

Widdington Parish Council

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

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Lynn Smith, Cllr. Albert Edwards.

In Attendance 8 members of the public, District Cllr. Judy Emanuel and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

02.25.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

02.25.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves, County Cllr. Ray Gooding

02.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

02.25.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Land behind Newport railway station, opposite the old chalk pit entrance is being cleared, it is unclear why.

02.25.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – None

02.25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – Devolution update; all areas need to move into a unitary authority. ECC has been selected as priority area and will be split into 4 or 5 unitary authorities. There will be a mayor for whole of Essex, election May 2026. New unitary authorities should be neighbouring district councils within same county. Interim proposal by 26th September 2025. Local plan not affected by changes. Newport planning appeal for end near Sparrows End has been dismissed. Looking at how to improve infrastructure to allow development of the less accessible areas of Newport now transport report shows that access to planned development will overwhelm the existing road junctions.

Cllr. Webb joined the meeting.

Cllr. Smith left the meeting

02.25.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

02.25.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Complaint letter sent to Stephenson's buses.
2. Complaint letter sent to Essex Highways.
3. Complaint email sent to ECC – planning re. soil piles at Widdington recycling.
4. Survey design for playpark
5. Contacted Aggregate suppliers
6. Precept demand send to UDC
7. Reviewed WPC's training policy and publication scheme.

02.25.09 PLANNING

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

02.25.9.1i. 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. [Deadline for comments – 24th February 2025](#)

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02.25.9.1ii. UTT/25/0120/DOC - Bridge Meadows Widdington Road Widdington Essex - Application to discharge conditions 2 (biodiversity enhancement layout) and 9 (external light) attached to UTT/20/1409/FUL – [Deadline for comments – 25th February 2025](#)

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

02.25.9.2i. UTT/24/3010/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). – [Prior permission refused, planning permission required.](#)

02.25.9.2ii. UTT/25/0070/DOC - Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Application to discharge condition 7 (landscaping) attached to UTT/21/0545/FUL (allowed at appeal APP/C1570/W/21/3281527) – [Discharge conditions in full.](#)

02.25.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£472.59
Standing Order – EnrolPay	£7.20
Village Greens	£1,250
Village Hall Lease Charge 2024/2025	£138
Playpark Hedge cut back	£1,450

They were [approved for payment](#).

02.25.10.2 Green Cutting 2025/26 – agreed to continue with current provider, to be receive new quotes next year.

02.25.10.3 Car Park Quotes: Resolved to appoint company to complete entire work, Down to Earth Groundworks.

02.25.11 RESPONSE TO STEPHENSON’S BUSES – Resolved response and points to raise for further consideration.

02.25.12 VE DAY 80th CELEBRATION – Thursday 8th May, resolved in principle to explore event Sat 10th May.

4 members of public left the meeting.

02.25.13 PLAYPARK SURVEY – to be distributed to residents.

02.25.14 POLICIES FOR REVIEW:

02.25.14.1 – TRAINING POLICY - approved

02.25.14.2 – PUBLICATION SCHEME - approved

02.25.15 FREEMAN OF THE PARISH (HELD IN CAMRA) –

02.25.16 OTHER BUSINESS: Give way road markings Top Cornell’s lane, Hamel way, Hollow Road. Resident offered daffodil bulbs. PROW training course useful.

02.25.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm** on **Thursday 6th March 2025**, in the Village Hall.

