

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 8.00pm**

<b>Present</b>	Vice-Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr Jill Brookman and Cllr Maggs Webb.
<b>In Attendance</b>	District Cllr Neil Hargreaves, 4 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

### **01.22.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Vice-Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **01.22.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Chair Maria Orr, Cllr Chris Firmin and District Cllr Judy Emanuel.

### **01.22.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

### **01.22.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **01.22.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

None submitted.

### **01.22.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

District Councillor Neil Hargreaves reported several changes of personnel at UDC, including the new Chief Executive Peter Holt, who has been in post nearly six months. Currently there is an interim head of planning Tracey Coleman, but recruitment is underway for a newly created post Head of Planning which has been elevated to the same level as the Head of Finance role. A couple of cabinet roles which were previously mirroring Essex County Council functions have been removed as there are now two County Councillors within the party, and roles have instead been created for specific topic matters such as enforcement. District Councillor Hargreaves confirmed that he is now Deputy Council Leader and has been attending government webinars which have highlighted how the government regard the District Council as their arm for delivery, although they only provide budgetary support annually.

*Two members of the public arrived.*

### **01.22.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

### **01.22.08 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

- i. The replacement waste bin for South Green has been delivered to Cllr Southcott.
- ii. Following reports that the defibrillator alarm was going off advice was sought from local paramedics who advised that the pads had been opened and were therefore unusable, that the battery was low and that the storage facility is in a state of disrepair. It was suggested that it was a better economic decision to purchase a more modern defibrillator and storage unit through a Cambridge charity and enquiries are ongoing. District Cllr Hargreaves noted that the nearest operational defibrillator is sited at Newport Village Hall
- iii. The Precept Demand Form has been submitted to Uttlesford District Council ahead of the deadline.
- iv. The collapsed stile and wobbly posts have again been reported to Essex Highways (13/12/2021) ref 2753840. Essex Highways have this time reported that it does not fall within their remit and that they have passed the fault to the relevant organisation for their attention.

# Widdington Parish Council

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A resident has reported further damage to The Green by an HGV attempting to turn round at the entrance to Church Lane. The resident has requested that a "Not suitable for HGVs" sign is sited at the left turn by The Rectory.

*Two further members of the public arrived.*

## **01.22.09 PLANNING**

District Cllr Hargreaves suggested that there may be value in the Parish Council reviewing the Appellants statement of case (UTT/21/0545/FUL – Land to the south of Cornells Lane, Widdington) to check for inaccuracies which the Parish Council might wish to draw to the Inspector's attention. Vice-Chair Southcott agreed to review the appellants statement of case and the Council agreed that if any issues became apparent these would be highlighted to the Planning Inspectorate.

## **01.22.10 FINANCE**

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

Invoices; Clerk's salary December 2021 - £350.45

Clerk's expenses December 2021 - £50.32

Gardner Planning – inv 074.6 – Widdington Recycling - £1200.00

HMRC – quarterly PAYE payment - £231.80

They were approved for payment.

## **01.22.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING**

Vice Chair Southcott resolved to liaise with Chair Orr regarding attendance at the Planning Hearing on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. District Cllr Hargreaves suggested that County Cllr Gooding should speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **01.22.12 MEMORIAL FOOTPATH SIGN**

The Council agreed that they were supportive of the proposed memorial wooden sign to be installed on the footpath that leads down to America Brook, although permission would be required from the landowner. Vice-Chair Southcott resolved to liaise with the family to identify the exact location and associated landowner.

## **01.22.13 DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Council agreed to purchase a new defibrillator through a local charity. The G5 Cardiac Science Powerheart defibrillator and polycarbonate locked cabinet is available for £1400 through the charity and should be available before the end of January.

Councillor Brookman offered to take on responsibility for maintenance of the defibrillator, which will also be registered with The Circuit, a national defibrillator database.

## **01.22.14 VILLAGE EVENT**

The Council agreed that they would like to organise a village event in 2022, but due to the current covid uncertainty would defer decision making until the February Council meeting.

## **01.22.15 OTHER BUSINESS**

i. Additional planning application received, deadline for responses 03/02/2022. EGM proposed 17/01/2022

ii. Signage at entrance to Church Lane to dissuade HGVs.

iii. Abandoned car by America Brook/ River Cam on the footpath opposite the turning to Swaynes Hall- Clerk to report to UDC Enforcement. Councillor Brookman resolved to take a look and obtain photograph, car reg etc  
iv. Councillor Webb confirmed that she has emailed County Councillor Gooding regarding support for the wood collection but has not yet received a response.

v. Councillor Webb confirmed that she is available to attend the Neighbouring Parish Meetings.

vi. Co-option of new Councillors.

## **01.22.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Meeting closed at 20.55

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