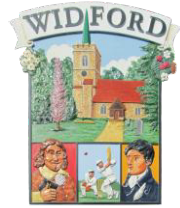


**DRAFT1**

# Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Ordinary Meeting  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm in Widford Village Hall  
Following the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm



**PRESENT:** Cllr Mike Allen (MA) -Chair; Cllr Ian Collins (IC); Cllr Michael Ripsher (MPR);  
Cllr Josh Warren (JW)

Four members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.10pm.

**ACTION**

**24.045 To receive and approve apologies for absence**

1. Councillors: Cllr Mark Rome (MR): Work **APPROVED**
2. Others: PCSO Leon De Bruyn

**24.046 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations**

**1. Interests**

Noted. Cllr Mike Allen: An interest in Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Cllr Ian Collins: a DPI because his wife has the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

**2. Dispensation requests:**

None

**24.047 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**Clerk/MA**

**24.048 Police report**

The following report was received:

**ANSTEY:** no reported crimes

**HORMEAD:** Theft – A forklift had its Battery stolen in Hare Street

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN:** No reported crimes

**STOCKING PELHAM:** no reported crimes

**FURNEUX PELHAM:** Burglary non Dwelling – Access gained to the rear and a shed broken into and tools taken.

**ALBURY:** No reported crimes

**LITTLE HAHDAM:** No reported crimes

**MUCH HADHAM:** Theft From Motor Vehicle – Number Plates stolen from the high street

Aggravated Burglary – A premises on Bromley Lane had 2 males go into the premises but where chased off by the owners dogs.

Vehicle Damage – A vehicle was damaged in Tower Hill, suspects dealt with.

**HUNSDON:** Attempted Burglary – A property was attempted to be broken into but owners disturbed intruders, Tanners Way.

Burglary Dwelling - A property was broken into using the back door, Tanners Way.

Burglary non Dwelling – a property had outbuildings attempted to be broken into Tanners Way.

Burglary Business – A premises on Stansted Road had its Barn broken into and tools stolen.

**WIDFORD:** Vehicle Interference – Attempted theft of vehicle Hunsdon Road.

Theft of Motor Vehicle – A vehicle was stolen from Daintrees

Theft of Motor Vehicle – A vehicle was stolen from Benningfield Road.

**WARESIDE:** No reported crimes

**EASTWICK & GILSTON:** Burglary Other - Outbuildings broken into and tools taken.

**BRAUGHING:** Burglary Commercial – Theft of Plant Machinery Ford Street.  
 Burglary Dwelling - Entry gained via the rear and a wallet and keys taken but not the car.  
 Theft from Motor Vehicle – Number Plates were stolen from a vehicle on Maltings Lane.

**STANDON & PUCKERIDGE:** Attempted Burglary – Land has had its sheds broken into  
 Burglary – A vehicle and garage have been broken into and items stolen in Broken Green  
 Vehicle Interference – Vehicle in Gauldie Way was broken into but nothing taken.  
 Theft From Motor Vehicle – 2 vehicles have had their number plates stolen from the High Street (Puckeridge)  
 Criminal Damage – a Vehicle was damaged in Gauldie Way  
 Theft from Motor Vehicle – Number plates where stolen from Hadham Road

**Other news and updates:**

Burglaries seem to be on the increase, this is dwelling and non dwelling, so please make sure you leave your properties secure and valuables are not left easily in view or accessible, Take down serial numbers and keep safe, mark your property with a marker pen or look on line for other methods of identifying your items, take photo's of jewellery and upload to your email or the cloud so it can be accessed from any of your devices, if you just save it to a device and it is stolen so are your pictures.

Keyless car thefts nationally continue to be trending. On most makes of vehicle, keyless entry can be disabled. Alternatively, ensure car keys, particularly any spare keys, are secured in a signal blocking/Faraday pouch when not in use. Hiding the keys in a metal tin can also restrict the signal from vehicle keys.

Your local policing teams are continuing regular patrols in hotspot areas at key times.

Please continue to report suspicious vehicles that may be seen driving around in your area. If you are able to record the MAKE, COLOUR and REGISTRATION number of the vehicle, that would be very helpful.

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

**24.049 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman noted concerns about the width of Bell Lane being restricted by plans to reduce the width of the verge. He also said he would endeavour to get the rocks removed that are further aggravating the problem.

Fly tipping at the layby continues to be a problem and the Chairman said he is considering taking some action to stop it.

The allotments water supply will have to be reconsidered because the tenants cannot continue with the necessary upkeep of the present system.

**MA**

**24.050 Reports by County and District Councillors**

No reports received.

**24.051 Planning**

**1. New Applications:**

**3/24/0632/FUL: Priory Farm.** Erect agricultural building. **RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

**3/24/0773/LBC: 2 Hillside.** Demolish single storey projection and alter fenestration  
**RESOLVED: No objections** Clerk

**2. Decision Notices.** For information only, the following were noted:

**3/23/2283/OUT: Land south of Levenage Lane:** Outline for 4 dwellings: **APPEALED**

**3/21/2668/FUL: Ash View Stables:** Additional capacity on existing site. **GRANTED**

**3/19/1045/OUT Land North of the Stort Valley & A414, Gilston:** Outline planning. **Awaited**

**3/24/0384/FUL: The Doe Shed:** Change of use, agricultural land and building to residential  
**GRANTED**

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

**1. Late planning applications:**

**3/23/2283/OUT Land south of Levenage Lane:** **Notice of Appeal received**

**2. 3/23/24/0544/VAR Westbury:** Removal of conditions 3 and 9 to 3/23/0099/LBC Clerk  
**RESOLVED: No objections**

**24.052 Finance**

**1. Report of the Council’s accounts to year end, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

<b>Finance Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Opening cashbook balance 29<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>34,379.17</b>
Plus: income to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	385.90
Minus: expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<u>923.05</u>
<b>Balance available to Council at 31<sup>st</sup> March (cashbook balance)</b>	<b>33,842.02</b>
Plus unrepresented cheques/payments	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b><u>34,842.02</u></b>

**RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be approved.**

**2. Bank reconciliation 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Cashbook balance £34,842.02    Unity Bank balance £34,842.02**

**RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented**

**3. Performance vs budget at year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

The Clerk’s detailed report on the financial performance vs budget to year end 31<sup>st</sup> March was received.

Income:        Budget £16,645    Performance to date £16,694

Expenditure: Budget £27,847    Performance to date £18,627

The income/expenditure deficit was -£3,174 against -£11.202 budgeted.

**RESOLVED: The performance report to year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March be accepted as presented.**

**4. List of payments.**

**RESOLVED: to approve the list of payments as presented by the Clerk**

*All expenditure made under the General Power of Competence.*

Clerk

		Gross	VAT incl
Sharon Collins	Closed churchyard 1 of 4	310.00	0
Mrs J English	Litterpicking May 2 of 12	150.00	0
Clerk reimburse	Printer paper & stamps	11.80	0
EHDC	Dog bin emptying contract 2024/25	768.41	128.07
Clerk	Expenses April-May	18.20	0
Clerk reimburse	Stationery	3.99	0
Clerk	Salary May	462.85	0
HMRC	PAYE May	115.60	0
Widford Playing Field	Maintenance grant 2024	1,300.00	0
Accountancy Services	Interna audit for AGAR 2023/24	100.00	0
TEEC	Web Planning tracker annual fee	28.80	4.80
Clerk reimburse	Printer ink	100.35	16.73
<b>Recoverable VAT included</b>			<b>£0.00</b>

**5. AGAR 2023/24**

The Internal auditor’s report had not been received. Therefore, it was **RESOLVED that an Extraordinary Meeting be called on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May to approve the 2023/24 AGAR.**

Clerk

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

- HCC: Bell Lane concerns
- Benningfield Green parking issues

**24.054 Village Reports**

**1. Village Hall**

1. Plans on progressing the way forward are undecided.

**2. Playing Field**

Grass cutting is being undertaken.

**RESOLVED: To increase the maintenance grant to £1,300**

The Annual RPII play inspection has been agreed.

MA

**3. Allotments**

1. No problems to report. Annual meeting is being arranged in VH in May.

IC

**4. Closed Churchyard.**

- 1. No issues were reported.
- 2. PCC request to help maintain footpath: The PCC will consider the matter at its Annual Meeting next week and then come back to the Parish Council with a proposal.

**24.055 Highways, Footpaths and byways**

**1. Footpaths and PRoW.**

- 1. FP3 Widford to Hunsdon: The Chairman reported that he had contacted the landowner to widen the footpath.

**MA**

**2. Highways and footways**

- 1. Update on general clean-up of verges, gutters and overgrown footways: Not yet arranged. A plea to be made in the village Magazine for parishioners to help. The overgrowth in Bell Lane to be cut back.
- 2. Update on Enforcement issues by Greenacres: No update available.

**MA**

**3. Other parish matters and concerns**

- 1. None raised.

**24.056 Benningfield Green**

The Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent regarding parking on the Green contrary to the access licence. If there is no long term improvement, knee-high fencing may be considered. The Chairman to check with other Benningfield residents what issues might arise if fencing is installed.

**MA**

**24.057 Village Archive**

No report received.

**24.058 Urgent matters** received too late for inclusion on this agenda:

None received.

**7.55 pm: The meeting was suspended for public comments**

A parishioner asked that Agendas and Minutes be posted on the Parish Council notice boards. The Chairman agreed to do this.

**MA**

**8pm: The meeting was restored to order.**

**24.059 Items for future agendas**

- 1. None raised.

**Clerk**

**24.060 Date of next Meetings (all in the Village Hall)**

- 1. Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm: Extraordinary Meeting to approve the 2023/24 AGAR
- 2. Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

**Clerk/MA**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.04pm.

Signed.....Dated.....