

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 8.00pm**

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

**In Attendance** District Cllr Judy Emanuel, three members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

### **11.21.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Maria Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **11.21.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Ian Southcott.

*A member of the public joined the meeting.*

### **11.21.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

### **11.21.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public raised the following issues;

- i. The yew trees have been cut back around the border of the Church. Unfortunately a number of drivers continue to park their vehicles on the verge on Church Lane, which will cause further damage during the winter months.
- ii. A white scamell lorry (LK18 UDV) has been noticed driving daily through the village and it is believed that it is delivering goods to Widdington Recycling. The Council resolved to report the vehicle to County Cllr Gooding, Tom McCarthy and Geoff Gardner once the tonnage of the vehicle has been clarified. Cllr Firmin agreed to research the tonnage of the lorry and report back to the Council.
- iii. A further large vehicle carrying six skips, that could have passed under the bridge was also noted driving through the village.

### **11.21.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

None submitted.

### **11.21.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT**

District Councillor Judy Emanuel reported;

- i. The Planning Committee recently refused a 1200 home development in Little Easton.
- ii. The old Printpack site in Walden has been approved for development and will include a Lidl, care home and retirement accomodation.
- iii. Feedback has been requested by Chris Gibson regarding format and topics for discussion within the Local Government Liaison Forums. The forums have been previously criticised for offering little opportunity to ask questions and interact and UDC are keen to reach out to Parish Councils to discover what would be beneficial. It has also been suggested that smaller Councils could meet separately from towns and larger Councils to increase relevance.
- iv. An update has been requested regarding the outstanding planning application at Pond Mead. The officer has confirmed that they now have the heritage input, are conscious of the objections from local residents, should be imminent for a decision and noted that the application will go to Committee if minded for approval.
- v. The planning department have clarified that they have separate reference details for Essex County Council planning applications in case there are separate issues to be addressed by UDC.

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## **11.21.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the October Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chair Orr signed the minutes.

## **11.21.08 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

- i. The waste bin at South Green has been removed and suggested replacement 50 litre black bins at £87 and £80 each have been circulated for approval. The Clerk was instructed to order the replacement bin.
- ii. The damaged bridge on the footpath between the Weft House and Newlands field has been reported to Essex Highways ref 2744508.
- iii. The fallen tree obstructing the footpath between Fruit Hill and Newlands (22) has been reported to Essex Highways ref 2744512.
- iv. Two missing drain covers on Hollow Road, near the junction with North Hall Road reported to Essex Highways (13/10/21) ref 2744674 and 2744676.
- v. Damaged drain cover on Hollow Road reported to Essex Highways (13/10/2021) ref 2744678.
- vi. Collapsed stile and wobbly posts reported to Essex Highways (23/10/2021) ref 2746379
- vii. The petition and residents data were submitted to County Cllr Gooding to forward to the Local Highways Panel.

## **11.21.09 PLANNING**

The following UDC planning decisions were noted;

- i. UTT/21/2515/CLE – Amberden Hall, Cornells Lane, Widdington  
Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of barn as Class B8 (storage of vehicles) – Refused.
- ii. UTT/21/2051/LB - Corner Cottage and White Cottage, High Street, Widdington  
Renovation of roofs for Corner Cottage and White Cottage. Change colour of render of Corner Cottage – Approved with conditions.

## **11.21.10 FINANCE**

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

Invoices; ICO – annual data protection fee – £40.00

Clerk's salary October 2021 - £313.74

Clerk's expenses October 2021 - £53.17

They were approved for payment.

- ii. The Council agreed to finalise the 2022/23 budget at the December meeting.

## **11.21.11 PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE 2022**

The Council approved the schedule of proposed works at the play park and again extended their thanks to Pip Hudson for all his hard work.

## **11.21.12 SPEEDING ON SPRINGHILL**

The Clerk confirmed that the application, petition and residents data have been forwarded to County Councillor Gooding to submit to the Local Highways Panel as it cannot be submitted directly by the Parish Council. District Cllr Emanuel confirmed that County Cllr Lee Scott is a useful contact as the cabinet member for highways maintenance and sustainable transport ([cllr.lee.scott@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lee.scott@essex.gov.uk)). District Cllr Emanuel agreed to contact County Cllr Scott regarding the general lack of response or action taken in the district.

## **11.21.13 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING**

Chair Orr confirmed that the planning consultant continues to oversee the current application and has submitted a further tranche of responses, challenging ECC as to when they will merge the applications and /or submit additional applications.

A member of the public noted that the planting scheme has not yet been submitted and the Council noted that they were told that they would get sight of the scheme but have not to date. The Council resolved that the Clerk would request that the planning consultant reminds ECC to chase the outstanding planting scheme and details of the new planning application including the new shed and extension.

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The Council resolved to request a further meeting with County Cllr Gooding to try and understand what is happening and agreed to write to MP Kemi Badenoch expressing frustration over the opening of the second recycling site. A meeting will also be requested with County Cllrs Lesley Wagland and Lee Scott.

## **11.21.14 OTHER BUSINESS**

District Cllr Emanuel noted that the barrister who recently represented Newport has recommended a planning consultant located just north of Cambridge.

Cllr Firmin noted that he intercepted an articulated army truck trying to come through the village damaging verges and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Commanding Officer at Carver Barracks explaining that these vehicles cannot turn right at the pudding stone and cannot make the left turn to divert through Widdington as they won't fit under the bridge, and need to be directed to go through Thaxted.

## **11.21.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.03