

# Widdington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7:30pm**

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

**In Attendance** 1 members of the public, County Cllr. Ray Gooding, District Cllr. Neil Hargreaves and Katrina Levy, Clerk to the Council.

### **11.25.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME**

Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

### **11.25.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None**

### **11.25.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr. Firmin & Cllr. Southcott 11.25.10.5**

**11.25.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Trees between Priory Hall Farm confusion over who is responsible for trimming and caring for these.

**11.25.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – Signage multi use road for Springhill is approved, just awaiting date for installation. Felt that WR public liaison meeting was productive due to Essex Highways completing the drainage works. There is good communication between WR and Essex Highways now. Cllr. Gooding is currently chair of ECC, awards given out to residents recently, an award was given to an ex-railway worker was given a reward for negotiating with rail companies to provide free travel for victims of domestic violence to enable them to get leave.

**11.25.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT** – Local plan; inspectors have raised some major changes, alongside minor ones. Neighbourhood plan steering group have responded to modifications to the Newport allocation and asked for UDC to lift restrictions they have put into the last draft of the plan that makes it difficult to implement. Will need a full-scale traffic assessment due to number of houses that only needs to look 5 years forward, local plans have to look further ahead than the developers. Neighbourhood plan is insisting where mitigation not possible due to historic structures, developers traffic assessment must look to end of neighbourhood plan period or minimum of 10 years. Sewage policy – Anglia water will need to double size of sewage works prior to any large development.

Expectation that the local plan will be signed off early 2026.

*1 member of public joined the meeting.*

### **11.25.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

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

*County Cllr. Gooding left the meeting,*

### **11.25.08 CLERK`S REPORT**

The Clerk reported;

1. Applied for grant from SWRT for playground equipment
2. Continued changeover of email registrations
3. Chased EALC for advice
4. All outstanding garage/car park payments now been received.
5. Emailed Stephenson's buses to follow up previous email exchange + register latest incidents
6. Forwarded resident concerns to Widdington Recycling and trucks moving through the village.
7. Zoom meeting WR liaison meeting.

# Widdington Parish Council

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**11.25.09 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR** – Unanimously resolved Fiona Watson is co-opted to Widdington Parish Council.

## **11.25.10 PLANNING**

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

**11.25.10.2 Newport and Quendon Neighbourhood update consultation response** – Resolved points to be made in WPC response. Cllr. Firmin, Cllr. Southcott to prepare response and Clerk to submit.

## **11.25.11 FINANCE**

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

Clerk Salary + Expenses	£516.39
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**11.25.11.2 Budget items for 2025/26** – The budget process and figures were explained. Cllrs to consider and agree in December meeting.

**11.25.12 WIDDINGTON RECYCLING UPDATE** – WR have committed to clear the ditch so that water can drain from the road to the river. The drains should be cleared at least annually, preferably every six months. ECC has not yet signed off noise assessment report. WR rate of filling the site has slipped this year due to downturn in the construction industry, they are hoping to gain new contracts that will bring them back on track for fill cells by end of cycle.

**11.25.13 EMERGENCY PLAN** – Resolved to allocate £636 to the emergency plan equipment required.

**11.25.14 LITTER PICK** – Resolved 16<sup>th</sup> November, 10am.

**11.25.15 LEGAL MATTERS (held in camra)** – no update required.

**.25.16 OTHER BUSINESS** – Doggy footprint tea towels are now available, please contact Cllr. Webb. Widdington PC storage box has been found in residents home, this will be returned to PC and paperwork sorted.

## **11.25.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

Meeting closed at: 9:25pm

# Widdington Parish Council

## Appendix: Planning details for minute reference 11.25.10.1

DD – Determination Deadline

Minute Number	Planning application Ref	Address	Outline	Deadline for comment	WPC decision	UDC Decision
11.25.10.1	UTT/25/2803/HHF	The Old Rectory Church Lane CB11 3SF	Removal of C20th brick walls and reinstatement with brick walls to match existing. Repair of clay lump & daub wall structures. Restoration of C20th Gothic style glasshouse. Construction of a terrace & outdoor cooking area.	20/11/2025	No Comment	
11.25.10.2	UTT/25/2804/LB	The Old Rectory Church Lane CB11 3SF	Removal of C20th brick walls and reinstatement with brick walls to match existing. Repair of clay lump and daub wall structures. Restoration of C20th Gothic style glasshouse. Construction of a terrace and outdoor cooking area.	20/11/2025	No Comment	
11.25.10.3	UTT/25/2815/TPO	Elmstead Spring Hill Widdington Saffron Walden Essex	1x Mature Beech and 2x semi-mature Beech to front of house, trees are encroaching BT lines, reduce crowns by 2.5m, shape and balance crowns and remove deadwood. 1x Walnut in rear garden, tree is very large for positioning next to house, reduce crown by 2.5-3m shape and balance crown	DD 15/12/2025	No Comment	Trees Granted
11.25.10.4	UTT/25/2400/FUL	Waldegraves Farmhouse Ninas Farm Café CB11 3RZ	Section 73A Part retrospective application for the change of use of agricultural land to a mixed-use (class E) including a seasonal outdoor cafe and parking. Prospective permission to erect a temporary tipi or tent during the operational season.	08/10/2025	No Comment	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	