

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm**

**Present** Cllr. Albert Edwards, Cllr. Fiona Watson, Cllr. Ian Southcott, Cllr. Chris Firmin, Cllr. Maggs Webb.

**In Attendance** 1 member of the public, County Cllr. Ray Gooding and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **03.26.01 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **03.26.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Liz Follows

### **03.26.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None**

**03.26.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Oak posts outside the church on the verge has been split in two, placed there by parish council.

**03.26.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Buses, there is a review ongoing at ECC as some are just not viable (cap of £5.50 per passenger journey for subsidies paid). Any concerns write in and buses need to be used or lost. Roads, winter damage scheme following all the rain has been put in place (£6 million), Ray is able to report very large potholes as a member of the local highways panel. Save our libraries group has demonstrated outside county hall, we have 70 libraries across county and built 2 new libraries. Biggest issue is people reserving books that are supplied from other counties and then not collected (78K last year) – proposal to charge for reserving a book, £1.25. Mayoral election, now in 2028, office in process of being set up to support the new mayoral role. *County Cllr. Ray Gooding left the meeting*

**03.26.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Report sent, see appendices.

### **03.26.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

### **03.26.08 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Complaint ref. development UTT/21/1509/FUL and damage to Cornells lane
2. Contacted ECC re. footbridge on footpath 17
3. Correspondence ref. VAS signs with UDC
4. New defibrillator pads and battery installed
5. Magazine Article submitted
6. Submitted comments objecting to UTT/26/0032/FUL
7. Updated Code of Conduct
8. Correspondence ref. Grant application for playpark works
9. Essex highways website - further potholes registered

**03.26.09 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR - None**

### **03.26.10 PLANNING**

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

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## 03.26.11 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£483.22
Village Hall room hire (annual)	£173
Defibrillator new battery and pads.	£343

They were [approved for payment](#).

**03.26.11.2** – Resolved to merge the Greens/playpark cutting contract, if contractor agrees.

**03.26.11.3** – ECC to be approached to pay as first step.

**03.26.12 CODE OF CONDUCT** – Resolved to accept to changes.

**03.26.13 VILLAGE EVENT** – Sports event with something else alongside during the summer.

**03.26.14 FREEMAN OF THE PARISH** – April meeting

**03.26.15 PARISH MEETING** - Extend invitations to speak to home near Shipton's, Cllr. Emanuel to present Newport Neighbourhood plan.

*1 Member of public left the meeting.*

**03.26.16 OTHER BUSINESS** - Parish forum, Cllr. Edwards, Cllr. Webb National lottery fund presentation – attempted robbery from sheds of resident locally, avoided cameras on the property.

## 03.26.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Meeting closed at:20:39 pm

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## **Appendix: District Councillor Report (submitted prior to meeting).**

The Local Plan will be enacted 25<sup>th</sup> March. As previously noted the development limits for Widdington will go. With no five year land supply (5YLS) and very out of date Plan they had little weight, but a new Plan has weight. Infill within 'built area' is in principle supported but built area not defined. Other Local Plans have defined it .

Judy and I met with Clavering Neighbourhood Plan team recently and they are in the same position albeit required to allocate a substantial housing number. They will be setting their 'built area' limits. The Newport Quendon & Rickling NHP is doing the same for Quendon. Newport retains a Local Plan limit as do all larger settlements.

This is now a reason to do a Neighbourhood Plan. Which also has 5 years at full weight even if the Local Plan loses its 5YLS

Business awards last week held at Saffron Hall . Kappa in Newport was nominated for an award. Didn't win but got a big round of applause when 'carrying on despite endless roadworks' was mentioned. A theme we can all understand. Overall winner is an engineering company at Stansted which maintains jet engines. Lots of other fantastic businesses there and getting awards.

The government's decision on the unitary council make up is still awaited. If not issued before 30th March it must be delayed till after the May elections, which will be unhelpful as so much work to do and can't move on till we know the structure  
Even things like the ward boundaries. We have a viable proposal if it is 5 unitaries, but not for 3 as the number of councillors would be even less

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## Appendix: Planning details for minute reference 03.26.10.1

DD- determination deadline

Minute Number	Planning application Ref	Address	Outline	Deadline for comments	WPC decision	UDC Decision
02.26.10.1	UTT/26/0032/FUL	Land At Clare House Wood End	Erection of x1 dwelling	16/02/2026	Resolved to Object	Approve with conditions
11.25.10.5	UTT/25/2866/FUL	The Chase Church Lane	Proposed self build dwelling & detached cart lodge with associated access & landscaping	24/11/2025	Resolved to Object	Withdrawn