

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th January, 2021 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 County Cllr Ray Gooding, District Cllr Neil Hargreaves, 8 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

02.21.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

02.21.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

02.21.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

02. 21.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Simon Crump, Safe Driving Manager at Stephenson's Buses introduced himself, Ben Richardson and Richard Gascoine, also from Stephenson's, and confirmed their intention to reassure the Parish Council and residents that they have no intention of curtailing the bus service and wish to reach an agreement on where is the safest place for the bus to turn.

A member of the public requested an update from County Cllr Ray Gooding regarding verge ownership. County Cllr Ray Gooding agreed to send the clerk the publically available Essex Highway map that will show definitively ownership of verges.

Simon Crump detailed the bus incident which resulted in damage to the fence at Corner Cottage and Cllr Firmin noted that although the insurers have surveyed the damage they have not yet finalised payment to the home owner.

As a result of the incident and Uttlesford District Council's request that the bus finds an alternative turning point whilst Hamel Way is repaired and resurfaced, the buses have adopted a new temporary turning point outside Bridgetts, at the junction of Wood End, High Street and Hollow Road. This change initially caused some teething problems, and concerns remain for some residents due to the narrow part of the High Street being used by on occasion double deckers and dropped kerbs being used as passing places.

Chair Orr noted that the Parish Council wish to preserve the bus service and will do whatever is necessary to maintain it.

Richard Gascoine suggested that a compromise could be to paint the kerb yellow outside Corner Cottage, to give bus drivers a point of interest when turning. County Cllr Ray Gooding confirmed that this would require a traffic regulation order, but agreed that it would be preferable to reflective strips on the fence of a listed building. County Cllr Ray Gooding agreed to look into getting the kerb painted as a fast tracked safety measure. Following further discussions the Parish Council agreed that the safest place for the bus to turn is at Cornells Lane as it is wider, has better visibility and there is more room to manoeuvre. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the owner of Corner Cottage to check they have no residual concerns, and report back to Stephenson's. Stephenson's representatives extended their apologies to the home owner and thanked the Parish Council for their time.

02.21.05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

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02.21.06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Ray Gooding detailed;

- i. Confirmation of a £520 grant to contribute towards the salt storage structure.
- ii. A £2000 grant has been given to Uttlesford Foodbank to assist with fuel poverty.
- iii. A scheme is being established to resolve the issues at North Hall Road, one of the problems has been the persistent removal of the road closure signs at either ends of the closure.
- iv. Following a meeting with Chair Orr and the Clerk last week, County Cllr Ray Gooding agreed to set up a further meeting with Tom McCarthy and Widdington Recycling to improve relations with the operator.
- v. Covid infection rates are dropping rapidly in Essex, but are still at four times the rate they were when we went into tier two in October.
- vi. NHS reports show that Essex Hospitals have had no admissions from seasonal flu this year.

County Cllr Gooding left the meeting.

02.21.07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr Neil Hargreaves reported;

- i. £500 has been allocated from his ward initiative fund to contribute towards the Village Hall oil tank protective screening.
- ii. Uttlesford's draft annual budget went to scrutiny this week, will go to cabinet next week and full council the week after. Despite the pressures Covid has put on the Council the books have been balanced and the proposed increase to a band D property is £5/ year.
- iii. Policy S7, protection of the countryside is particularly relevant to rural applications, and it's weight has just been proven by the recent failed appeal by a particularly aggressive big developer who often appeals, and in this case, has to pay all the associated costs of his failed appeal.
- iv. The head of planning at UDC has said that UTT/21/0043/PAQ3 | Prior Notification of change of use of agricultural building to 4 no. dwellings cannot be called into Committee and will be a delegated decision. Our planning consultant disagrees and District Cllr Hargreaves agreed to search for precedent examples where applications have been called in.
- v. The officer responsible for organising the resurfacing of Hamel Way has confirmed that residents with issues paying their contribution, can be assisted by Uttlesford District Council. Residents could agree to co-ordinate a small payment each year to build up a fund.

02.21.08 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

- i. i. A thank you letter has been received from CAB following receipt of the £200 donation.
- ii. The precept demand form has been returned to UDC.
- iii. Letters have been despatched to Uttlesford District Council, Essex County Council, our MP Kemi Badenoch, the Environment Agency and the Mineral Planning Authority, requesting support in ensuring that Widdington Recycling are acting appropriately and within the law.
- iv. The PC insurance have confirmed that if the playground lease expires, if an incident was to occur on the equipment, providing the risk assessments and inspections are continually updated the policy will pick up any liabilities as the equipment belongs to the Parish Council.
- v. I have received the Stansted Airport Community Trust Grant from the Village Hall Committee to help fund the new swings in the play park.
- vi. County Cllr Ray Gooding has requested temporary icy roads signs are put in place outside Bridgetts/High Street as an emergency measure, particularly while the Anglia Water issue is resolved, and also on Beadle Lane at the broken manhole in the verge.
- vii. County Cllr Ray Gooding has requested that Essex Highways extend the gritting scheme to the new bus turning point, although this may be resisted as although it is necessary, it is not classed as a PR1 route.
- viii. Newport Parish Council have confirmed that their similar road resurfacing undertaken cost £7885 + VAT - The contractor was JF Knight, contact David Rutland.

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02.21.09 FINANCE

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

Cheques; 101290 - Gardner Planning - Malt Place - £750.00
101291 - Clerk's salary January - £404.58
101292 - Clerk's expenses January - £43.16

were approved for payment..

02.21.10 PLANNING

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

i. 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 - No objections.

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

Non material amendment to UTT/20/0440/HHF - Eaves amendment to northern elevation- No objections

iii. UTT/21/0211/DOC - Land At Pond Mead Cottage, High Street, Widdington.

Application to discharge condition 2 (hard/soft landscaping), 4 (details of materials) and 8 (visibility splay) attached to UTT/20/0029/FUL and amended by UTT/21/0108/NMA - No objections.

iv. UTT/21/0198/DOC - Fleur De Lys, High Street, Widdington

Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials) attached to UTT/17/2211/LB - No objections.

v. 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 - No objections.

vi. UTT/20/2977/FUL - Midsummer House, High Street, Widdington

Variation of condition condition 2 (approved drawings) and removal of condition 6 (provision of footway) attached to planning permission UTT/20/1213/FUL for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no. dwellings - No objections.

To note the following planning decisions;

vii. UTT/21/0108/NMA - Pond Mead Cottage, High Street, Widdington

Non material amendments to UTT/20/0029/FUL including- amendments to the proposed windows and doors, canopy and vehicular gates by adding a pedestrian gate - Approved.

02.21.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING

Chair Orr confirmed the need for a further meeting with County Cllr Ray Gooding, Tom McCarthy and the clerk, to establish the proposed consultant communication group with Widdington Recycling to try to ensure a good working relationship for all parties. The clerk highlighted the points raised by Tom McCarthy and it was agreed that the Environment Agency would be invited to join the proposed meeting.

Cllr Firmin noted that the letter does not mention the fire at Widdington Recycling on 01/11/2020 at 12.15am.

Cllr Southcott noted that the lights at the site continue to be on outside of the agreed hours and that a diary should be established to record this and also noise issues. A resident agreed to undertake this task and forward information to the clerk.

A member of the public asked whether the planning enforcement complaint form on the Mineral Planning Authority website should be circulated to residents to assist with the reporting of issues.

Chair Orr questioned the suggested lapse of the S106 agreement and a member of the public agreed to clarify whether S106 can be moved in this manner with the company who produced the original report.

It was agreed that the Council need to clarify with Tom McCarthy how the 7.5 tonne weight limit can be enforced.

02.21.12 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS ON CORNELLS LANE

The clerk confirmed that the only TPOs on Cornells Lane are;

G9 - 7 austrian pine and 2 larch - OS field 0037, Cornells Lane, next to Weft House

G10 - 2 austrian pine and 1 spruce - Broad Leys, Cornells Lane

T29 - 1 lime - Leylands, Cornells Lane

UDC have provided a copy of the document detailing all TPOs in Widdington, which has been circulated to the Council.

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02.21.13 OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Salt store - ready made solutions to be investigated by Cllr Firmin.
- ii. Oil tank protection.

02.21.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 4th March, 2021, on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.42pm

DRAFT