

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th April 2025 at 7:30pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Lynn Smith, Cllr. Albert Edwards. Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, Cllr. Maggs Webb

In Attendance 3 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

04.25.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

04.25.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

04.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – 04.25.9.1ii. Cllr. Edwards, non-prejudicial pecuniary interest.

District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves joined the meeting.

Member of public joined the meeting.

04.25.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Essex highways sign left over from pavement repair, works completed but sign left behind, plus men at work sign in hedgerow on Woodend.

04.25.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – None

04.25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – Local Government re-organisation moved onto next stage, 21st March letters sent showing support from all the district councils agreeing to ECC devolution. Requested government finance the work required for the devolution to occur. UDC planning designation, government has asked UDC request to stop the designation, consideration by government is underway. Only 15% of applicants who could have gone directly to inspectorate did so and there was a higher rate of refusal for those applications.

Local plan consultation hearings will be taking place with the inspectors, questions have been submitted to UDC by inspectors – parties who commented are able to ask for more detail or submit more information. Likely outcome inspectors will ask for modifications to the plan after this stage. Still hoping it will be implemented during 2026.

04.25.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

04.25.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Sent emergency plan to Councillors
2. Drafted extraordinary meeting agenda
3. Sent Stansted growth survey out to residents
4. Attended Widdington Recycling liaison meeting
5. Send complaint letter to Essex Highways, re drains on Hollow road.
6. Invite to Parish Meeting - mole hall farm, fraud PC representative
7. New Payroll provider sourced, started process of closing current provider's account
8. Started End of Year accounts
9. Sourced 3 quotes for Playground cutting and strimming.

04.25.09 PLANNING

04.25.09.1 To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning application matters arising since March 2024 meeting.

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04.25.9.1i. UTT/25/0643/HHF - High Ridge House Spring Hill Widdington Essex CB11 3SB - Single storey rear extension, internal alterations, new front bay window, adjustments to fenestration and replacement entrance porch (alternative scheme to that approved under planning permission UTT/22/3111/HHF) - [No comments](#).

04.25.9.1ii. UTT/25/0580/FUL - The Oaks Cornells Lane Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SP - Proposed single self-build dwelling on existing residential garden land including covered open bay parking for x2 cars and integral bicycle and garden store. – [WPC agreed to object](#).

04.25.9.1iii. UTT/25/0730/HHF - The Chase Church Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SF - Changes to fenestration and internal remodelling – [No comments](#).

04.25.9.1iv. UTT/25/0751/HHF - Old Post Office High Street Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SG - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a replacement outbuilding. [No comments](#).

04.25.09.2 To note [Uttlesford District Council](#) planning decisions, decided since March Parish Council meeting.

04.25.9.2i. UTT/25/0357/PAR3 - Agricultural Building At Mole Hall Farm Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a use within Storage or Distribution (Class B8).– [Approved](#).

04.25.9.2ii. UTT/25/0325/FUL- Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Proposed single self-build dwelling on residential use land adjacent The Old Piggery (resubmission to renew extant permission granted under appeal ref: APP/C1570/W/21 /3281527, planning ref : UTT/21/0545/FUL)– [Approved](#).

04.25.9.2iii. 9.2iii. UTT/25/0144/LB - Oak Tree Cottage High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SG - Proposed relocation of toilet and sink including changes to exterior appearance and re-routing of bath and sink waste. – [Approved](#).

04.25.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£562.00
Standing Order – EnrolPay	£7.20
Playground cutting and strimming	£45

They were [approved for payment](#).

04.25.11 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING UPDATE – Nothing has progressed with S106 Hollow Road works agreement, raised complaint with Cllr. Cunningham as cabinet member responsible for highways for the delays to the works needed for Widdington Recycling to repair road and take over clearance of the drains. Subsequently received a response with no extra explanation, County Cllr. Gooding has said drains should be jetted out within next 2 weeks. Further complaints will be raised by WPC if works not been completed within new promised time.

04.25.12 VE DAY;

1. **History display** – VE day memories from ex-resident who was 14 on VE day, aerial photo from the war years. Residents have been helping. SW museum may be able to lend some

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pieces. Will be on display for the Parish Meeting 1st May with all the books etc. on 10th pictures will still be up.

2. **Afternoon tea** – 70 people have said that they will attend on the 10th, numbers will be capped at 80. Volunteers available for serving cups of tea and washing up etc. Also have volunteers for setting up, Cllr. Smith needs help putting up the bunting outside the village hall.

04.25.13 MEETING OF LOCAL PARISHES - Talk from Dean Hermitage, no need to change green belt review as have sites with 16,000 houses available. Small applications new target will 8 weeks, local plan is in good place so now focusing on the CIL payments, hoping it will be adopted by April 2026.

04.25.14 VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN COORDINATOR - Carried over to May meeting.

04.25.15 RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDANCE (Held in CAMRA due to ongoing legal matter):

04.25.16 OTHER BUSINESS: Oak posts look at replacing those that have been damaged, information from previous installing – May/June agenda.

04.25.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:00pm on Thursday 1st May 2025**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:01