

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Albert Edwards, Cllr. Fiona Watson, Cllr. Liz Follows

**In Attendance:** 0 member of the public, outgoing Clerk to the council Katrina Levy and new Clerk to the council Jo Stevenson.

### **06.26.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Vice-Chair Chris Firmin welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **06.26.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Chair Ian Southcott and Cllr. Maggs Webb.

### **06.26.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None**

### **06.26.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**06.26.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – Cllr Gooding gave his thanks for the support he received for his re-election. He stated that there are interesting changes happening at Essex County Council. However, there is slight concern over the highways department, with the highways buddy system being discontinued and works commissioned under previous leadership at risk of being pulled. For now, the works on Spring Hill are scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. These works will require a road closure. There are also concerns about other services such as libraries. Cllr Gooding assured that he would continue to represent Widdington to the best of his abilities and may require support from local parishes.

Cllr Edwards asked about the wrongful road closure carried out by Affinity Water. Cllr Gooding will follow up.

Cllr Watson asked if the scrapping of certain net zero policies would affect recycling and subsidized public rural transportation. Cllr Gooding stated his concerns about the way these policies are being discarded and his fears that public transportation could suffer. He emphasised that public transportation is often 'use it or lose it', but for the time being it is a matter of watching and waiting to see what happens.

### **06.26.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – None**

### **06.26.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the May Annual Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chair Firmin signed the minutes.

### **06.26.08 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Handover meetings with new Clerk and previous Clerk
2. Banking set-up started for new Clerk
3. Ordered and set up new WPC laptop
4. Pension enquiries started and a report has been produced
5. Ordered and received Dog poo waste bins and poles
6. Contacted Playquip for updated quotes
7. Wrote a quarterly update for ECC Communities Initiative Fund
8. All required documents for the AGAR have been returned to the Auditor
9. Audit documents uploaded to website as required
10. ROSPA inspection carried out and shared
11. New Clerk training booked and bursary applied for
12. Continued correspondence for VAS sign

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13. Garage/car park renewals sent with a copy of the car park rules

## **06.26.09 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.

*County council Gooding joined the meeting.*

## **06.26.10 FINANCE**

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£1,439.37
ROSPA Inspection	£147.60
Parish Online	£60.00
Planning consultant	£1,700
Dog Poo Waste Bins	£612.00
WPC Laptop	£526.96

They were [approved for payment](#).

**06.26.10.2** Unanimously resolved to approve the scheme of works for stage one of the playground refurbishment.

Playground Virement – move £10,600 from playground reserves to budget for new playground equipment. The council unanimously resolved to implement the virement.

**06.26.10.3** Unanimously resolved to reimburse £830.40 for footbridge cost of repair on footpath 17.

**06.26.11 VILLAGE EVENT** – Cllr Follows provided an update for sports day event taking place on Saturday the 5th of September. The Village Hall have proposed a produce show to go alongside the sports day event.

A budget of £500 was proposed and resolved unanimously.

**06.26.12 INSTALLATION OF DOG POO BINS** – Resolved that Cllr Edwards would attempt to install the dog poo bin at America Brooke. The installation of the second dog poo bin was deferred until after the first had been successfully installed.

**06.26.13 VOLUNTEERING FOR THE PLAYPARK** – deferred to July meeting.

*County council Gooding left the meeting.*

**06.26.14 RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE (Held In Camra)** – no update required.

**06.26.15 PENSION PROVISION** – Resolved unanimously to provide a pension and unanimously resolved to select the Local Government Pension Scheme as the provider.

**06.26.16 OTHER BUSINESS** – Councillors voiced their support for local events being held for the Uttlesford Big Green Festival. A query was raised about the grass cutting arrangements for the verges, it was advised that this is the responsibility of Essex Highways.

## **06.26.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**, in the Village Hall.

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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	
04.26.09.1	UTT/26/0524/HHF	Ketteridges Wood End CB11 3SN	Construction of a single-storey, detached garden room to be used as a home office/studio/gym (incidental use) in the rear garden	03/04/2026	No Comment	Approved with Conditions
01.26.10.1	UTT/26/0003/DOC	The Oaks Cornells Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SP	Application to discharge conditions 3 (materials), 4 (landscaping), 7 (construction management plan), 8 (condition survey), 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	Discharge Conditions in Part