

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8 July 2021 at 8.00pm

Present Cllr Jill Brookman, Cllr Ian Southcott and Cllr Maggs Webb.

In Attendance District Cllr Neil Hargreaves, 6 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

07.21.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Vice-Chair Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

07.21.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Chair Maria Orr and District Councillor Judy Emanuel. Apologies for delayed arrival were received and noted from Cllr Chris Firmin and County Cllr Ray Gooding.

07.21.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

07. 21.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns about ongoing speeding on Springhill going in and out of the village, claiming that 95% of traffic is travelling over the speed limit.

Cllr Chris Firmin arrived.

Residents of Springhill also commented that the speeding has steadily got worse, and that the historic speed trap was ineffectively set up at the village hall, which is not where the issue is, people come off the village green and accelerate.

Vice-Chair Southcott noted that Widdington Parish Council (WPC) had invited an Essex Highways representative to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to talk about lowering the speed limit within the village, but nobody had been available to attend.

A resident who has lived in the village for over twenty years and has noticed the horrendous deterioration in terms asked the Parish Council to monitor speed on the High Street, similar to the motion tubes recently used on Cornells Lane.

Cllr Firmin noted that the Parish Council have acted in response to requests from residents for monitoring on Cornells Lane but have not received requests in recent times relating to Springhill.

District Cllr Hargreaves suggested that the Parish Council raises a formal request to the Essex Highways Panel (EHP) present any evidence, including a petition and request speed monitoring at the next Parish Council meeting. Vice-Chair Southcott requested support from the residents present in creating a petition requesting that WPC take action regarding speeding and volume of traffic on Springhill.

A member of the public detailed his planning application for four houses on land to the north of Cornells Lane, including a new footpath connecting the High Street to the east of the site and the creation of a third of an acre ecology area. The resident requested Parish Council support of their application.

County Cllr Ray Gooding arrived.

A member of the public noted the granting of retrospective planning permission at Widdington Recycling, expressed dismay that Essex County Council have allowed the situation to develop as it has and requested that WPC ask what can be done to speed up the restoration of the site.

07.21.05 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

None.

07.21.06 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Widdington Parish Council

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

07.21.07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Ray Gooding detailed a visit to Widdington Recycling (WR) in recent weeks and noted his disappointment in WR's reluctance to set a date to meet with WPC. It is understood that submission of their next planning application is imminent. County Cllr Gooding noted the need for a further meeting with WR and Tom McCarthy. Vice-Chair Southcott noted WPC's concerns that ECC's management of the site has not been sufficiently robust, ECC don't appear to have conducted the monitoring they are required to carry out and WPC should be able to rely on ECC to do their job. County Cllr Gooding agreed that enforcement has been significantly less than it should in recent years.

07.21.08 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS'S REPORT

District Councillors report attached, appendix one.

District Cllr Hargreaves also noted that UDC have taken the Stansted Airport appeal to judicial review, which is a request to the court to consider whether the inspectors considered the evidence fairly. Additionally, the airport have unfairly applied for costs in contravention with the process available to them.

07.21.09 FINANCE

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

Cheques; 101313 – Y Morton – Internal Audit - £75.00

101314 – BHIB Ltd – annual insurance - £590.36

101315 – A Lindsell – clerk's salary June 2021 - £303.38

101316 – A Lindsell – clerk's expenses June 2021 - £46.28

101317 – HMRC – quarterly payment - £324.80

were approved for payment.

07.21.10 PLANNING

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

i. UTT/21/2137/FUL – Land to the north of Cornells Lane, Widdington

Proposed erection of four detached dwellings and associated works (29/07/2021) – WPC agreed to object to the application, to seek quotes from planning consultants to represent the Parish Council and to ask District Cllr Hargreaves to call the application in to committee.

ii. UTT/21/1953/HHF – Thatched Cottage, High Street, Widdington

Minor alterations to existing garage including windows and cladding – revision to UTT/20/0852/HHF (refused but allowed on appeal under ref APP/C1570/W/20/3255472) – No objections

The following planning decisions were noted;

iii. UTT/21/1544/CLP - 30 Hamel Way, Widdington

Proposed loft conversion with rear dormer and roof lights – Approved.

iv. UTT/21/1509/FUL - Land west of The Willows, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Erection of 2 no. dwellings, garage and associated access (amended scheme to that approved under planning permission UTT/18/1806/FUL) – Approved with conditions.

v. UTT/21/1375/HHF - Ashcroft, Wood End, Widdington

Single storey rear extension to infill an existing patio area – Approved with conditions.

07.21.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING

Following extensive discussion on the possible merits of noise monitoring, County Cllr Gooding resolved to discuss it further with Tom McCarthy and report back, and additionally request the operator to provide copies of accurate reports. WPC agreed that they would also request copies of noise monitoring reports conducted in the last two years from ECC, to see whether it reaches their expected standards.

The Parish Council also agreed that the clerk would seek quotations for noise monitoring. District Cllr Hargreaves noted that UDC's Environmental Health team have equipment and agreed to provide contact details.

07.21.12 OTHER BUSINESS

- i. The Village Hall should open the week beginning 19/07/2021.
- ii. A member of the public has contacted the Parish Council raising concerns regarding a tree marked as unsafe by the landowners of the footpath behind Meadow Cottage. The landowner confirmed that the tree is completely on the boundary and negotiations are underway to arrange a 50/50 split of costs to remove the tree.
- iii. There is a large vote Conservative placard in the Village Hall car park, County Cllr Gooding agreed to arrange collection.

07.21.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 5th August 2021, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.24.

DRAFT