

Widdington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st October, 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 County Cllr Ray Gooding, 2 members of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

10.20.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

10.20.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

10.20.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Chair Maria Orr declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.20.10ii as a neighbour of the applicant.

10.20.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council were in communications with Widdington Recycling regarding their termination of provision of a garden waste skip for use by residents. Chair Maria Orr confirmed that there have not been any recent discussions with Widdington Recycling regarding the loss of service, although it was noted that several residents had commented that they would appreciate the service resuming.

10.20.05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

10.20.06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Ray Gooding detailed;

- i. Following the recent return to school attendance stands at just short of 93%, (usually 95% at this time of year) against the national average of 88%. Some concerns have been raised regarding the number of parents choosing to home educate, and the need to understand the difficulty to revert to standard schooling at a later date when the school place may be taken up by another child.
- ii. Covid-19 cases are currently reported as 37/100,000 in Uttlesford, 40/100,000 in Brentwood and 36/100,000 in Epping.
- iii. An investigation is underway in Clavering, where a land owner is believed to be developing a field as a waste crushing site, without planning permission. It is alleged that materials are being transferred from other sites in the area.
- iv. North Hall Road is closed for six months, due to safety concerns following the collapse of the bank. Major structural repairs are required to the road and the bank of the river. The current diversion is very narrow and it is hoped that a more reasonable diversion can be achieved.
- v. Following communications with ECTU regarding the unauthorised encampments, it has been established that ECTU will not take action regarding the clean up of or consequences for unauthorised encampments, and the Parish Council agreed that residents and the Parish Council should report concerns directly by email to Chief Inspector Janette Rawlingson.

County Cllr Ray Gooding left the meeting.

10.20.07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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None.

10.20.08 CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk reported;

- i. No action has been taken to clear the human waste and other detritus left by the unauthorised encampment on Beadle Lane, although a UDC Cleaning Supervisor has emailed (yesterday) to arrange a site meeting with the clerk.
- ii. An application form and bank transfer forms have been submitted to Unity Trust Bank, with a number of additional documents and the online bank account will be operational once identity verification forms have been received by the bank. Councillors will receive instructions on how to set up their access to the online account.
- iii. The water leak on the High Street has been reported to Anglian Water - ref 18768495 and Affinity Water, who have attended, but not marked the area blue to signify a mains water leak has been detected.
- iv. I have successfully applied for a £500 micro grant from EALC to cover the renovation costs of the telephone box.
- v. Gardner Planning have submitted to UDC the Parish Council's objections to application UTT/20/2154/FUL, as agreed and circulated.
- vi. The Post Office propose to start their new weekly service from the Village Hall car park on Tuesday 3rd November, 12.30-13.30.
- vii. £6,000 has been paid in error into the Parish Council bank account. The Parish Council will return the £6,000 to the rightful owner at the first opportunity.
- viii. The second instalment of the precept has been paid into the Parish Council bank account.

10.20.09 FINANCE

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

Cheques; 101264 - Widdington Woodlands Ltd Rent 01/10/20-30/09/21 - £1200.00
101265 - Gardner Planning - Malt Place Objection - £750.00
101266 - Clerk's salary September 2020 - £390.07
101267 - Clerk's expenses September 2020 - £113.15
101268 - HMRC quarterly payment - £315.00

were approved for payment.

10.20.10 PLANNING

The Parish Council agreed to submit the following comments to Uttlesford District Council relating to planning;

- i. UTT/20/2286/DOC - Plot 4, Pond Mead, High Street, Widdington
Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials), 4 (tree protection measures), 11 (hard/soft landscaping) and 12 (biodiversity enhancement strategy) attached to UTT/19/2648/FUL (02/10/2020) - No objections, as long as the conditions are executed and met.
 - ii. UTT/20/2193/FUL - Land to the north of Cornells Lane, Widdington
Proposed erection of 4 no. detached dwellings and associated works. (14/10/2020) - The Council resolved to engage Gardner Planning to prepare an objection to this application and request that District Cllr Hargreaves calls the application into Committee, if UDC were minded to approve the application. Chair Orr did not participate in the discussion.
- The following planning decisions were noted;
- iii. UTT//20/1803/LB - Ring Cottage, High Street, Widdington
Minor alterations to glazed link, addition of 2no. new windows and 1no. conservation roof light and enlargement of internal opening (amendments to previously approved application UTT/14/1905/LB). Approved with conditions.
 - iv. UTT/20/0711/FUL - Land Adjacent To The Piggery, Cornells Lane, Widdington
4-Bedroom detached dwelling with detached single bay cartlodge and store. Approved with conditions.

10.20.11 TELEPHONE BOX RENOVATION

It was agreed that the renovations should commence, and that the final use of the box would be agreed at a later date when Covid restrictions are relaxed. The Council noted the presence of an electricity supply to the

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telephone box, although the Parish Council do not receive any invoicing for electricity. Chair Orr extended thanks to all the volunteers undertaking the renovation.

10.20.12 POND OPPOSITE POND MEAD

It was agreed that the clerk would clarify ownership of the pond opposite Pond Mead through Land Registry.

10.20.13 PLAY PARK

CLlr Webb confirmed that there is no update regarding the play park grant.

10.20.14 OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Cllr Firmin detailed information received regarding Widdington Recycling, and it was agreed that Widdington Recycling would be on the November Agenda.
- ii. The new Post Office Tuesday Service will be advertised on email, Facebook and the notice board. Cllr Brookman agreed to be the point of contact for the service.
- iii. New defibrillator pads are required for the defibrillator, Clerk to order.
- iv. The concrete block that has been moved to allow unauthorised vehicular access to on the byway to Little Henham, has been reported to Essex Highways.

10.20.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 5th November, 2020, on Zoom.

DRAFT