

Widdington Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7:30pm

Present Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Lynn Smith, Cllr. Albert Edwards, Cllr. Steve Smith, Cllr. Teresa Petchey, Cllr. Maggs Webb

In Attendance 4 members of the public, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

03.25.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

03.25.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Cllr. Judy Emanuel

03.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllrs. Smiths 03.25.12

03.25.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Damage to verge outside church and green – oil tanker going through the village and other large vehicles. Pothole wood end – now very deep and growing.

03.25.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – Footpath repair has been carried out. Drains in centre of village have been done, including some of the outlining drains (not Hollow Road), but they were not jetted out.

03.25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – UDC Budget agreed for 25/26 requested information earlier and longer forecast figures, this has not happened. Needed to use reserves to help balance the books plus an increase of 2.99% in UDC portion of council tax – Harlow is a candidate for the new merged authority and their council tax is £100 more than UDC. Lost rural services grant and new homes bonus, reset business rates, did not cover the national insurance increase (results in large decrease in funding from central government). Last 2 years have made £2.5M in savings without cuts, making as much income as possible.

Uttlesford business awards showed how enterprising the district is and was an evening filled with positivity.

03.25.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

03.25.08 CLERK`S REPORT

The Clerk reported;

1. Follow up letter sent to Stephenson's buses.
2. Car park surface has been completed.
3. Magazine article submitted.
4. Quotes for VE day afternoon tea catering.
5. Playground survey shared with residents.
6. Cost claim letter received reference appeal APP/C1570/W/23/3330213.
7. Cllr Southcott attended Stansted Airport Sustainable Growth Stakeholder Parish consultation.

County Cllr. Ray Gooding joined the meeting.

County Cllr. Ray Gooding left the meeting.

03.25.09 PLANNING

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

Widdington Parish Council

03.25.9.1i. UTT/25/0357/PAR3 - Agricultural Building At Mole Hall Farm Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a use within Storage or Distribution (Class B8). – [Deadline for comments 10th March 2025](#).

03.25.9.1ii. UTT/25/0325/FUL - Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Proposed single self-build dwelling on residential use land adjacent The Old Piggery (resubmission to renew extant permission granted under appeal ref: APP/C1570/W/21/3281527, planning ref : UTT/21/0545/FUL) – [Deadline for comments 13 March 2025](#).

03.25.9.1iii. UTT/25/0120/DOC - Bridge Meadows Widdington Road Widdington Essex - Application to discharge conditions 2 (biodiversity enhancement layout) and 9 (external light) attached to UTT/20/1409/FUL – [Determination deadline 1st April 2025](#).

03.25.09.2 To note [Uttlesford District Council](#) planning decisions, decided since February Parish Council meeting.

03.25.9.2i. UTT/25/0070/DOC - Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Application to discharge condition 7 (landscaping) attached to UTT/21/0545/FUL (allowed at appeal APP/C1570/W/21/3281527) – Determination deadline – [Discharge conditions in full](#).

03.25.9.2ii. 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 – [Allowed](#).

03.25.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£490.81
Standing Order – EnrolPay	£7.20
Cllr. Training EALC	£96.00
Car park pothole and surface repair	£2364

They were [approved for payment](#).

03.25.11 VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN COORDINATOR – Current coordinator has resigned a new coordinator needs to be put in place. To be considered further in April meeting.

03.25.12 VE DAY AFTERNOON TEA –Saturday May 10th, flyer produced, budget £1000 unanimous agreed.

Cllrs. Smith left the meeting.

Council Resolved to use Blossom Bites as the caterer.

Cllrs. Smith joined the meeting.

Historical aspect, 2 residents volunteered to help Cllr. Webb with a historical display for VE day in village hall 8th May. Archives have been found and will be displayed, talking to SW museum. Made available on the Saturday 10th May too.

03.25.13 VILLAGE HALL –

03.25.13.1 – Unanimously agreed Cllr. Webb will represent WPC on Village Committee.

Widdington Parish Council

03.25.13.2 – Information to be sent to WPC councillors. Village hall to get independent advice

03.25.14 FREEMAN OF THE PARISH (HELD IN CAMRA) – Unanimous vote, motion resolved.

03.25.15 OTHER BUSINESS: Pot holes report & raise on April agenda.

03.25.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm** on **Thursday 3rd April 2025**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at: 21:32