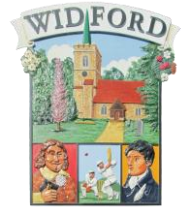


# Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting  
Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall



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

9 members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

**ACTION**

## 19.070 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Michael Ripsher (unwell) - apology accepted
2. Others: PCSO Leon de Bruyn; Gilda Deterding; Cllr Eric Buckmaster will arrive late

## 19.071 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

### 1. Interests

Cllr Babs Edwards: as noted on the agenda, a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Playing Field matters, her husband being Treasurer of the PFMC.

Cllr Babs Edwards, Cllr Carol Blackett and Cllr Michael Ripsher: DPs in respect of agenda planning item 19.061.3.2 in that their properties are adjacent to the proposed development.

### 2. Dispensation requests: None received.

## 19.072 Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

## 19.073 Police report

In the absence of PCSO Leon de Bruyn, the Chairman read the following report that he had sent:

*Period from 3<sup>rd</sup> August to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019*

Thefts from motor vehicles x 2:

2 vehicles were broken into in the same residential street on the same evening. Suspects have gained entry to both vehicles by means unknown causing no damage. Items have been removed from within both vehicles and suspects have made off in an unknown direction.

Police enquiries are still in progress at this time.

## 19.074 Chairman's announcements: None

## 19.075 Planning

### 1. New Applications:

**3/18//1668/FUL The Green Man: Planning Appeal.** Informal public hearing due on 17<sup>th</sup> September was noted. The Chairman will attend and make comments.

JB

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

**3/19/1025/FUL Owletts Corner:** Change of use, paddock to manège.

**GRANTED**

**3/19/1483/FUL Land adj to 3A Benningfield Road:** build one 2-storey dwelling

AWAITING DECISION

**3/19/0213/FUL The Pavilion, Bell Lane: Ref19/00117/REFUSE**

APPEAL DECISION AWAITED

**3/19/1169/FUL 9 Benningfield Road:** Continued use for childminding

AWAITING DECISION

**3/19/0547/LBC Church Barns:** Change of use to B1 and residential

AWAITING DECISION

**3/18/2518/fUL Land adj to Widford Rise:** Erect 2 x 4-bed dwellings. **19/00091/Refuse**

**APPEALED.**

APPEAL DECISION AWAITED

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

**1. Late planning applications:** NONE

**2. Adams Farm & Priory Farm proposed development:** Nothing further reported

**3. Much Hadham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 consultation.** It was agreed that Cllrs Riddle, Edwards and Blackett view the Plan and comment as appropriate.

PR/BE/  
CB

**4.** The new campsite sign in Pegs Lane was noted.

The Clerk was asked to follow up the FOI request made to EHC Planning re the Adams Farm development

Clerk

**19.076 Finance**

**1.** Report of the Council's finances for 24 June to 27 August was received (Appendix A)

**Finance Summary from 24 June to 27 August**

	£
<b>Opening bank balance 24 June</b>	<b>18,284.35</b>
Plus: income to 27 August	5,779.00
Minus: expenditure to 27 August	3,094.56
Minus presented May cheque 1221	36.55
<b>Balance available to Council at 27 August (cashbook balance)</b>	<b>20,932.24</b>
Plus unpresented July/August cheques 1232, 1235	480.00
<b>Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 27 August</b>	<b>21,412.24</b>

Reconciliation of the Accounts to the bank statements was noted and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.**

Clerk

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

**3. Budget vs performance to 27 August 2019**

The Clerk provided a detailed statement of the budget vs actual financial position to 27th August. Income and expenditure are broadly in line with budget expectations. It was unanimously

**RESOLVED to accept the financial statement.**

Clerk

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

Clerk

*All expenditure made under the General Power of Competence*

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq
22/7	HAPTC	Clerk's training (2/3rds reimbursed)	120.00	1232
22/7	J English	Litterpick July	116.00	S/O
29/7	EHC	Annual dog bin contract	810.19	1233
29/7	Clerk	Salary July	360.00	1234
22/8	J English	Litterpick August	116.00	S/O
27/8	Clerk	Salary August	360.00	1235
1/9	Mrs C Parrott	Closed Churchyard 3 of 4	240.00	S/O
3/9	EHC	Uncontested election recharge	51.15	1236
3/9	Clerk	Expenses July/August	37.25	1237
3/9	Petty cash (Clerk)	Petty cash July/August	11.50	1238
3/9	J Turner	Benningfield grass 3 of 3	100.00	1239
3/9	HAPTC	Clerk's training (3/4ths reimbursed)	50.00	1240
<b>Recoverable VAT included</b>			<b>135.03</b>	

The cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

Clerk

**5. Citizens Advice Service:** Following a request, it was **RESOLVED to make a grant of £100.**

Clerk

**19.077 Correspondence**

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

- MHPC: MH Neighbourhood Plan consultation (19.075.3.3)
- Herts Highways: Delay on Levenage Lane/Hunsdon Road scheme (19.079.2.3)
- Charles Browne (Change.org?): email circulated with multiple addresses - potential GDPR breach (19.079.3.2)
- Citizens Advice Service: Grant request (19.076.5)

- Dr Barnes: re ditches and hedges (19.078.3.2)
- Lady Ann Parker: re closed churchyard yew trees
- County Cllr/Herts Highways: Highways work and Highways Together scheme (19.079.2.4)
- Resident: New "Toad Abode" campsite sign in Pegs Lane (19.075.3.4)

## 19.078 Village Reports

### 1. Village Hall and archive

CB

- There was no report as there has not been a VHMC meeting since the July report.

### 2. Playing Field

JB

The Chairman gave a report in Cllr Ripsher's absence:

- The PFMC has recruited five new young members who are all keen to get involved in fund raising.
- A family event has been planned for 7<sup>th</sup> September. It is understood that tickets and raffle tickets have been selling well. Fund raising is specifically for improving the play equipment.
- The grass has been cut shorter than recently and the swings have been cleaned.
- The electricity supply has been reinstated.

PFMC Treasurer Tom Edwards noted that the Parish Council's funding grant consideration is on hold pending the outcome of a public meeting to assess support for increasing the precept.

Cllr Paul Riddle made the following statement which he asked to be recorded in the Minutes:

*It is clear that the Trust Document defines how the Playing Field is to be managed and this does not suggest that the Parish Council is in any way responsible for maintenance.*

*Good practice always associates financial responsibility with management authority and the suggestion that the Parish Council should be permanently responsible for maintenance while not having any authority amounts to bad financial practice.*

*The Parish Council is expected to raise the precept and to ring fence these funds on an effectively permanent basis to cover the Playing Field maintenance costs yet the Playing Field Management Committee are unwilling to consider Greg's pavilion proposal which is supported by the Parish Council.*

It was noted that the PFMC currently has approximately £3,000 in the bank.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED to await the outcome of public support before deciding how to proceed with grant funding.** The Clerk said this will need to be known before the budget and precept are finalised at the January 2020 parish Council meeting.

Clerk

Broken dog bin: The dog bin has been broken beyond repair. **It was RESOLVED to replace the bin under insurance if financially viable.** It is believed that the post is still serviceable.

Clerk

### 3. Allotments

BE

#### 1. Affinity Water update and to consider revised resolution

Held in abeyance, subject to the next item below

#### 2. Alternative water supply solutions

Mr Ian Brett put forward an alternative proposal. He suggested it would be perfectly possible to install 1m<sup>3</sup> receptacle in the ditch to collect water throughout the year and which would be pumped to three tanks in the allotments. He said it would be possible to save enough water to serve the allotments at a fraction of Affinity Water's installation cost. Mr Brett offered to design and then project manage the idea if approved, with the help of other willing and knowledgeable parishioners. If the idea could not be proven by November, the Parish Council could revert to its proposal to get water laid on to the site by Affinity Water. It was **RESOLVED that Mr Brett design and prove his idea and submit his findings to the Parish Council for the November Council meeting so that a final decision can be made in January at the latest.**

IB

### 4. Closed Churchyard:

Nothing to report.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster arrived at 8.45pm

**19.079 Highways, footpaths and byways**

**1. Footpaths, footways and kerbs.**

- 1. **FP6 Reinstatement:** No progress reported by PRoW Officer.
- 2. **Footway faults** have been reported via the HCC online fault system. No report of an outcome has been received as yet.

**2. Highways**

**1. Parish SID, Speed & Volume studies and site visits:**

The SID sites suggested are not acceptable to either party. Ian Hollinrake (HCC) is awaiting the Parish Council’s response for alternatives, but noted that HCC funding will be an issue.

**2. Bus shelter repair:** Still waiting for the contractor to complete.

**3. Levenage Lane/Hunsdon Road scheme:** With the developer. The contractor has sadly died and a new contractor is being organised.

**Other:** The TRO closure notice of the B1004 was noted

**EB/All  
EB  
Clerk**

**3. Other parish concerns**

**1. Benningfield Green Annual Vehicular Licence:** It was noted that the licensee has agreed to reinstate the Green in fulfilment of the licence requirements and has paid the fee for 2019/20.

**2. GDPR:** It was noted that a potential issue involving an outside source has been reported to the DPO.

**3. Other matters raised:** None

**19.080 Reports by County and District Councillor**

Cllr Eric Buckmaster briefly reviewed his County and District report for September.

**19.081 Clerk’s employment.** It was noted that the Clerk has been engaged as the Clerk to Thundridge Parish Council and that he has left Hormead PC. The hours are similar and therefore no changes are anticipated.

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

At 9.20pm the Meeting was suspended for parishioners’ comments

A parishioner made two suggestions and asked if they could be considered at the next meeting:

- i) That welcome packs be prepared and given to all newcomers to the village. Could include FP map, and information about the church, magazine, school, allotments, village hall, playing field, and Parish council.

The Chairman pointed out that the editors arrange for the magazine to go to all new homes and that the church also organises information for new households.

- ii) That in view of the increase in the number of residents, could a parish event be organised at the playing field next summer. If so, could Cllr Eric Buckmaster be prepared to support it for, say, £500 from his locality budget?

**Clerk**

The meeting was restored to order at 9.25pm

**19.083 Items for future agendas**

No issues, other than those raised during the meeting.

**Clerk**

**19.084 Date of next Parish Council meeting**

Tuesday 5th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**JB/Clerk**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

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