

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Fiona Watson, Cllr. Liz Follows

In Attendance: 1 member of the public, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves and Jo Stevenson, Clerk to the Council.

07.26.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

07.26.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Albert Edwards, Cllr. Maggs Webb and County Cllr. Ray Gooding.

07.26.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

07.26.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

07.26.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – None

07.26.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr Hargreaves stated that the media often focuses on the negative, rather than the remedial action taken by councils. He noted various positive actions facilitated by Uttlesford District Council, such as the High Court interim injunction and subsequent High Court hearing regarding the unauthorised traveller site in Felsted and the clearing of Felsted railway station which was affected by fly-tipping.

Local government reorganisation is through to the next stage of judicial review. The judge must now decide if there is a case to answer. This process will be very costly, with many projects having to be put on hold and restarted later at a greater cost

The Local Plan does not define built area or countryside; these are defined in the updated Uttlesford Design Guide. However, the new wording is unclear and easy to misinterpret. Cllr. Hargreaves suggested that it may be prudent to create a simple neighbourhood plan to have a clear definition of the built area in Widdington. The Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan has passed regulation 15 and is now in regulation 16, which requires a 6 week consultation held by UDC. It will then be passed on to an external examiner. If Widdington wanted to look at creating a neighbourhood plan, Cllr. Hargreaves suggested engaging with the Uttlesford Planning Department.

07.26.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

07.26.08 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Attended finance handover meeting with outgoing Clerk
2. Contacted Playquip to progress playpark works following the June meeting
3. Contacted insurers for quotes
4. Reviewed ROSPA inspection and shared recommendations
5. Attended EALC training on code of conduct
6. Updated Saffron Walden Round Table on progress of the playpark
7. Informed UDC on newly installed dog poo bin
8. Contacted Cllr Gooding regarding Widdington road closure
9. Attended meeting with Widdington Recycling

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07.26.09 PLANNING

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

07.26.09.1. UTT/26/1649/TCA - 8 South Green High Street Widdington Essex CB11 3SE - Works to 1 no. Beech - reduce crown by 3m and 1 no. Yew - reduce crown by 2m – [No comment](#).

07.26.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£887.15
Footpath 17 Reimbursement	£830.40
EALC Course	£100.80
Insurance	£523.17
Legal expenses	£6250.00

They were [approved for payment](#).

07.26.10.2 Quarterly review of accounts completed and duly signed.

07.26.10.3 Unanimously resolved to stay with current insurers (CAS) subject to an updated quotation being received and approved.

07.26.11 VILLAGE EVENT – Cllr Follows provided an update for the sports day taking place on Saturday the 5th of September. A produce event will take place earlier in the day at the Village Hall. The sports day event will take place on the Paddock between 2-4pm, with a BBQ taking place at the pub.

07.26.12 INSTALLATION OF DOG POO BINS – Cllr Firmin provided an update on the installation of the two new dog poo bins. It was unanimously resolved to order another dog poo bin to replace the existing one on Church Lane.

A discussion took place about deterring dog fouling. Cllr. Hargreaves provided dog poo spray, and it was suggested that a sign be placed at the top of Church Lane.

07.26.13 VOLUNTEERING FOR THE PLAYPARK – The Clerk will seek quotes for playpark maintenance. A discussion was held about hedge cutting, the Clerk will discuss additional duties with the current grass cutting contractor and acquire a renewed quote.

07.26.14 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING – Cllr Southcott provided an update on the meeting with Widdington Recycling that took place earlier on the 9th of July. The issue of the annual November bonfire was raised. Widdington Recycling have agreed to notify the parish council in advance of the event.

07.26.15 RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE (Held In Camra) – Cllr Southcott proposed payment of £6250 (inclusive of VAT) to settle and close an ongoing legal claim. Cllr Firmin seconded. Unanimously resolved.

07.26.16 OTHER BUSINESS – A discussion was had regarding the hedge bordering the car park. It was noted that the pavement off the High Street, next to the Village Hall, has recently been blocked by parked cars. Cllr Firmin expressed his thanks to a resident for repainting the bus shelter at the Village Hall.

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07.26.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm** on **Thursday 3rd September 2026**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:00 pm

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Appendix: Planning

Go to Uttlesford planning portal [Simple Search](#) and use the planning application reference to see further information.

Minute Number	Planning application ref.	Address	Outline	Deadline for comments	WPC decision	UDC Decision
05.26.11.1	UTT/26/0880/DOC	Land South of Cornells lane	Application to discharge conditions 3 (Contamination), 4 (Great Crested Newt Method Statement), 7 (Landscaping), 11 (CMP), 12 (Biodiversity Enhancement Layout), 13 (Lighting Design Scheme for Biodiversity) and 14 (Energy and Water Efficiency Measures) attached to UTT/23/2141/FUL	14/05/2026	No Comment	Discharge Conditions in Part
07.26.09.1	UTT/26/1649/TCA	8 South Green High Street	Works to 1 no. Beech - reduce crown by 3m and 1 no. Yew - reduce crown by 2m	No Date Provided	No Comment	