Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Chair Ian Southcott, Cllr. Liz Follows and Cllr Albert Edwards.

In Attendance: 0 member of the public, Clerk to the council Jo Stevenson.

10.26.01 CHAIR`S WELCOME
Chair Ian Southcott welcomed those present to the meeting.

10.26.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Fiona Watson, Cllr. Chris Firmin, District Cllr Judy Emanuel and District Cllr Neil Hargreaves.

10.26.03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

10.26.04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – N/A

10.26.05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR`S REPORT –

County Cllr Gooding stated that the regime at Essex Highways has changed considerably, particularly due to the discontinuation of the highways buddy scheme. Highways issues now need to be submitted through member enquiries, which is causing increasing delays. Cllr Southcott noted delays and a lack of support in progressing the proposed mobile VAS at Fruit Hill. Cllr Gooding will seek a suitable contact. Concerns were also raised about potholes taking priority over other safety issues, including faded zebra crossings in Newport and unrepaired traffic-calming measures in Stansted.

Cllr Edwards noted that planning officers have been suggesting approval for schemes that have later been rejected at planning committee for non-compliance with the new Local Plan. County Cllr Gooding cited the example of the Stansted/Birchanger application which shows that speculative developments that extend beyond the Local Plan are still being submitted and partially considered. He emphasised the importance of the Local Plan to uphold rules around infill and overspill development. He also noted that the NPPF has removed the right for local councillors to call in applications, this will have implications across Essex. Changes to planning rules and their implications for local planning decisions will continue to be monitored.

10.26.06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT – District Cllr. Judy Emanuel sent a report updating the council that she has been working on a project of her own devising which utilises AI templates, looking for useful lessons, examples of good practice and recurring issues that can help improve future decision-making. The aim is not to replace professional judgement, but to give officers an extra layer of due diligence and help avoid repeating mistakes that have already been identified elsewhere.

10.26.07 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
The minutes of the September Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chair Southcott signed the minutes.

Cllr. Maggs Webb joined the meeting.

10.26.08 CLERK`S REPORT
The Clerk reported;

1. Continued correspondence regarding playpark repairs.
2. Followed up previous exchange with Stephenson buses.
3. Reported fly tipping along Hollow Road.
4. Called the Trade Waste Officer for an update on the bins at the Village Hall.
5. Reported the damaged footbridge to ECC.
6. Followed up on resident's queries with UDC and Essex Highways.
7. Forwarded grant application form to the East of England Ambulance Service Chairty.

8. Attended two EALC training courses.

10.26.09 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.

10.26.9.1.1. UTT/26/2407/TCA Proposed felling of 1 no. dead Hawthorn. Bridgetts Hollow Road Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SL – No comment.
10.26.9.1.2. UTT/26/2374/FUL S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) UTT/25/2022/FUL - internal changes, additional accommodation to roof of plot 2 and extension to footprint to accommodate enlarged kitchen dining area and change to plot 1 parking arrangement to allow for requisite number of parking spaces. Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex - Resolved points to be made in WPC response.
10.26.9.1.3. UTT/26/2373/DOC Application to discharge condition 6 (construction management plan) attached to UTT/25/2022/FUL. Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex – No Comment.
10.26.9.1.4. UTT/26/2357/HHF Proposed single storey extension. 32 Hamel Way Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SJ – No Comment.

County Councillor Ray Gooding joined the meeting.

10.26.10 FINANCE

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

Clerk Salary, Expenses + Pension	£1,135.52
Playground Equipment	£14,586
Postfix Mix to secure dog poo bin posts	£33.52
Village event expenses	£289.58

They were approved for payment.

10.26.10.2. Quarterly review of accounts completed and duly signed.

10.26.10.3. this item was deferred to the November meeting.

10.26.10.4. budget items for 2027/28 - The budget process and figures were reviewed. Cllrs to consider and agree in December meeting.

10.26.10.5. ICO payment of £47; Collected via DD 23/10/2026 – approved.

10.26.10.6. Noted and approved SCP salary increase (negotiated centrally). All agreed.

10.26.11 WIDDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Cllr Edwards will continue to monitor planning applications and committee decisions, particularly where officer recommendations differ from outcomes. No additional action required at present. The matter will remain on future agendas for review.

10.26.12 VILLAGE HALL BOTTLE RECYCLING BINS – No action to be taken at this stage. The matter will remain under review.

10.26.13 OTHER BUSINESS – Ownership and responsibility for the defibrillator was raised, the defib is owned by the Parish Council and responsibility lies with the Clerk. Also, after receiving a response from the Fire and Crime Commissioner regarding the event held at Widdington Recycling, it was indicated that the owner is not intending on hosting a bonfire event this year.

10.26.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at **7:30pm** on **November 5th 2026**, in the Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 8:35 pm

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
09.26.9.1.4	UTT/26/1792/TCA	The Old Rectory Church Lane Widdington Essex CB11 3SF	1 No. large mature Yew - reduction of crown by 3m - tree is very close to property and branches of tree are nearly hitting barn roof	DD 28/08/2026	No Comment	Tree No Objections
09.26.9.1.5	UTT/26/1883/DOC	Land South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex	Application to discharge condition 3 (contamination) attached to UTT/23/2141/FUL	18/08/2026	No Comment	Discharge Conditions in Full
09.26.9.1.6	UTT/26/2111/FUL	Widdington House Wood End Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SN	Ground mounted solar PV panels for domestic purposes	16/09/2026	No Comment	Approved
10.26.9.1	UTT/26/2407/TCA	Bridgetts Hollow Road Widdington Saffron Walden	Proposed felling of 1 no. dead Hawthorn	DD 29/10/2026	No Comment	

		Essex CB11 3SL				
10.26.9.2	UTT/26/2374/FUL	Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex	S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) UTT/25/2022/FUL - internal changes, additional accommodation to roof of plot 2 and extension to footprint to accommodate enlarged kitchen dining area and change to plot 1 parking arrangement to allow for requisite number of parking spaces.	15/10/2026	Comment to be made to UDC	
10.26.9.3	UTT/26/2373/DOC	Land To The South Of Cornells Lane Widdington Essex	Application to discharge condition 6 (construction management plan) attached to UTT/25/2022/FUL	07/10/2026	No Comment	
10.26.9.4	UTT/26/2357/HHF	32 Hamel Way Widdington Saffron Walden Essex CB11 3SJ	Proposed single storey extension	20/10/2026	No Comment	