

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th March, 2021 at 8.00pm

Present Chair Maria Orr, Cllr Jill Brookman, Cllr Chris Firmin, Cllr Margaret Hudson, Cllr Ian Southcott.

In Attendance One member of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

03.21.01EGMII CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

03.21.02EGMII APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

03.21.03EGMII DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None.

03. 21.04EGMII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Maggs Webb and a member of the public joined the meeting.

A member of the public noted that his letter to Tom McCarthy, Principal Planning Officer at Essex County Council (23/02/2021) has received no response or acknowledgement.

03.21.05EGMII WIDDINGTON RECYCLING (part 1)

i. Chair Orr confirmed that following a recent meeting with the principal planner at Essex County Council and representatives from the Environment Agency and the Landfill Permit Regulatory Officer, planning permission has still not been granted for the large building built at Widdington Recycling, but a decision is expected in the coming days or weeks. During the meeting ECC confirmed that the section 106 requirement has lapsed and no longer applies as a result of a planning application approved as part of a 2007 appeal. ECC also confirmed that they have no control over how vehicles access the site following a 2016 approval that included the removal of the condition about turning right out of the site.

Widdington Parish Council were advised that noise and light pollution, and traffic on the skyline will be assessed at a site meeting scheduled for 08/04/2021. ECC confirmed that Widdington Recycling have not complied with the required submission of noise reports, and stated that they have received no complaints relating to the site other than those raised by Widdington Parish Council.

ECC advised the Council that there is likely to be an additional planning application submitted mid 2021 to extend the life of the recycling plant.

The Parish Council agreed that the S106 requires reinstating, alongside the restriction on turning right out of the site. Appropriate light and noise conditioning is critical and must be included and enforced. In addition, appropriate landscaping around the current building (if approved) should be implemented under any future planning application to screen the building.

ii. The Parish Council resolved to submit Freedom of Information requests to the Environment Agency, to access their site inspection reports and current permit details.

iii. The Parish Council resolved to provide an update to the author of the recent review of operations at Widdington Recycling, and request a response.

iv. The Council resolved to engage a planning consultant to respond to future planning applications at this site.

03.21.06EGMII OTHER BUSINESS

i. Grant funding opportunities to be advertised on the notice board.

ii. Further complaints have been made regarding the lack of reinstatement to the verges on Cornells Lane, by Gigaclear - clerk to pursue.

iii. The unexpected closure of Hollow Road 15/03/2021 by Essex Highways while they undertook repairs resulted in a significant number of Widdington Recycling vehicles accessing the site through the village. This has resulted in further damage to verges and several complaints received by the Council. The Council noted

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that it is unfortunate that neither they, nor Widdington Recycling were given advance notice of this work, which could have resulted in better management of the problem.

iv. The Essex Minerals Local Plan Review Consultation runs 18/03/2021-29/04/2021.

Chair Orr suspended the meeting for part two, and the public left the meeting.

03.21.05EGMII WIDDINGTON RECYCLING (part 2)

Essex County Council have advised that they have received no complaints from the public relating to Widdington Recycling although many complaints have been received by Widdington Parish Council.

ECC have requested that residents wishing to submit complaints should do so directly.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Approved as accurate;
01/04/2021