

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th December, 2019 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 3 members of the public, District Cllr Anthony Gerard and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

12.19.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

12.19.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

12.09.03 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Apologies for absence received from interested party.

12.19.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Chair Maria Orr declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.19.11vii as a neighbour.

12.19.05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

12.19.06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

12.19.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None submitted.

12.19.08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr Gerard reported;

- i. The Local Plan result has been delayed until January 2020, due to purdah.
- ii. UDC have a meeting 16/12/19 at 5pm to discuss large council investment as a result of significant cut backs to council finances. UDC will have a £3.5 million deficit in three years, which the Investment Board hopes to get back through good, long term investments with minimal risk.
- iii. The Stansted Airport planning application has been put on hold as a result of the election, and the s106 is currently being redrafted for presentation to MAGS. The Judicial Review lead by Stop Stansted Expansion took place 12-14th November.

12.19.09 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

- i. 08/11/19 ECC claimed that the 2 large pot holes on Beadle Lane reported to EH ref 2638772 did not warrant repair, requested support from County Cllr Gooding to get the holes filled.
- ii. The fallen tree by the railway bridge was reported to EH ref2639474.
- iii. £18,900.00 has been received in donations from residents towards the current planning appeal, alongside. £1282.50 donated from sales of the 2020 Widdington Calendar. The Parish Council extends grateful thanks to all residents for their generosity and tireless work to raise such an incredible sum.
- iv. Quotations were requested from Alliance Asbestos Services Ltd from Swaffham and R&F Insulations Ltd in

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Southminster.

v. Wicksteed have confirmed that the swings can be installed before the March deadline for the grant. I have placed the order and am awaiting contact from the Installations Department Manager.

vi. District Cllr Hargreaves reports that he cannot justify calling application UTT/19/2643/FUL - Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington in, and notes that the houses can be added to the list of houses permitted since 2011 and quoted against the 15. On grounds of the village is continuing to do its bit towards the housing supply. Quote is para 3.39 of emerging Local Plan which says type B village with no Plan housing allocation and only to take development of a scale to reinforce provision of service to their own community

vii. Following the postponement of the councillor training due to illness at EALC the following dates are available to reschedule; February - 4th, 10th – 14th, 17th – 21st (this is half term though), 24th
March - 2nd – 6th, 9th – 13th.

12.19.10 FINANCE

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

Cheques - 101220 - Clerk`s salary November 2019 - £311.47

101221 - clerk`s expenses November 2019 - £82.52

were agreed for payment and signed by Chair Orr and Cllr Hudson.

ii. The circulated draft budget was considered item by item, and it was resolved that the clerk`s salary would be adjusted to incorporate a 2% rise, legal costs would increase to £12,500 and that the clerk would circulate an updated budget for agreement at the January Parish Council meeting.

iii. It was resolved that the precept would be set at the January Parish Council meeting.

12.19.11 PLANNING

The Parish Council agreed to submit the following comments to Uttlesford District Council relating to planning;

i. 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). No objections.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact the planning department at UDC and request that sufficient time is granted to the Parish Councils to consider planning applications.

The following planning decisions were noted;

ii. UTT/19/2447/LB - Old Forge, Wood End, Widdington

Demolition of covered way and erection of single storey rear extension. Relocation of oil storage tank - Approved.

ii. UTT/19/2446/HHF - Old Forge, Wood End, Widdington

Demolition of covered way and erection of single storey rear extension. Relocation of oil storage tank - Approved.

iv. UTT/19/2310/OP - Meadow Croft, Church Lane, Widdington

Outline application with, all matters reserved except for access and layout, for the demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with new dwelling including associated garaging and access arrangements - Approved.

v. UTT/19/0861/FUL - Thistley Hall, Cornells Lane

Demolition of elements of 1960s Piggeries. Alteration, conversion and extension of three outbuildings. New stable block and all weather arena - Approved.

vi. UTT/19/0862/LB - Thistley Hall, Cornells Lane

Demolition of elements of 1960s Piggeries. Alteration, conversion and extension of three outbuildings - Approved.

County Cllr Ray Gooding arrived.

vii. It was noted that residents are welcome to attend the planning appeal hearing 3226765 to show their support for the Parish Council`s objections to application UTT/18/0885/FUL. The Parish Council will be represented by three Planning Consultants, Parish Councillors will be in attendance on both days and a number of local residents have prepared speeches detailing their personal evidence that will be of value to the Inspector, as agreed with the Parish Council`s Consultants.

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12.19.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Ray Gooding confirmed that he has had extensive discussions with officers at Essex County Council regarding Widdington Recycling and has requested that enforcement action is taken regarding the lighting. County Cllr Gooding requested that complaints from residents are forwarded to him to enable him to demonstrate the size of the issue.

12.19.12 BURNS LUNCH

Following the lack of availability of the chef, it was resolved that Councillors would liaise with contacts to try to secure a replacement chef to ensure the event can go ahead.

12.19.13 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING

It was agreed that the clerk would request a further site visit to Widdington Recycling on 18/01/20, 9-10am, to discuss traffic through the village and lighting concerns.

12.19.14 HAMEL WAY GARAGES

It was resolved that the Clerk would liaise with Marcus Watts at UDC Environmental Health, and subject to his comments, proceed with the Asbestos Management Survey as per the quotation received.

12.19.15 PLAY PARK

Cllr Hudson reported that the wooden play bus has been so badly damaged that she has shut the play park on safety grounds.

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the play park must remain shut until further notice on safety grounds.

The clerk will request a quotation to remove all equipment requiring works from the play park to be considered at the January Council Meeting alongside the quotation received to complete the works highlighted by the 2019 ROSPA report if no public assistance is forthcoming in the interim.

The previously agreed installation of new swings will proceed.

12.19.16 EMERGENCY PLAN

It was agreed that first aid training for the volunteers would be confirmed at the January Council Meeting.

12.19.17 OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Extension required for planning application UTT/19/2957/HHF.
- ii. Land owner responsibilities - tree update.

12.19.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Parish Council Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 2nd January, 2020

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Chair;
02/01/2020