

# Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall



**PRESENT:** Cllr Jill Buck, Chairman (JB); Cllr Carol Blackett (CB); Cllr Paul Riddle (PR);  
Cllr Michael Ripsher

7 members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

**ACTION**

## 19.015 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Babs Edwards (family commitment)
2. Others: Dist. Cllr Bob Brunton, Sgt Duncan Wallace; James Gardner (EHC)

At 7.32pm and before the meeting proceeded further, the Chairman suspended the meeting, explaining that James Gardner of EHC had sent apologies an hour previously to say he was sick and unable to attend. The Chairman said that since she believed a number of parishioners were attending to hear about Section 106 money, the meeting was open for discussion and any comments that the Council might be able to address. A number of questions were raised and the Chairman said she would therefore attempt to get Mr Gardner to attend a later meeting, possibly the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

The meeting was restored to order at 7.50pm.

## 19.016 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. **Interests:** None declared
2. **Dispensation requests:** None received

## 19.017 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

It was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

## 19.018 Police report

In the absence of the Police, the Chairman read the following report from Sgt Duncan Wallace:

Since 1st February 2019 the parish has 6 incidents on our recording system

- 2 are Child Protection investigations with no criminal outcome
- 1 relates to an alleged Sexual Assault by touching by an identified suspect
- 2 relate to a Burglary at the Construction site whereby appliances were removed from residential properties which were yet to be occupied
- 1 relates to a Burglary offence to farm outbuilding where tools were taken

PCSO Leon De Bruyn added the following report, read by the Chairman:

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019, I completed a review of Much Hadham, Hunsdon, Eastwick, Gilston and High Wych with regards to Fly-Tipping. I was accompanied by a representative from EHDC Environmental dept, Adam Praverman and we identified 5 small Fly-Tips in and around the area. This also helped us to communicate and review various areas which we believe are 'hot spot' locations for Fly-Tipping.

East Herts have also recently been targeted for 3 large Fly-Tips which we believe were deposited by use of a tipper truck, given the material that was left in situ. The 3 areas that have been targeted are Gore Lane, Jobbers Wood and Albury. EHDC are in the process of removing the deposits, however we are asking communities to be vigilant and report any suspicious vehicles that they believe may be committing similar offences.

## 19.019 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and gave a reminder that the Annual Meeting of the Parish (which is *not* a Council meeting) will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

19.020 **Section 106 presentation.** As previously discussed, James Gardner was sick, but it was hoped to invite him to address the Annual Meeting of the Parish on April 2nd.

19.021 **Planning**

1. **New Applications:**

NONE

2. **Decision Notices.** The following were noted:

**3/19/0213/FUL The Pavilion, Bell Lane:** Create first floor residential unit. *DECISION AWAITED*

**3/19/0292/VAR Platts Bungalow, Howletts Road:** Variation of Condition 2 on 3/17/1821/FUL  
*DECISION AWAITED*

**3/19/0017/VAR Church Barns:** Change of Condition 3 on 3/17/0002/FUL *DECISION AWAITED*

**3/18/2752/HH Ashbourne Manor:** Erection of acoustic fencing. **REFUSED**

**3/18/2630/REM Land adj to Bertrams Cottages, Levenage Lane:** Application for reserved matters following outline planning permission on 3/17/1624/OUT. **GRANTED**

**3/8/2540/HH 1 Priory Farm Yard:** Two storey side extension. **GRANTED**

**3/18/2445/HH Little Cozens, Nether Street:** Demolish rear and side extensions. **REFUSED**

**3/18/2454/FUL Ash View Nursing Home:** 20-bedroom specialist care home. **GRANTED**

**3/18/2412/VAR Corner of Levenage Lane and Hunsdon Road:** Application to vary condition 2 of approved plan 3/18/0110/VAR and 3/17/182/FUL. **GRANTED**

**3/18/2181/FUL Land north of Abbots Lane, The Old Orchard:** Erect 1 no. 4 bedroomed dwelling with landscaping and parking *DECISION AWAITED*

**3/18/1668/FUL The Green Man:** Change of use to 2 x dwellings. First floor rear extension. Change of use of outbuilding to 1 x dwelling and parking. *DECISION AWAITED*

**3/18/1027/FUL To appeal: Land north of Abbots Lane. Appeal notice 18/00137/REFUSE**  
*APPEAL DECISION AWAITED*

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

1. **Late planning applications**

**3/19/0479/HH 3A Benningfield Road:** Demolish garage to create two-storey side extension and single-storey front extension It was **RESOLVED to make no objections**

Clerk

2. **Priory Farm:** enforcement investigation into hedge reinstatement: NO UPDATE

3. **Adams Farm & Priory Farm** development: NO UPDATE

19.022 **Finance**

1. Report of the Council's finances for 1 January to 28 February was received (Appendix A)

**Finance Summary from 1 Jan to 28 Feb**

	£
<b>Opening bank balance 1 January</b>	<b>17,284.26</b>
Plus: income to 28 February	0.00
Minus: expenditure to 28 February	<u>1,150.46</u>
	16,133.80
Minus December cheque 1190 presented in period	266.60
Minus unpresented cheques	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 28 February</b>	<b>15,867.20</b>
Minus unpresented Sept & Nov cheques 1177, 1184	<u>21.23</u>
<b>Balance available to Council at 28 February (cashbook balance)</b>	<b><u>15,845.97</u></b>

Reconciliation of the Accounts to the bank statements was noted and it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement for 1 January to 28 February be accepted.**

Clerk

2. Cllr Michael Ripsher, as a non-signatory member, signed the accounts sheet and bank statement to verify reconciliation.

3. **Financial statement and forecast.** The Clerk provided a detailed statement of the budget vs actual financial position as at 28th February, and a forecast for the year-end, 31st March 2019.

Finances are within budget and against currently known income and expenditure, the projected bank balance for the year-end is potentially £10,626 against a budget projection of £6,818. The main factors influencing the variations were explained at the November Parish Council meeting and recorded in the Minutes. The bus shelter repair cost of £3,414 has been included in the expenditure, but the Zurich insurance settlement, anticipated to be £1,936, has not been included in the income since it is uncertain whether it will be received this financial year. It was **RESOLVED to accept the financial statement and forecast.**

Clerk

**4. Laptop overhaul.** It was **RESOLVED to approve this for a cost of £30.**

Clerk

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

Clerk

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq	Power
22/2	J English	Litterpicking Feb	116.00	S/O	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
26/2	Clerk	Salary February	350.00	1197	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A) & s151; LA 2011 s41
12/3	Widford PCC	Memorial grant	250.00	1198	LGA 1972 s137
12/3	Clerk	Expenses Jan/Feb	45.15	1199	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A)
12/3	Village Hall	Hall hire allots	4.50	1200	LGA 1972 s111
12/3	Village Hall	Hall hire Council	94.50	1201	LGA 1972 s111
12/3	CommuniCorp	Subscription	100.00	1202	LGA 1972 s111
12/3	J Buck reimburse	Churchyard soil	12.00	1203	LGA 1972 s137
12/3	LCPAS	Subs & DPO	120.00	1204	LGA 1972 s111
12/3	J Buck reimburse	Payment subs	21.23	1205	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
12/3	Tekhouse	Laptop overhaul	30.00	1206	LGA 1972 s111
12/3	P Riddle reimbur	Website backup	29.99	1207	LGA 1972 s111
12/3	AK Hobson Ltd	Bus shelter	4,036.80	1208	LG(MP)A 1953 s4; PCA 1957
12/3	Petty cash	Flash drive	9.99	1209	LGA 1972 s111
22/3	J English	Litterpick March	116.00	S/O	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
<b>Recoverable VAT included</b>			<b>£677.80</b>		Under VAT Act 1994 (1), (3)

The cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

Clerk

### 19.023 Correspondence

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

- Parishioner: re budget, precept and contested election costs
- GL Hearn: FOI request
- Parishioner: re the Green Man ACV and future plans for the pub
- Parishioner: re reinstating missing FP6 way markers (19.025.1.1)
- Parishioner & HCC: re Bridleway 16 modification (19.025.1.2)
- Parishioner: re bus shelter repair/re-siting (19.025.2.3)
- PCC: re grant (19.024.4)
- DC R Brunton: re fly tipping (19.025.3.2 and 19.018)
- Parishioner: re dog fouling on pavements (19.025.3.3)
- Parishioner: Asbestos being dumped on private property (19.025.3.4)
- Parishioner: re plastic being blown around footpaths (19.025.3.4)

### 19.024 Village Reports

#### 1. Village Hall and archive

- The VH is not getting as much support at events as it needs. There are funds in the bank, but a number of things need attention, including roof repair.

#### 2. Playing Field

No report was submitted.

#### 3. Allotments

**1. General:** Nothing to report.

**2. Affinity Water connection:** Further to the resolution at the January Meeting to proceed with laying on the water supply, the Clerk reported that Affinity's quote has substantially increased from their verbal estimate of £2.5k - £3k to a written quote of £12,264, incl £2,044 VAT (£10,220 net). Additional to this, the Hertfordshire Rights of Way Officer has advised that

BE

the formal closure of FP18 to lay the pipework could require a traffic regulation order costing a further £1,122. Within the 2019/2020 budget, £3,000 has been allowed, but in order to proceed it would be necessary to apply for a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan. The Clerk said he had already discussed this with the County Officer of the Herts Association of Parish & Town Councils (HAPTC) and established that the project would meet the loan criteria. Alternative arrangements for contestable services, eg, the laying of the pipework, are being considered. If £10,000 were to be borrowed over 15 years, the loan repayments would be affordable within the current budget and without affecting the precept. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to apply for a PWLB loan of £10,000.**

Clerk/  
BE

Clerk

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster said Affinity Water are promoting themselves as a grant provider for community projects and wondered whether they would be prepared to provide grant funding for the allotments.

#### 4. Closed Churchyard

1. **Wiseman family monument:** The PCC has now had the memorial reinstated. The Chairman said she had purchased some top soil to make up the soil level within the kerb stones.

JB/  
Clerk

#### 19.025 Highways, footpaths and byways

##### 1. Footpaths, footways and kerbs.

1. **FP6:** Way markers have now been replaced by PRow volunteers. The ploughed field has yet to be reinstated.
2. **Bridleway 16:** The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the landowner in support of the proposed diversion of the Bridleway.

##### 2. Highways

1. **Parish SID and Speed & Volume studies:** These are ongoing.
2. **Levenage Lane junction/B180:** HCC has confirmed that in order to improve road safety, it is proposing to implement further 30mph and 40mph restrictions on the B180 and is making a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to that effect. This will make the whole of Widford village a 30mph zone.
3. **Bus shelter repair:** The Clerk reported that the contractor has nearly completed the installation of the new shelter. It was noted that the contractor has been very helpful and has offered to add a tip-up seat, yet to be installed.
4. **DriveSafe Scheme update:** No further news.

Clerk

##### 3. Other parish concerns

1. **Twitchell ditch: flooding danger to Benningfield Road properties.** The Clerk reported that Herts Highways had inspected the pipe under the road by camera and had jetted it. They had also dug out and improved the entrance of the pipe from the ditch to ensure there is no impairment to the water flow.
2. **Fly tipping.** This was covered in the earlier police report by PCSO DeBruyn (19.018). A complaint has been received that asbestos has been dumped in a parishioner's garden. Incidents should be reported on the County Council website.
3. **Dog fouling on pavements.** There has been a complaint about dogs fouling the pavements. The Clerk gave the Chairman a number of EHC dog fouling warning notices.

##### 4. Other matters raised:

- A complaint was made about cars being inconsiderately parked by the Bell Lane junction with the B180.
- A complaint had been received that a lot of plastic rubbish is being blown around the parish footpaths. This has been referred back to the land owner.
- The reporting of a water leak on the hill leading down to the coal yard resulted in a response that there was no issue. This is blatantly untrue since Highways placed Beware Of Ice notices there in the cold weather.
- The desperate need for the roadside gutters to be swept and cleaned was raised. East Herts has a sweeping programme in place, which can be modified if necessary.

Clerk

All Highways issues to be raised via the Highways online fault process.

## 19.026 Reports by County and District Councillors

County Councillor Eric Buckmaster's February topics covered:

**Minerals Local Plan Review:** We'll be publishing the Proposed Submission Minerals Local Plan between 14 January 2019 and 22 March 2019. There is a Non-Key Decision about to be made regarding the response to Hertfordshire Minerals Consultation. It concerns an objection to the inclusion of Briggens as a preferred option. Both EHC and Stanstead Abbots PC will be objecting to Briggens quarry.

**Blue badge consultation:** The government is proposing changing the eligibility criteria for the Blue Badge scheme to include people with non-physical conditions. Consultation closes on 18 March.

**Hertfordshire councils gearing up for growth:** Hertfordshire's growth over the next 12 to 15 years comes with a significant infrastructure requirement which will cost up to £6bn. The 11 councils in Hertfordshire are planning to deliver around 100,000 new homes in by 2031, (an increase of more than 20% of the current total housing stock).

**New Mental Health Support pilot in Hertfordshire schools:** Thousands of children and young people in Hertfordshire are set to benefit from vital early specialist mental health intervention as part of a national pilot.

**Fast-track training programme for the next generation of social workers** is looking for new recruits in Hertfordshire: Step Up to Social Work is a national government initiative funding graduates and career changers to retrain for a career supporting children and families in need.

**The Royal British Legion** plans to take 300 Normandy veterans to France on a fully funded tour to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. The voyage will take veterans who helped liberate France during the Second World War to a series of commemorative events on both sides of the channel, at no cost to themselves.

**A414 Flytipping and Litter Picking:** Flytipping and litter is an ongoing problem. Regulations stipulate that safety measures need to be in place when litter picking in order to enable workers to do their job safely. They will make use of the scheduled night-time road closures that enable Ringway to do the grass cutting, following them as they go. This will start from April. Ringway have been liaising with HCC to seek a permanent resolution to the issue of fly tipping at certain sites.

**Harlow & Gilston Garden Town** has secured an additional £715,000 of capacity funding from Homes England. This represents a confidence in, and commitment to, the ambitious plans that will transform the Harlow & Gilston area, providing much needed homes, jobs and infrastructure for existing and new residents.

**Old River Lane Proposals:** Planning for a 540-spaces multi storey car park at Northgate End was approved this month. It is intended to free up the surface car park in the causeway for a regeneration of Bishop's Stortford Town Centre.

**Princess Alexandra Hospital:** On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Princess Alexandra Hospital announced its preferred option is to have a new-build facility located to the East of Harlow near the proposed Junction 7A. There is still a lot of work to do to secure funding and hope for an announcement of support from the Government in the Autumn Statement this year. There would then need to be public consultations and if eventually approved there would be an anticipated construction period of around 3.5 years.

*Eric Buckmaster*

The Chairman read District Cllr Bob Brunton's report, the main points being:

- There was a planning committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February where the first of the District Plan allocated sites in Sawbridgeworth came forward. This gave the planning committee a good indication of the level of involvement a community could start to have on the master planning process. Residents' reservations and objections were expressed and presented at committee. Unfortunately, these issues had for the most part been answered through the planning process afforded to an already allocated site. This is important to us in our ward as it has proved a good indication of the limitations to the master planning process and the importance of the local communities having a clear indication (a wish list if you like) of their expectations as each allocated site comes forward.
- Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Members Board met on the 4<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by all authorities. The Garden Town Vision document was adopted and a presentation was also

given by the organisation called 'Thinking Place' who were commissioned to carry out a survey as to how the concept of a garden town may be better understood by all local communities.

- The first Ware development steering group meeting was held on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Wareside Parish Council was represented and pushed the point about local community improvements plus school placements away from the actual development site.

I'll be working away most weekdays in March and not available during Purdah pre elections.

It has been my privilege to serve as your ward member for the last four years and I wish you all the very best in the future.

*Bob Brunton*

**19.027 Urgent matters** received too late for inclusion on this agenda: None raised

In view of the open discussion at the beginning of the Meeting, it was agreed not to suspend it again for parishioners' comments.

**19.028 Items for future agendas**

- No issues raised
- It was noted that Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and parish electors are encouraged to stand. The deadline for nomination submissions to EHC is 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The Clerk has details for anyone who needs them.

**19.029 Dates of next meetings were confirmed, all in the Village Hall:**

**Tuesday 2nd April:** Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 7th May:** 1. Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm, *followed by*

2. May Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at approximately 7.30pm

**JB/Clerk  
JB/  
Clerk**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

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