

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th November, 2020 at 8.00pm**

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

**In Attendance** 5 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

### **11.20.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **11.20.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and noted from District Cllr Neil Hargreaves.

### **11.20.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

### **11. 20.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public detailed his concerns that planning is becoming a major issue for the parish, claiming that it feels like the village is being attacked on all sides by developers.

*County Cllr Ray Gooding joined the meeting.*

A member of the public noted concerns with Uttlesford District Council's handling of planning application UTT/20/1507/HHF. Changes to the original application resulted in an extension for return of comments, however UDC went ahead with the delegated officers report and approved the application before the deadline for comments, and did not consult with or consider residents objections. The member of the public is pursuing the handling of this application and asked the Parish Council to not submit comments of no objection, but just not respond to the application.

Chair Orr confirmed that the Parish Council discussed this and every planning application, and no objections were raised within the discussion. The Parish Council do their best to represent the views of the village, and use the village questionnaire and design statement for guidance. It would be beneficial if residents make their views relating to planning applications known to the Clerk or the Parish Council, either by letter, email or telephone, or by attendance at Parish Council meetings. The Clerk noted that it would not be good practise to not respond to planning applications when no objections were raised.

### **11.20.05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the October Parish Council Meetings were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chair Orr authorised the Clerk to sign the minutes on her behalf.

### **11.20.06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Cllr Ray Gooding detailed;

- i. Essex County Council's application to go into tier 2 was based on evidence at the time that cases were doubling on a 3 day basis, not the reported headlines regarding the financial incentives.
  - ii. £4.4million has been provided by the government, with half going to support the welfare of residents and half to support businesses.
  - iii. The government also provided funding to support the Holiday Hunger projects, and ECC continues to target the support those most in need. Holiday Hunger will continue through to summer 2021, and during the recent half term there were 33 centres in Essex offering activities and lunch for those in need.
- Food banks and CAB have both also received significant funding to ensure they can continue their valued work, particularly CAB who are instrumental in helping people with debt management at this time.

# Widdington Parish Council

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iv. Chair Orr noted the importance of considering what is going on in our own community, and it was agreed that the Clerk would send out a communication by email and Facebook, asking residents who may have concerns to raise them with the Parish Council, or directly with County Cllr Ray Gooding, who is happy to assist.

*County Cllr Ray Gooding left the meeting.*

## **11.20.07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

None.

## **11.20.08 CLERK'S REPORT**

The clerk reported;

- i. The online bank account will be operational once identity verification forms have been received by the bank.
- ii. The Post Office's new weekly service from the Village Hall car park should have started on Tuesday 3rd November, 12.30-13.30, but has been delayed to 10th November due to technical issues.
- iii. I met with UDC's waste supervisor at Beadle Lane. It will be a big job to clear the site and co-ordination is required with other departments to clear fallen trees and make it safe prior to the work. UDC have agreed to clear the site and also skim the surface of the areas used as toilets, but this may take some time to co-ordinate.
- iv. Widdington Play Park has been closed to the public for 3 weeks, 19/10-09/11, due to scaffolding erected by a neighbouring property presenting a health and safety concern, this work has now been delayed and is unlikely to conclude before 20/11/2020.
- v. I have been unable to clarify ownership of the pond opposite Pond Mead through the Land Registry website. A member of the public agreed to share documentation that could assist. If this does not provide an answer then the Clerk will telephone the Land Registry.
- vi. The new defibrillator pads have been ordered, unfortunately the ones I ordered were not compatible with the PC defibrillator.
- vii. The planning consultant has forwarded what he called substantial objection letters regarding UTT/20/2193/FUL, from ECC and Place Services, regarding highways and transport, heritage and protected species issues.
- viii. Notification received of an appeal by Thatched Cottage, High Street ref - UTT/20/0852/HHF - Proposed porch extension, addition of roof lights to existing single storey rear extension and new door and windows to existing garage associated with new use as amenity space. Representations required by 04/12/2020. WPC did not object to the application.
- ix. A resident would like to remove the hedge between their property and the Hamel Way residents car park, and replace with a fence or fence/wall mix. The resident is unsure of the actual boundary line and would like PC consent to remove the hedge if it is on PC land. It was agreed that it is not PC land and the resident should use the Land Registry service to clarify their boundary.

## **11.20.09 FINANCE**

- i. The council agreed to renew annual registration as a data controller under the GDPR Data Protection Act.
- ii. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and approved for signature.

Cheques; 101270 - Information Commissioners Office - renewal or reg as data controller - £40.00  
101271 - The Defib Pad - replacement defib pads - £41.99  
101272 - Railton TPC Ltd - transport & highways objection land north of CL - £600.00  
101273 - Gardner planning - planning consultant objection land north of CL - £2700.00  
101274 - Alison Frammer Associates - landscape objection land north of CL - £1560.00  
101275 - Clerk's salary October 2020 - £309.46  
101276 - Clerk's expenses October 2020 - £47.15

were approved for payment.

## **11.20.10 PLANNING**

The following planning decisions were noted;

- i. UTT/20/2154/FUL - Land rear of Malt Place, Cornells Lane, Widdington

Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to 5 dwellings with associated parking and landscaping - Refused.

# Widdington Parish Council

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ii. UTT/20/1507/HHF - Willow House, Wood End, Widdington

Erection of cart lodge - Approved with conditions.

iii. UTT/20/1372/NMA - Fleur De Lys, High Street, Widdington

Non Material Amendment to UTT/17/2210/FUL - to remove the jettying detail of the first floor extension and provide an alternative access to the first floor - Split decision.

## **11.20.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING**

Chair Orr detailed the report and review of site operations at Widdington Recycling, which highlights the following areas of concerns;

i. The large building erected without planning permission, which remains currently without permission.

ii. Concerns regarding licensing and regulations relating to works conducted at the site.

Chair Orr requested an update from the site manager, who noted that he would prefer if the Parish Council made their comments first.

Chair Orr highlighted the following issues as unresolved; the presence of regulations for processing plastics, working hours, noise and light pollution, heavy traffic through the village and storage of materials on site.

The Parish Council noted that they would like to work in harmony with Widdington Recycling and would encourage Widdington Recycling to work with the Parish Council, particularly relating to heavy traffic through the village which is supposed to be communicated to the Parish Council in advance as per item 3.27, p16/25 of the 25/11/2002 s106 agreement of UTT/1728/01/CC.

Cllr Firmin questioned why machinery was operational at 6.45am today, what the machinery was and requested feedback following the fire on site at midnight 31/10/2020. The site manager said he doesn't know as he was on leave.

Cllr Southcott noted that the site manager had not seen the report and confirmed that the report is useful to set a baseline knowledge of Widdington Recycling, identifies breaches of regulations and law and outstanding lack of planning regulations for the new building. The report also alludes to potential breaches which are Essex County Council and the Environment Agency's responsibility to enforce. The Parish Council have no legal role but note their responsibility to the village regarding the breaches, whilst hoping to maintain the best possible working relationship with Widdington Recycling.

It was agreed that the Clerk will forward the report to the site manager and invite the site manager and other representatives of Widdington Recycling to come back to the Parish Council, either at the December Parish Council or an additional Extra-ordinary General Meeting, and address the issues highlighted to alleviate residents concerns. County Cllr Ray Gooding and Tom McCarthy will also be invited to attend.

Chair Orr noted that answers will be expected at the meeting.

The site manager agreed to respond to the report at the December Parish Council meeting, noted that he was not attending the Parish Council meeting as a representative of Widdington Recycling, but as an employee of Widdington Recycling, and that any questions relating to planning will need to be passed to someone else.

Chair Orr asked the site manager to provide details to the Clerk of whom the Parish Council should communicate with at Widdington Recycling, who will attend the meeting and explained that if there is nobody to fulfill this role, then the Parish Council will forward the report to Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, the Environment Agency, and Kemi Badenoch, with a covering letter asking what action they will take in response to the report.

## **11.20.12 PLAY PARK**

Covered within 11.20.08.

## **11.20.13 VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Brookman agreed to obtain quotes to create a storage area for the salt and sand at the Village Hall, for consideration at the December Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact District Cllr Hargreaves and enquire about the Ward Initiative funding.

## **11.20.14 OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **11.20.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 3rd December, 2020, on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.42pm.