

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd January, 2020 at 8.00pm

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

In Attendance 2 members of the public, District Cllr Neil Hargreaves and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

01.20.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

01.20.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from District Cllr Anthony Gerard and Cllr Ian Southcott.

01.20.03 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

None.

01.20.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

01.20.05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public noted the £17,000 that the Parochial Church Council pay to the diocese each year and detailed the recent £40,000 spent repairing the clock tower and £1100 in 2019 on churchyard expenses. It was noted that the Parish Council has historically made donations to the Church, and a request was made for the Parish Council to consider making a further donation in 2020.

Works on the bunkers at the road entrance to Widdington Recycling were mentioned and the Parish Council resolved to discuss the works, alongside light shuttering issues and the sites long term plans at the site visit 18/01/20. Chair Orr resolved to request that County Cllr Ray Gooding also attends. Cllrs agreed to forward issues to be raised to the clerk to compile a list for circulation prior to the site visit.

Concerns were raised regarding articulated lorries coming through the village early in the morning and the continued absence of the vehicle width restriction signs on Hollow Road that disappeared some time ago. The missing signs have been reported to Essex Highways on several occasions, but it was agreed that the clerk would again request that the signs are reinstated and also contact County Cllr Kevin Bentley and Rissa Long. The Parish Council received an offer to help raise funds for the play park, which was gratefully accepted.

01.20.06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

01.20.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None submitted.

01.20.08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Cllr Hargreaves reported;

- i. The Stansted Airport planning application decision is anticipated this month.
- ii. UDC have only just received information from the government regarding the New Homes Bonus (currently £8000 per new house built) but is in limbo awaiting a business rates update. The £3.5million per year deficit

Widdington Parish Council

will be reduced by the large new currently undisclosed investment agreed by the District Council in December, which should bring in £1.1million per year.

iii. UDC's corporate plan has been released and sets out plans for the new few years, including putting residents first, and encouraging Town and Parish Councils to better represent their communities.

01.20.09 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

- i. Flooding at railway bridge, Hollow Road reported to Essex Highways 16/12/19 ref 2644126.
- ii. The play park has been padlocked and sign posted closed since 08/12/19. Installation date for new swings w/c 10th Feb 2020.
- iii. Total donations received of £20,282.50 towards the planning appeal costs (£27,421.00 to date).
- iv. Parish and District Councillors and dozens of residents attended the planning appeal hearing over two days, such a high turn out really demonstrated to the Inspector the strength of local opposition to this planning application. The Inspector granted the appellant's team 10 working days to revise and circulate the s.106 conditions to UDC and WPC's planning consultant, who then had until 2nd January 2020 to return comments to the Planning Inspector, who expects to be able to reach a decision by the end of January 2020.
- v. Site visit agreed with Widdington Recycling 18/01/20, 9-10am.
- vi. Sewerage leak on Springhill was reported to Anglian Water 20/12/19, who attended at 9pm and claim they found no evidence of sewage. They did not want the photographic evidence but did agree to reattend. The Environment Agency Incident Hotline asked me to forward the photos and said that they will speak with Anglian Water regarding the sewage.
- vii. The latest potholes to appear on Beadle Lane have been reported to Essex Highways 31/12/19 ref 2646211.

01.20.10 FINANCE

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

- Cheques - 101222 - Railton TPC Ltd - planning appeal - £2441.90
101223 - Gardner Planning - planning appeal - £9094.44
101024 - Alison Farmer Associates - planning appeal - £4590.00
101025 - Amanda Lindsell - padlock set - £8.50
101026 - Clerk's salary December 2019 - £295.35
101027 - Clerk's expenses December 2019 - £72.46
101028 - HMRC quarterly PAYE payment - £279.60
101029- Mr T Harding - grass cutting 2019- £1250.00

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

ii. The 2020/21 budget was agreed as £24,841.71.

iii. The 2020/21 precept was agreed as £25,000.00.

01.20.11 PLANNING

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

- i. UTT/19/2968/LB - 5 South Green, High Street, Widdington
Erection of two storey rear extension - The Parish Council do not object to this application but maintain and reiterate their concerns raised to the recent refused planning application on this site UTT/19/2439/LB, regarding access issues and loss of light for the neighbouring property (In contravention of ULP Policy GEN 1 and 5) The Council notes that access to the site is only wheel barrow width, and concerns include impact on access to the village for residents, damage to The Green by delivery vehicles on the narrow street site and lack of storage area for building materials.
- ii. UTT/19/2957/HHF - 5 South Green, High Street, Widdington
Erection of two storey rear extension - The Parish Council do not object to this application but maintain and reiterate their concerns raised to the recent refused planning application on this site UTT/19/2438/HHF regarding access issues and loss of light for the neighbouring property (In contravention of ULP Policy GEN 1 and 5) The Council notes that access to the site is only wheel barrow width, and concerns include impact on

Widdington Parish Council

access to the village for residents, damage to The Green by delivery vehicles on the narrow street site and lack of storage area for building materials.

iii. The following appeal dismissal was noted; UTT/18/3523/FUL - Land rear of Malt Place. demolish existing agricultural buildings and replace with four detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.

01.20.12 BURNS LUNCH

Following the lack of availability of the chefs, and as the Council, despite making several enquiries, has been unable to find an available alternative chef, it was agreed that the Burns Night Lunch will not go ahead, and that the budget for the event will be used to help fund a whole community event on 21st March, 2020, as part of the Village Hall 20 year celebration. It was agreed that Cllr Brookman and Webb will present an event plan to the Council at the February Council meeting.

District Cllr Hargreaves left the meeting.

01.20.13 HAMEL WAY GARAGES

It was resolved that the Clerk would proceed with the Asbestos Management Survey as per the quotation received.

01.20.14 PLAY PARK

i. It was agreed that Chair Orr would create a survey to be despatched to residents regarding the future of the play park.

ii. It was agreed that Cllr Firmin would co-ordinate a working party with interested parties to remove items highlighted as high risk (red) in the ROSPA report and review items highlighted as medium risk (orange) to see what can be fixed. Widdington Recycling will be approached to provide a skip for waste items during the site visit 18/01/20 and the stainless steel slide will be offered on the village Facebook page for a small donation.

01.20.15 EMERGENCY PLAN

It was agreed that the clerk will chase the GDPR form with EALC prior to circulation, and that the electronic version of the emergency plan requires updating prior to printing. First aid training for the volunteers will be confirmed at the February Council Meeting.

01.20.16 LITTER PICK

The Litter Pick date was agreed as Sunday 2nd February, 10am meet at the Village Hall. All welcome. Clerk to collect bags from Council Offices.

01.20.17 DOG WASTE BIN REPLACEMENT

It was agreed that the clerk would clarify whether the District Council would replace the damaged dog waste bin at Wood End, and if not order a replacement.

01.20.18 OTHER BUSINESS

i. Cllr Brookman to forward details of the dead/damaged trees on Springhill that require clearance, to the clerk to liaise with Essex Highways.

ii. The Council agreed that they would like to continue with Mr Harding cutting the village green in 2020.

iii. Christmas tree lights electricity - clerk to check historic invoices.

iv. Clerk to request EALC send out a request for website recommendations and investigate lead times on websites circulated.

01.20.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Parish Council Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 6th February, 2020

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

Chair;
02/01/2020