

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 17th January, 2022 at 8.00pm

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

In Attendance 6 members of the public, Katrina Levy and Amanda Lindsell, Clerks to the Council.

01.22.01EGM CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting, introduced Katrina Levy as the new Parish Clerk and thanked the outgoing clerk Amanda Lindsell for her continued support during the handover period.

01.22.02EGM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from District Cllr Judy Emanuel.

01.22.03EGM DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

01.22.04EGM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

01.22.05EGM CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Lynn Harris and Stephen Smith were co-opted onto the Parish Council and completed the Notices of Co-Option and Acceptance of Office which were then signed by the Chair and Clerk as appropriate. Chair Maria Orr welcomed Cllrs Harris and Smith onto the Council.

01.22.06EGM PLANNING

i. The following response was agreed for return to Uttlesford District Council regarding:

Planning application UTT/21/3481/FUL – Green Barn, Shipton Farm, Springhill, Widdington

Creation of outside parking area including the provision of earth bunding and landscaping (Deadline for responses 03/02/2022.) The Parish Council agreed to object to this application, request that District Councillor Hargreaves calls this application in to Committee should they be minded to approve it, and that the new clerk would approach Bruce Bamber from Railton TPC Ltd and Alison Farmer from Alison Farmer Associates to provide objections to this application as appropriate based on concerns raised by residents in response to the application and by the Parish Council as detailed below but not limited to;

- a. The visual impact on the entrance to the village and the destruction of a beautiful village view and amenity.
- b. This commercial entity is not appropriate in this rural setting, and the Parish Council has been unable to identify the current permissions for what is detailed as Shipton Bridge Industrial Park within the application, which the Parish Council have not been notified of.
- c. The regular and unresolved flooding of the site and its entrance remains a serious issue with residents reporting in excess of 40 years' experience of unresolved flooding on this site.
- d. The potential for the stream to be infected by diesel run off.
- e. The use of crushed aggregates and their related minimal life span that will result in unacceptable and ongoing deposits of mud and gravel on the main road into the village.
- f. The entrances and exits are not clearly identified within the application, but will involve vehicles crossing the highway, causing safety issues.
- g. There are numerous inaccurate or incomplete items within the application, including, but not limited to the lack of wildlife assessment or visual impact, the detailed 3-foot hedge that will take more than a decade to create an effective screen, alongside several highway issues and the factually incorrect statement that there is not a stream within 20m of the site.

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- h. The use of neighbouring Bridge Meadow's road survey, in breach of copyright, highlights inadequate visibility splays for vehicles travelling at 60mph, which are overlooked. The landowner gives permission for Parish Council appointed contractors to access their land as required.
- i. Concerns regarding the road's rat run through to Debden, alongside the limited width of the carriageway and the additional traffic created by vehicles unable to go under Newport bridge.
- j. Air and noise pollution is an issue for neighbouring properties, and the Council notes the safety issues that the proposal raises with one vehicle entry and others queueing externally from the site, creating a hazard for other road users on a narrow, poorly maintained road.
- k. The proposed road use is not acceptable, the bridge is not suitable, the road is essentially single track, the weight of vehicle movements, the traffic movements at unsociable hours and the dangerous corner remain relevant concerns for the Parish Council.

The **Council agreed** that that time constraints imposed by Planning Committee makes it difficult to seek three competitive quotes for this work and that the Council had previously identified and rated Bruce Bamber's and Alison Farmer's work on other planning applications.

ii. Planning appeal UTT/21/0545/FUL - Land to the south of Cornells Lane, Widdington

Proposed single dwelling on land adjacent to the Old Piggery. Alternative scheme to that approved under UTT/20/0711/FUL (Deadline for response 24/01/2022) Vice-Chair Southcott confirmed that he has read the associated appeal documents and noted that the appeal is based on interpretation of guidance and comparisons with other properties in the village. The **Parish Council agreed** that they **maintain their objection** to this application that was acknowledged by the case officer in their refusal and that they have **no new information to submit to the Planning Inspectorate**.

01.22.07EGM OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Widdington Recycling ECC Meeting 28/01/2022 Chair Orr agreed that she is happy to write the Council submission but may not be able to attend. Vice-Chair Southcott agreed to confirm availability.
- ii. Jubilee Celebration Cllr Firmin confirmed that a resident has offered to help organise. Jubilee Party Committee February agenda, Cllr Brookman agreed to lead, Cllrs Harris, Smith and Webb offered to assist, alongside a further village volunteer.
- iii. Emergency Plan, February agenda update.
- iv. The outgoing Clerk noted that a memory stick with all Parish Council files has been handed to new Clerk Katrina Levy and Chair Orr.
- v. Cllr Webb confirmed the Parish Council Liaison Forum 24/01/2022 on Zoom with Peter Holt and Chair Orr agreed to also attend if available, with planning and highways as agreed topics to raise.
- vi. Councillor Jill Brookman announced her resignation from the Parish Council and Chair Orr led thanks to Cllr Brookman for stepping in, helping out and leading on many items that have been transformative for the Council.
- vii. North Hall Road update.

01.22.08EGM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 3rd February 2022, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 20:50