

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7:30pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Liz Follows, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Fiona Watson, Cllr. Maggs Webb, Cllr. Albert Edwards.

In Attendance 2 members of the public and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

01.26.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

01.26.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – District Councillor Neil Hargreaves and District Councillor Judy Emanuel.

01.26.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

01.26.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Blockage in mains sewer from Cornell's lane 19 m from manhole cover in high street, flooded through manhole cover down resident's drive – Anglian water came and cleared the blockage, all findings have been recorded. High water levels are causing damage to repaired path and tarmac on the high street is lifted. Older buses now being used and causing large vibrations for the old properties
County Cllr. Ray Gooding joined the meeting.

01.26.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Mixed use road sign should be installed by end March 2026. County Council elections and districts with scheduled elections should go ahead, Essex are not requesting they don't go ahead. First mayoral elections have been postponed until 2028. Cllr. Gooding will get highways out to repair the pothole at the bottom of Cornells lane and to assess the damage to the pavement and road from sewage overflow. Cllr. Gooding to provide alternative contact at Stephenson's buses.

01.26.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – See Appendices for District Councillor Neil Hargreaves update.

01.26.07 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.

01.26.08 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Appointed Place Services to carry out Tree Survey
2. Chased Essex Highways ref. footpath 17 footbridge repair
3. Chased UDC reference process for new dog waste bins
4. Contacted UDC reference participating in mobile VAS programme
5. Ear marked reserves updated.
6. Sourced new defibrillator pads.

01.26.09 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR – 1 position remains vacant.

01.26.10 PLANNING

01.26.10.1 Representation to [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning applications and noted planning decisions arising since January Parish Council meeting - See Appendices for WPC resolved responses and noted decisions.

County Cllr. Ray Gooding left the meeting.

01.26.11 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£435.52
Internal audit invoice	£75

01.26.11.2 Precept Demand – Form signed for amount agreed **12.25.11.2**

01.26.12 NEW DOG POO BINS – Resolved to install the 2 new bins; an extra one on Church lane, one at start of America brook and get a larger bin to replace the existing one on Church lane.

01.26.13 POTHoles MAPPING & REPORTING – To be done.

01.26.14 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE – Agree to put up a small cork board.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

01.26.15 DATES FOR 2026 MEETINGS – Agreed on meeting dates; 5th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May (include Annual Parish Meeting), 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November, 3rd December, 7th January 2027.

01.26.16 LEGAL MATTERS (held in camra) – no update required.

01.26.17 OTHER BUSINESS – Village Hall still working on new constitution, awaiting response from charity commission.

01.26.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm** on **Thursday 5th February 2026**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 8:45 pm

Appendices: District Councillor update submission

The Local Plan; we await the inspectors response to the consultation on their intended modifications. Once these are received and assumed ok, the Plan will go to full Council for approval ASAP. After that Community Infrastructure Levy will be next. Parishes get 10% of it or 25% if they have a Neighbourhood Plan and it is additional to s106 agreements for matters specific to an application

As it stands today most councils in Essex have requested the county elections are held in May. Essex have said nothing so far. It is a government decision. If it goes ahead, the division is altered by removing Elsenham and Henham into Thaxted, but Widdington remains in the Stansted Division.

Our bin lorries will switch to green fuel – hydrogenated vegetable oil – in a weeks time, having run to the end of our diesel stock. It was going to cost more than diesel but the good news is the 12 month contract has been agreed cheaper than was budgeted, so it is only very slightly more than diesel.

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Appendix: Planning details for minute reference 01.26.10.1

DD – Determination Deadline

Minute Number	Planning application Ref	Address	Outline	Deadline for comment	WPC decision	UDC Decision
11.25.10.1	UTT/25/2803/HHF	The Old Rectory Church Lane CB11 3SF	Removal of C20th brick walls and reinstatement with brick walls to match existing. Repair of clay lump & daub wall structures. Restoration of C20th Gothic style glasshouse. Construction of a terrace & outdoor cooking area.	20/11/2025	No Comment	Approved
11.25.10.2	UTT/25/2804/LB	The Old Rectory Church Lane CB11 3SF	Removal of C20th brick walls and reinstatement with brick walls to match existing. Repair of clay lump and daub wall structures. Restoration of C20th Gothic style glasshouse. Construction of a terrace and outdoor cooking area.	20/11/2025	No Comment	Approved
12.25.10.1	UTT/25/2890/FUL	The Little Lodge Wood End	Conversion of existing ground and 1st floor flat and ground floor double garage into self contained 2 bedroom dwelling	15/12/2025	No Comment	Approve with conditions
01.26.10.1	UTT/26/0003/DOC	The Oaks Cornells Lane CB11 3SP	Application to discharge conditions 3 (materials), 4 (landscaping), 7 (construction management plan), 10 (phase 1 desk study), 13 (biodiversity enhancement strategy) and 14 (lighting design strategy) attached to UTT/25/1729/FUL	27/01/2026	Resolved to Comment in support of UDC planning keeping conditions	