

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd July 2025 at 7:30pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Liz Follows.

In Attendance 0 members of the public, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

07.25.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

07.25.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Maggs Webb, Cllr. Albert Edwards

07.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

07.25.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

07.25.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – None

07.25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – Local plan, evidence in person completed to inspectors, summing up from inspectors was unproblematic. Therefore, it should now have weight in planning approval considerations. UDC planning now out of special measures for all new applications and normal process applied, during special measures only 24% applications that could have gone straight to the inspectorate did so and the rate of refusal was higher than had they been submitted through UDC planning department.

Local government re-organisation, UDC are supporting the creation of 5 new unitary authorities rather than smaller number of larger areas. At this time Harlow, Epping and Uttlesford are likely to be joined in the new structure. September proposals will be put to the government – important residents respond to the consultation – for review by beginning of next year.

07.25.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

07.25.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Complaint made to ECC reference Hollow Road and ongoing delay with Essex Highways.
2. Ordered salt bags from Essex Highways
3. External Audit paperwork completed and submitted.
4. Insurance quotes sort.
5. Completed actions resulting from June Meeting

07.25.09 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR- No applicants – 2 positions still vacant.

07.25.10 PLANNING

07.25.10.1 To consider making representation to the [Uttlesford District Council](#) in response to planning application matters arising since June Parish Council meeting.

07.25.10.1i. UTT/25/1729/FUL -The Oaks Cornells Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SP - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single storey three bedroom self-build dwelling – [Agreed to raise objection](#).

07.25.10.1ii. UTT/25/1745/TCA - Martins Farm High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SG - Remove a Laburnum tree and grind stump below ground level. Remove a Crab Apple tree and grind stump below ground level – [No comment](#).

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07.25.10.2 To note [Uttlesford District Council](#) planning decisions, decided since June Parish Council meeting. [None](#).

07.25.11 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£495.43
Insurance	£481.09

They were [approved for payment](#).

07.25.11.2 Insurance 2025/26 quotes

07.25.11.3 Quarterly review of accounts - completed

07.25.12 ESSEX CC COMPLAINT; HIGHWAYS FIXING OF HOLLOW ROAD – complaint has been registered with ECC. Until this issue with Essex Highways is resolved WPC see no need for public liaison meeting with WRC in September.

07.25.13 EMERGENCY PLAN – Registered with Essex Resilience forum for training, registered with an app for emergency situations, a few voluntary replacements required due to people leaving the village and new developments that need to be covered. Agreed to send survey to the village, use the church network and coffee mornings to assess needs in village during an emergency and find new volunteers/equipment providers. Set date for exercise once in place.

07.25.14 LEGAL MATTERS (held in camra) – update provided.

07.25.15 OTHER BUSINESS – Playground volunteer working party beginning September – to collate dates volunteers can help.

07.25.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm** on **Thursday 4th September 2025**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 20:35