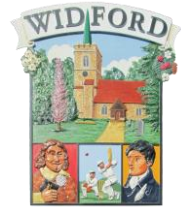


Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom under Coronavirus legislation



PRESENT: Cllr Mike Allen (MA) Chair; Cllr Babs Edwards (BE); Cllr Michael Ripsher (MR)
2 members of the public; Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.33pm

ACTION

20.033 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Carol Blackett (CB)
2. Others: PCSO Leon de Bruyn

20.034 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 have dispensations in respect of planning item 20.039.3.2 due to their properties being adjacent to the proposed development.

2. **Dispensation requests:** None received.

20.035 Minutes of 3rd March Parish Council Meetings

1. It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd March were a true and accurate record.**
2. It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd March were a true and accurate record.**

MA/Clerk

MA/Clerk

20.036 Casual Vacancy

It was noted that East Herts Democratic Services have issued the Vacancy notice. The deadline for 10 electors to request a poll is 19th May. If no requests are received, the Parish Council will be free to co-opt. If a poll request is received, under Covid-19 regulations the poll will not be conducted until May 2021.

Clerk/
MA

The Clerk to send a co-option form to the Chairman for any interested parties.

Clerk

20.045 It was agreed to bring the Cllr Eric Buckmaster's County and District Councillor reports forward:

Highways: under Covid-19 restrictions, will continue to catch-up with the programme but not within the original time-frame – apart from gulley cleaning.

Covid-19: updates have been sent out regularly to parishes. HCC continuing to check on those needing support, about 80% being helped locally. Volunteer Groups are working well.

Waste & recycling: HCC opening 4 sites initially, but not in East Herts. It is anticipated that 11 of the 17 sites will open asap. Traffic management will be organised to mitigate risks of vehicles queuing. Green household waste collections will resume on 11th May. The new Ware site will hopefully be opening late summer.

Projects: Will continue as planned as much as possible, including Grange Paddocks, Hartham and Hertford Theatre. Looking at ways to use new technology to engage and consult.

Small Business Grants: More money needed from government on top of the £31m already provided. From next week, a further £1.5m will be available for other small businesses – guidelines are yet to be published. There is a request to let local businesses know that they

might get help if they need a grant.

Cllr Buckmaster left the meeting at 7.50pm.

20.037 Police report

In the absence of PCSO Leon de Bruyn, the Chairman read the following report:

This period from 1st – 19th April.

There have been two reported crimes in Widford:

- 1. Theft of a trailer, taken from the end of a property in Widford. Unfortunately, the area in question was not overlooked and easily accessed. For this reason, there are no further lines of enquiry for police to progress*
- 2. Attempted Theft – a business premises was targeted by unknown suspects who appear to have been disturbed on police arrival.*

PCSO Leon De Bruyn, 30 April 2020

20.038 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman said that the Covid-19 situation had made it a very interesting and challenging first month in office. The C-19 help group is working well, linking with Much Hadham and the Village Hall. Cllr Babs Edwards noted that local food needs are being met and that two spare boxes had been sent to the Hertford food bank.

Concerns about another entrance being opened up on to Bourne Lane near its junction with the B1004 – although it is understood this is to deal with rubbish.

Concerns about the sensitive matter of a car being left in Benningfield Close are being dealt with.

20.039 Planning

1. New Applications:

3/20/0749/FUL Greenacres, Ware Road: Erect detached bungalow (retrospective).

RESOLVED: No comment

2. Decision Notices. The following were noted:

3/20/0338/FUL Widfordbury Farm: Change of use, B1 to D2 to use as fencing salle

3/20/0274/HH Oak House, Hunsdon Rd: Demolish conservatory & build extension

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

**REFUSED
GRANTED
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 reported

20.040 Finance

1. The Clerk's statement of the Council's accounts as at year-end, 31 March 2020 was received.

RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 31 March 2020 be accepted.

2. The Clerk's report on the financial performance vs budget for the year ended 31 March 2020 was received. **RESOLVED: that the report be accepted as presented.**

3. The Clerk's statement of the Council's accounts for 2020/21 to 28th April 2020 was received.

RESOLVED: that the 2020/21 Accounts Statement to 28 April 2020 be accepted.

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.

5. Bank mandate changes: It was noted that NatWest has not yet approved the mandate signatory changes. The Chairman has been requested to take further ID into a branch for verification.

MA/Clerk

6. AGAR 2019/20. Changes to the requirements under Covid-19 legislation were noted.

Clerk

20.041 Correspondence

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

- HCC: re Benningfield Green boundary and footway
- HCC: multiple emails re Covid-19
- EHC: multiple emails re Covid-19

- Parishioners: multiple emails re Covid-19 help for parishioners
- HAPTC: multiple emails re Covid-19 lockdown and prevailing legislation
- PKF Littlejohn: emails re AGAR legislation issues due to Covid-19
- Water leak on road by Ashview/cricket field (20.043.2.5)
- EHC: Re Burial Authority status and cemetery space
- Citizen's Advice: Notification of services during lockdown
- Pensions Regulator: Workplace Pensions re-enrolment (with Clerk)

20.042 Village Reports

1. Village Hall and archive. No report received

2. Playing Field. No report received

3. Allotments

Awaiting the water engineer's company to refine the prototype system – only emergency work is being undertaken during the lockdown.

A couple of tenants are willing to run the system but can't do anything until the pump is installed.

Mr Ian Brett would like to meet at the allotments to see his project through.

BE

4. Closed Churchyard. Nothing reported.

20.043 Highways, Public Rights of Way, and other Parish matters

1. Footpaths and PRoW. Nothing reported.

2. Highways and footways

1. Parish SID: Nothing reported.

2. Bus shelter repair: No progress reported.

3. Levenage Lane/Hunsdon Road scheme: It was noted that a very small "chicane" near the Levenage Lane junction has been rebuilt - this is, in fact not a chicane, but a build-out intended to act as a gentle traffic calming device. It is considered that this was a missed opportunity to create a more effective solution.

4. Benningfield Green missing footway posts: HCC are looking into this and other related issues. The Chairman asked the Clerk to forward him correspondence with HCC.

Clerk

5. Water leak by Ashview/cricket ground: Noted that the leak has stopped.

3. Other parish matters and concerns

1. New bus stop litter bin and Playing Field dog bin: Both installed.

2. New litter bin for Benningfield Green: To be ordered.

Clerk

3. Covid-19 help in the parish: Dealt with by the Chairman under 20.038 above.

Additional item: A question was raised as to why gates have been installed at the entrance to the Playing Field. It was noted that the former gates were moved away from the road and nearer to the Field entrance to avoid the danger posed by vehicles waiting in the road while the gates were being unlocked for access. The PFMC has a key.

20.044 Benningfield Green

The grass cutting contract for 2020 is with the parishioner for signing.

Clerk

20.045 Reports by County and District Councillor: Report given earlier in the meeting.

20.046 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda: None

Parishioner's comments.

The footway by Ainsborough Cottages was reported to be overgrown and restricted by detritus. The Clerk asked for a photo that could be used in raising a Highways Fault report. The Chairman agreed to take a photo and raise fault report.

MA

20.047 Items for future agendas: None raised

20.048 Dates of next meetings

1. Ordinary Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 7th July at 7.30pm: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Clerk

- 2. **Annual Meeting of the Parish (not a Council meeting):** Cannot be held due to Covid-19 restrictions
- 3. **Annual Parish Council Meeting:** Agreed to be deferred until May 2021

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

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