climate change and environmental impact.

### **02.20.09 CLERK`S REPORT**

The clerk reported;

# Widdington Parish Council

---

- i. Posts numbered 37,38,43,44,45 - trees touching the wires ( and ivy growing on 45) reported to UK Power Networks 10/01/2020. Case logged ref; call200985Z. UK Power Networks will arrange site visit and then book tree trimming based on urgency determined at site visit.
- ii. County Cllr Kevin Bentley has confirmed that he is;  
"unable to locate any evidence of width restriction signs in this area, only weight limit signs with sub plates saying 'except for agricultural purposes'. As there is a regular bus service which runs through the High Street in Widdington a width restriction would be difficult to achieve." He goes on to state;  
"a job was completed last year to replace 2 weight limit signs in Hollow Road, however if these have since been damaged I will ask my Officers to raise further works. Width restriction signage or traffic calming measures would need to be raised via the Uttlesford LHP, who are the only team that have the budget to carry out any such investigations/implementation and would need the support of Cllr Ray Gooding."  
It was resolved to confirm the presence of weight limit signs, obtain photographic evidence of over- weight vehicles accessing the village, and forward to the Local Highways Panel at UDC, copying in District and County Cllrs, and Tom McCarthy - principal planner at UDC.
- iii. Asbestos Management Survey conducted 8am, 04/02/2020, report anticipated within 10 days.
- iv. EALC confirmed that the GDPR form was appropriate, but requires an inclusion fully defining who contact details will be provided too or how they may provide them in an emergency, plus if the details need to be accessible before an emergency develops and how this will be managed.
- v. Litter bags ordered and delivered for Litter Pick.
- vi. UDC have confirmed that they own the dog waste bins and have replaced a bin outside Widdington House at Wood End. I have repeated my request that they replace the damaged bin outside Willow House.
- vii. Works commence at the play park to install the new swings 10/02/2020.

## **02.20.10 FINANCE**

- i. It was agreed to give a grant of £200.00 for churchyard maintenance to Widdington Parochial Church Council.
- ii. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and signed. Cheques - 101230 - Alison Farmer Associates - hearing statement prep + review (incorrect invoice previously submitted and cheque 101224 issued, cheque destroyed by AFA) - £2114.40  
101231 - Clerk's salary January 2020 - £295.55  
101232 - Clerk's expenses January 2020 - £125.60  
were agreed for payment and signed by Chair Orr and Cllr Hudson.

## **02.20.11 PLANNING**

- i. The declaration of interests of four Councillors to planning application UTT/20/0029/FUL - Land at Pond Mead Cottage, High Street, Widdington, left the Parish Council inquorate and unable to make a decision about the application. Residents are reminded that the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and does not make planning decisions. Residents wishing to support or object to this application are reminded that they can make their own representation to Uttlesford District Council's Planning Department.  
District Cllr Gerard suggested that the applicant requests that he calls the application in to committee, should the planning officer be minded to refuse planning permission.  
The following planning decisions were noted;
- ii. UTT/19/2968/LB - 5 South Green, High Street, Widdington  
Erection of two storey rear extension - Approved with conditions.
- iii. UTT/19/2957/HHF - 5 South Green, High Street, Widdington  
Erection of two storey rear extension - Approved with conditions.
- iv. UTT/19/2869/HHF - Warren Place, High Street, Widdington  
Proposed rear roof alteration and conversion. Internal alterations. (revised scheme to that approved under UTT/19/1048/HHF) - Approved with conditions
- v. UTT/19/2648/FUL - Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington  
Construction of 1 no. detached dwelling (Revised scheme for plot 4 previously approved under UTT/18/3279/FUL) - Approved with conditions.
- vi. The dismissal of planning appeal APP/C1570/W/19/3226765 - UTT/18/0885/FUL - Land To The North Of Cornells Lane was noted. Grateful thanks were extended to the whole team that helped achieve this result, led

# Widdington Parish Council

---

by Albert Edwards and Chris Peacock, the fundraising team and those who contributed so generously, and all the residents who attended the appeal hearing, your dedication and support is very much appreciated.

## **02.20.12 COMMUNITY EVENT 21/03/2020**

Cllr Webb shared the plans for a Ritz style afternoon tea with bubbly on Saturday 21st March, 3-5pm at the Village Hall. Games have been planned for each table to participate as they wish, with the addition of a treasure map competition to win a bottle of champagne.

Cllr Webb detailed the quotes received by the working party for catered Ritz style afternoon tea with bubbly and provided a comparison quote for home-made alternatives. A budget of £800 was agreed for the anticipated 100 guests, and it was noted that there are sufficient glasses at the hall for the event

## **02.20.13 PLAY PARK**

It was agreed that once the swings have been erected, a skip will be ordered to remove any existing rubbish. Clerk to try to rehome the couple of tonnes of lump concrete.

Thanks were extended to Pip Hudson, Chris Firmin, Chris Peacock and John Orr for all their work dismantling and disposing of damaged equipment.

it was agreed that Cllr Webb would continue to research grant opportunities for new equipment.

## **02.20.14 WEBSITE**

It was resolved that the Clerk would register the Parish Council for an account with Voice, apply for a site and establish the replacement website.

## **02.20.15 EMERGENCY PLAN**

It was agreed that Chair Orr will finalise the GDPR form and forward to Cllr Brookman for circulation.

It was agreed that the clerk would request available dates for the British Red Cross First Aid Training.

## **02.20.16 RECYCLING CENTRE**

It was agreed that the light pollution is significantly improved since the recent site visit, with the 5.30pm cut off being regularly observed. There has also been a recent decline in heavy trucks coming through the village, although it was noted that approximately 20 further concrete trucks will be required to complete the concrete wall.

It was agreed that another site meeting would be scheduled for the autumn and that Widdington Recycling would be invited to update the village at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Brookman agreed to provide an update on works at the site, for the village magazine.

## **02.20.17 CORNELLS LANE**

i. It was resolved that the clerk would work to ascertain who carried out the works on Cornells Lane that caused such extensive destruction to the verges.

ii. It was agreed that the clerk would request an update regarding the planned survey of Cornells Lane and District Cllr Gerard offered to assist if required.

It was agreed that the clerk would also prepare a letter for despatch to all residents requesting considerate driving, observation of speed limits and highlighting Cornells Lane and Springhill as areas where driving is consistently poor and inconsiderate by some road users.

## **02.20.18 OTHER BUSINESS**

i. Finger post missing on edge of The Green.

ii. Successful litter pick 02/02/2020 - thanks extended to all involved.

iii. Concerns raised regarding erection of new garage in Hamel Way - resident recommended to submit a photograph to UDC's planning and enforcement team.

iv. New pothole on Beadle Lane - clerk to report.

## **02.20.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Parish Council Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 5th March, 2020

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

Chair

05/03/2020