

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7:30pm

Present	Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Maggs Webb, Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Lynn Smith
In Attendance	4 members of the public County Cllr. Ray Gooding and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

01.25.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

01.25.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Albert Edwards, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, District Cllr. Judy Emanuel, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves

01.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - 01.25.12.2 Cllr. Smiths and Cllr. Southcott

Cllr. Firmin joined the meeting.

01.25.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Bus gone through fence again (24/12/2024) just after it had been repaired from last time, causes noise disturbance both from diesel noise and reversing, no notification of extended bus timetable. Affected two listed properties without any notification. WPC to write letter to Essex Transport Group.

The ice on the road at corner of Hollow Road – salt offered from the stores and the yellow bins currently have some too.

Widdington Recycling – some of the soil piles are higher than usual and obstructing the view from properties in the village. Appears to be going across the field at a higher level. Polythene sheets and rubbish on WR side of the fence that are becoming unsightly. WPC to report to Essex planning officer. The ditch on Springhill is once again full of debris and full again with water after heavy rainfall. The culvert will be filled with debris again soon. WPC to write letter to Essex highways.

01.25.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Local highways panel have approved signage for Springhill coming into the village (mixed use road sign), it is included in budget for next year and should be completed in first quarter (Cllr. Gooding will request the pedestrian sign is replaced). Footpath on high street will also be repaired. The drain on the corner cannot be done under the members package, a separate request has been made by Cllr. Gooding. Highways happy to go ahead with Hollow Road drain clearing, in talks with WR for lorry movement cessation, date still to be confirmed.

Devolution plans, ECC believe change to unitary authorities is inevitable and that being in the first wave will give more options for shaping how everything will go forward. County and District councils will cease in 2027. ECC broadly supportive.

01.25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Note sent: Wanted to raise awareness of the devolution of local government in the UK.

01.25.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

01.25.08 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Contacted highways reference tree debris on Springhill.
2. Contacted BT and highways reference the downed trees resting on telegraph wires on Hollow Road.
3. Chased quotes for car park pothole fixing.
4. Contacted Newport Clerk and District Cllrs. regarding bus grants and possible linking of ideas with neighbouring parishes.

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5. Advertised Village Litter pick – 12th January, requested bag collection with UDC.
1 member of public joined the meeting.

01.25.09 PLANNING

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

01.25.9.1i. UTT/25/0016/TPO - Widdington House Wood End Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SN – x3 large trees to reduce by 30% and reshape as necessary and 1 medium chestnut tree to remove major dead stem and make safe and reduce the remainder of the tree. [Determination Deadline:](#) – [no comment to be made.](#)

01.25.09.2 To note [Uttlesford District Council](#) planning decisions, decided since December Parish Council meeting. – No new decisions to note.

01.25.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£498.60
Standing Order – EnrolPay	£7.20
Internal Audit (carried out April 2024)	£75.00

They were [approved for payment.](#)

01.25.10.2 Precept Demand Form – signed to be sent to UDC.

01.25.11 2025 MEETING DATES – Note WPC meeting dates in 2025: 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November and 4th December. Resolved to continue with 7:30pm start.

01.25.12 12. CAR PARK – To be discussed February.

01.25.13 SPRINGHILL FALLEN TREE IN VERGE – multiple ones and a tree being supported by a sapling that would fall into the road and cause blockage or damage to vehicle as it goes through. Resolved to write a formal letter to Essex Highways following up previous discussions with landowners and resulting actions.

County Cllr. Ray Gooding joined the meeting.

2 members of public left the meeting.

County Cllr. Ray Gooding left the meeting.

01.25.14 VILLAGE EVENT – Barn dance tickets still available: 1st February – see posters for details.

01.25.15 PARISH MEETING – Fraud advice from Police, Mole Hall Farm representative, Representative from care centre, giga clear talk.

01.25.16 OTHER BUSINESS: Covid reflection – Sunday 9th March, to be commemorated individually. VE Day – Thursday 9th May, for February agenda. Village Hall – 25 year anniversary this year.

01.25.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Meeting closed at: 20:51