

Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Jill Buck, Chairman (JB); Cllr Carol Blackett (CB); Cllr Babs Edwards (BE)

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster, District Cllr Robert Brunton and nine other members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.45pm

ACTION

17.060 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Paul Riddle (unwell)
2. Others: None

17.061 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. **Interests:** Cllr Babs Edwards - as wife of the Playing Field Committee Treasurer
2. **Dispensation requests:** None received

17.062 Casual vacancy: No applications received

17.063 (i) Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2017

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2017 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

(ii) Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2017

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2017 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

17.064 Police report. No report received.

17.065 Chairman's announcements: None

17.066 Planning

1. New Applications

3/17/1228/HH Chapel House, Hunsdon Road: Demolish indoor leisure complex and erect 2-storey side & rear extension. *The Parish Council had no objections to the proposal but required the common land (CL238) to not be used for parking or as a builder's yard during the building work; also, that FP3 be unobstructed. It was noted to be outside the village boundary.*

Clerk

3/17/1211/FUL Land rear of Coombe Villas, Medcalf Hill: Erect 1 no. dwelling. *The Parish Council objected because, 1) the access point is at a very dangerous point on B1004 where sight lines are poor and traffic speed is high. It is serious accident spot. 2) It is arguably back land development, and an earlier planning application described the plot as agricultural land. 3) It is outside the village boundary.*

Clerk

3/17/1182/FUL Corner of Levenage Lane & Hunsdon Road: Change of use of land and erect 3 houses. *The Parish Council objected because, 1) The proposed exit would create yet another junction on Hunsdon Road - access would be better if via Levenage Lane. 2) If permitted, the overall impact of this and other nearby proposed sites on traffic safety must be addressed. 3) It is outside the village boundary*

Clerk

3/17/1008/FUL Long Meadow, Ware Road: Demolish agricultural buildings and erect 4 no. detached 4-bedroom dwellings. *The Parish Council objected to this application because, 1) there are safety concerns along this stretch of road due to speeding traffic. 2) There is inadequate visibility for both traffic on the road and for vehicles exiting the site. 3) The position of the proposed entrance is on the steepest part of the hill where vehicles accelerate – it would be much safer at the other end of the development. 4) The speed limit should be reduced from 40mph to 30mph at this point to minimise accident risk. 5) It is outside the village boundary, but inside the conservation area.*

Clerk

2. Decision Notices

3/17/1111/HH 5 Benningfield Road: Single storey rear extension and front porch.

AWAITING DECISION

3/17/0002/FUL & 0003/LBC Widfordbury Farm: Alterations to enable change of use to B1 office, residential, and B1 light industrial; demolition of sheds.

GRANTED

3/16/1164/FUL Land South of Martlets: Erection of 1no 5 bedroomed dwelling, 5no 4 bed roomed dwellings, 5no 3 bed roomed dwellings, 5no 2 bed roomed dwellings and 2no 1 bed roomed dwellings, and associated works.

GRANTED SUBJECT TO s106 AGREEMENT

3. Other planning matters, including items received too late for the agenda

- 1. **Late planning applications:** None
- 2. **E/17/0205/ENF Yew Tree House** – Enforcement case - new vehicular access. **Case closed**
- 3. Enforcement investigation into Priory Farm hedge reinstatement: *Decision awaited*
- 4. Enforcement investigation into more static caravans, Pegs Lane: *Decision awaited*
- 5. **3/17/1366/SCOPE: Gilston Area/Harlow North Environmental Impact Assessment**
Scoping Opinion: *A response is being considered. The impact on the water supply and on sewage capacity must be addressed by Affinity Water. If Hunsdon PC agree that Widford PC can come on board its own efforts and utilise its planning consultant’s expertise, it was **RESOLVED to set a budget of £250 towards sharing expenses.***

Clerk/JB

17.067 Reports by County and District Councillors

District Cllr Bob Brunton said he had attended all the Gilston meetings so far. The Scoping Opinion is an obligatory invitation to comment on an outline of the scheme and in advance of a formal application, produced so far by QUOD. The specifics for water, sewage, infrastructure etc won’t be worked up until the master planning stage – this is currently only an outline. Mineral considerations will be included. The accumulative effect on health of noise, air quality etc will be taken into account. In response to a question, Cllr Brunton said that following the outline plan, the next stage is approval in principle; it is only then that the specific details will be worked on.

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster explained that although just elected as a County Councillor he has been a District Councillor for seven years as well as being a member of Sawbridgeworth Town Council. His District responsibilities include adult care scrutiny, health, wellbeing and leisure, while County duties include Highways, for which he has a locality budget. The County’s switch to LED street lighting still has about 70k installations to go, with completion due in 2020. Consultations are underway to look at a joint Fire & Rescue Service with the Police, and a joint service for family support and community health visitors.

17.068 Finance

1. Reports of the Council’s finances for 1 May to 30 June were received (App A)

Finance Summary from 1 May to 30 June

	£
Opening bank balance 1 May	10,019.60
Plus: income to 30 June	169.00
Minus: expenditure to 30 June	<u>2,020.13</u>
	8,168.47
Minus previous months’ cheques cashed in period	<u>498.77</u>
Balance available to Council 30 June (cashbook balance)	7,669.70
Plus: unrepresented cheques as at 30 June	403.63
Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement, 30 June 2017	<u>8,073.33</u>

Reconciliation of the Accounts to the bank statements was noted and it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statements for March and April be accepted.**

Clerk

The bank statement and accounts reconciliation was checked and signed as correct by non-signatory parish councillor Carol Blackett.

CB/Clerk

2. List of payments. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve all the payments as listed**

Clerk

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq	Power
22/5	J English	<u>Litterpicking May</u>	116.00	S/O	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
30/5	Clerk	Salary May	225.00	1096	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A) & s151; LA 2011 s41
22/6	J English	<u>Litterpicking June</u>	116.00	S/O	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
30/6	Clerk	Salary May	233.03	1097	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A) & s151; LA 2011 s41
30/6	HMRC	PAYE 1st quarter April-June	170.60	1098	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A) & s151; LA 2011 s41
1/7	C Parrott	Cutting Closed Churchyard of 4	240.00	S/O	LGA 1972 s215
4/7	Clerk	Expenses May/June	26.01	1099	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A) & s151; LA 2011 s41
4/7	Clerk Petty Cash	Top-up May/June	16.15	1100	LGA 1972 s111
4/7	J Turner	Benningfield Green cuts 2 of 3	100.00	1101	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
4/7	HAPTC	N/Planning guides	20.00	1102	LGA 1972 s111
4/7	D Stephenson	Allotments 30/6	84.99	1103	SHAA 1908 s29(2)
		VAT included	Nil		

Cheques for 4th July were signed at the end of the meeting.

3. Transparency Fund Grant to cover extra administration costs for 2017/18: It was noted that the application has been successful and the grant of £397.80 will be paid in full.

Clerk/PR

4. Declaration of Compliance for Auto-Enrolment to The Pensions Regulator: It was noted that this has been successfully submitted to The Pensions Regulator.

Clerk/PR
/JB

17.069 Correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- C Taylor-Young: re Village Archive (17.073)
- Rev M Dunstan: re Widford Relief in Need Charity (17.074)
- Cllr Roger Beeching: Letter of thanks for gift
- Mark Prisk MP: Re meeting with Parish Council
- Parishioners: response to SID location question (17.071.2.1)
- HAPTC: Government's manifesto intention to consider veto and referendum powers on large precept increases
- East Herts Planning: Scoping Opinion Gilston Park/Harlow North (17.066.3.5)
- EHC: Walking in Hertfordshire – July newsletter
- EHC: Public Consultation on East Herts Draft Physical Activities Strategy 2017-22 (17.075.1)
- EHC Public consultation on proposal to change the age range of Widford School (17.075.2)
- HCC: To seek clarification of status of Abbots Lane bollards (17.071.2.2)
- Police Commissioner: Fire & Rescue Governance consultation (17.075.3)

17.070 Village Reports

1. Village Hall

Village Hall Chairman Greg Prowse gave a stirring report of his vision for a new hall/ sports pavilion on the playing field. This would require resolving issues of the VH and PF charitable trusts, but he believed there was a way forward that would satisfy the trusts' requirements. The pavilion would be designed to accommodate indoor sporting activities and also provide a room for the Village Archive. Subject to permissions, the current VH site would be sold for development. Initial costings have been prepared and the project is believed to be feasible. Although the Parish Council is custodian trustee only of both the Playing Field and Village Hall, the Parish Council **RESOLVED to support the proposed plan in principle.**

CB

2. Allotments

1. Report by Cllr Babs Edwards.

- 14 plots are now occupied with only 1 still vacant.
- There have been no further incursions by horses since the new fencing was erected.

BE/JB

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Signed.....**Dated**.....