

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th September, 2020 at 8.00pm**

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

**In Attendance** County Cllr Ray Gooding, 1 member of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

### **09.20.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Orr welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **09.20.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from District Cllr Neil Hargreaves and Cllr Chris Firmin.

### **09.20.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

### **09. 20.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **09.20.05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

### **09.20.06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Cllr Ray Gooding noted the outstanding works undertaken by schools as they reopen for the start of the new term, with most opening on a phased basis as everyone gets used to the new regime.

*Cllr Jill Brookman joined the meeting on the telephone.*

County Cllr Ray Gooding confirmed that school transport remains an issue, with concerns that parents may opt to drive their children to school, creating congestion for other road users. The Government has provided ECC with an extra £1.2million for additional support, some of which has been used to support commercial bus services who transport 17,000 pupils to school each day in Essex, with a further 17,000 paying to travel on the school buses each day.

County Cllr Ray Gooding noted that parents have raised concerns about the possibility of fines for non-attendance. ECC advise that parents talk to teachers and that families shielding vulnerable members will have that information taken into consideration.

### **09.20.07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

None.

### **09.20.08 CLERK'S REPORT**

The clerk reported;

- i. £521.99 received in allotment rent to date.
- ii. £1105 received in car park rent to date.
- iii. Cllr Firmin has spoken with the garage leasee regarding the safe removal of stored asbestos, and he has said that he will organise the safe removal. If the work is not undertaken within the next two weeks, it was agreed that the Clerk will send another letter.
- iv. The unauthorised encampment on Beadle Lane finally left, and a significant amount of rubbish and broken glass has been left in the ditches and wooded area. The footpath and surrounding wooded area on the footpath on the opposite side of the road has been used as a toilet for some time and there is a large amount

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of human waste. Both issues have been reported to ECTU, UDC and Environmental Health. No action has been taken to clear the area. The Council agreed that ECTU's response is insufficient and that there should be consequences for such unacceptable behaviour. County Cllr Ray Gooding agreed to follow it up with the People and Places Director at ECC and request guidance on what action the Parish Council can take to protect the verge, and report back. Chair Orr requested that emphasis is put on the human waste health and safety issue, and why the conservation verge status has not been used to protect the site. Clerk to resend details to County Cllr Ray Gooding.

v. 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 should be operational within the next week. Councillors will receive instructions on how to set up their access to the online account.

vi. The play park reopened 17/08/2020 following completion of the Covid-19 risk assessment.

vii. The water leak on the High Street has been reported to Anglian Water - ref 18768495. Cllr Webb confirmed that the leak is still present and has also been reported to Affinity Water. Clerk to chase.

## **09.20.09 FINANCE**

i. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books which were agreed and approved for signature. Cheques; 101261 - PKF Littlejohn LLP - External Audit - £240.00  
101262 - Clerk's salary August 2020 - £360.70  
101263 - Clerk's expenses August 2020 - £49.31

were approved for payment.

ii. The Council noted the publication of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

iii. The Council noted the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2020/2021 & the National Salary Award Scales received from the National Association of Local Councils for salary pay scales for Clerks, and it was agreed that the rise will be backdated to 01/04/2020.

## **09.20.10 PLANNING**

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

i. UTT/20/1904/FUL - Plot adj Ringers, Debden Road, Newport

Erection of 1 no. 2 bedroom chalet bungalow with new access. The Parish Council agreed to object to this application on the following grounds;

a. Safety concerns relating to the access.

b. The Parish Council does not support development outside the village envelope.

c. The Parish Council does not support development of garden plots.

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

Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to 5no. dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. The Parish Council agreed to object to this application and to engage Geoff Gardner to prepare the Parish Council's objection.

The following planning decision was noted;

iii. UTT/20/1213/FUL - Midsummer House, High Street, Widdington

Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of 2 no detached dwellings including one new access, parking and garaging - Approved with conditions.

## **09.20.11 HAMEL WAY GARAGES**

It was agreed that the Clerk would book the removal of the asbestos sheeting from garage 9 at Hamel Way.

## **09.20.12 TELEPHONE BOX RENOVATION**

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a grant application to EALC Micro Grant Scheme to cover the costs to be incurred painting and repairing the door. Chair Orr expressed the Council's thanks to the volunteers undertaking the renovation.

## **09.20.13 OTHER BUSINESS**

i. EALC Health and Wellbeing Forums in September and October.

ii. Restarting of Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall. Consider Councillors meeting with public continuing to access the meeting virtually. Current NALC advice is that Council meetings should remain virtual until May 2021.

iii. County Cllr Ray Gooding has a £10,000 grant available to share within his 13 parishes.

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## **09.20.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 8pm on Thursday 1st October, 2020, on Zoom.

Chair Orr suspended the meeting and the public left the meeting.

## **09.20.13 OTHER BUSINESS**

iv. The Council agreed that following the recent tragic incident in Widdington, the Police will be supporting those affected. If any assistance is required by the Parish Council an Emergency Meeting will be called. The Parish Council offers their sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

**The meeting closed at 21.04**

**Approved as accurate;  
01/10/2020**