

DRAFT1

Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Monday 5th July 2022 at 730 in Widford Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Mike Allen (MA); Cllr Michael Ripsher (MPR); Cllr Mark Rome (MR)
Five members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

ACTION

22.061 To receive and approve apologies for absence

1. Councillors: Cllr Ian Collins (Work) , Cllr Babs Edwards (away) **Approved**
2. Others: None

22.062 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. Interests

As noted on the agenda: Cllr Babs Edwards: an interest and a dispensation in respect of Playing Field matters, her husband being Treasurer of the PFMC. Cllr Mike Allen has an interest and a dispensation in re Playing Field matters, being a trustee. Cllr Ian Collins has a dispensation for the remainder of the electoral term in respect of his wife having the Closed Churchyard maintenance contract.

22.063 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May 2022 were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Clerk/MA

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May 2022 were a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Clerk/MA

Draft Minutes of the 5th April 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish Electorate were not available to be received.

Clerk

22.064 Police report

1. Crime report: No crimes reported in Widford.

PCSO Leon De Bruyn asked for the following to be noted:

Although I am your point of contact for the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, all crimes and criminal incidents need to be reported using 999 in an Emergency or 101 for a Non-Emergency. These reports are taken by our call centre who will then record the incident and provide a police log. They are then allocated to the next available officer/police unit. Full details of the incidents will need to be provided.

I appreciate that you are sometimes contacted by members in your community, however the same will apply and I would encourage you to ask those residents to do the same.

I am always happy to help and advise, however should you email me with a report or incident, this may not be received immediately should I be on a rest day, training day, annual leave or other operational duties. By reporting it either online or by using the non-emergency number 101, it greatly reduces the risk of organisation failings.

2. Benningfield Road junction parking update: No further issues or action has been noted.
3. Drivesafe update (sent by Cllr Babs Edwards):
The petition is being sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner. 20 people willing to support the Drivesafe scheme. 4 people willing to do roadside monitoring. We need between 4 -6; waiting to see if any more will offer.

22.065 Chairman's announcements

The Playing Field Committee met last night (4th July). The cleaning up of verges is being worked on. There are some water issues at the allotments that will be referred to later in the meeting. The Gilston Steering Group is not meeting at the moment and some issues are being worked through. Junction 7A on the M11 is now open.

22.066 Reports by County and District Councillor Eric Buckmaster

This was deferred to later in the meeting and then agreed to add it as an appendix to the Minutes of this meeting.

22.067 Planning

1. New Applications:

3/22/1196/HH Gilston, 42 Bell Lane: Installation of solar panels. **RESOLVED: No Objection** Clerk

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

3/22/0097/LBC Widford School: Replacement windows, doors and cladding **GRANTED**

3/22/0503/HH The Old Forge: Single storey rear extension **GRANTED**

3/22/0888/HH & 3/22/1001/LBC The Old Rectory: Demolish attached outbuildings & conservatory; build single storey side extension and other works. *Awaited*

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

3/21/1720/HH 4 Nether Street: Outbuilding to rear. *Awaited*

3/21/1180/HH & 1181/LBC Chestnut Tree Cottage: Erection of garden room *Awaited*

E/21/0288/ENF 30 Benningfield Road: Enforcement investigation. *Awaited*

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

1. Other planning matters

1. Late planning applications

3/22/1331/FUL Land at Priory Farm (access road) **RESOLVED: No comments** Clerk

2. Concerns about planning applications being determined: It was agreed that the Chairman would send another letter to EHC Planning via Cllr Eric Buckmaster. **MA**

22.068 Finance

1. Report of the Council's accounts

Finance Summary to 30th June 2022	£
Opening cashbook balance 1st June	39,891.12
Plus: income to 30 June	1,790.61
Minus: expenditure to 30 June	<u>1,020.55</u>
Balance available to Council at 30 June (cashbook balance)	40,661.18
Plus unrepresented cheques/payments	<u>0.00</u>
Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 20 June	<u>40,661.18</u>

RESOLVED: that the Accounts Statement to 30th June 2022 be approved.

2. Bank reconciliations

Copies of the bank statement were presented. **RESOLVED: to agree the bank reconciliation as presented.**

3. Performance vs budget , 30th June 2022

The Clerk's detailed report on the financial performance vs budget to 30th June was received. There were no untoward transactions to note. Income for the year to date totalled £9,583 against a budget of £17,55. Expenditure for the year to date totalled £5,421 against a budget of £25,243.

It was noted that £7,500 is held in reserves for the Playing Field play area equipment grant, to be paid when the play area funding is resolved.

RESOLVED: that the financial performance report to 30th June 2022 be accepted as presented.

4. List of payments.

4.1. 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 maintenance 3 of 4	310.00	
David Jarrett	Closed Churchyard hedges and trees	342.00	57.00
Clerk	Expenses June/July	24.75	
Charles Bowman	Ashview verge repairs	70.00	
J Turner	Benningfield Green cutting 1 of 3	100.00	
J Turner	Benningfield Green cutting 2 of 3	100.00	
Jo English	Litterpicking July: 4 of 12	125.00	
Clerk	Salary July	407.25	
HMRC	PAYE July	101.80	
M Allen reimburse	New water pump for allotment	36.50	
	Notice board header – awaiting invoice		
Recoverable VAT included			£57.00

5. Audit: Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22

It was noted that the AGAR is awaiting approval by external auditor PKF Littlejohn.

Clerk

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

- County/District Councillor: Newsletter on County and District inflation spiral
- Parishioner: Complaint about Parish Council cutting back overgrown hedge on FP1 (22.071.1.1)
- Parishioner: Parking on Woodlands Road (22.071.2.5)
- Parishioner: Pavement becoming increasingly impassable between Meadow Gardens and Levenage Lane (22.071.2.4)
- Parishioner: Concerns at long delays in EHC Planning determining applications (22.067.3.2)
- Parishioner: Benningfield Green parking issues (22.072.2)
- Parishioner: Road safety concerns on Ware Road by Greenacres (22.071.2.3)

22.070 Village Reports

1. Village Hall

Report sent by Cllr Babs Edwards: The Village Hall Chairman would like a parish councillor to be assigned to helping get the Pavilion questionnaire underway.

The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Ian Collins Ian has agreed to be the point person. To be taken forward at the September Parish Council meeting. Cllr Edwards said she would be happy to deliver or collect forms.

IC
BE

2. Playing Field

1. Report by Cllr Mike Allen: The PFMC met on 4th July for the first time in quite a while. Meetings are proposed to be held monthly going forward. Matters discussed included trees, grass cutting, and the equine boot sale to be held on 10th July. There are now only 4 trustee members and more are to be recruited.

MA

2. **Biffa grant.** Update: This avenue has been exhausted, having reached an impasse with Biffa. A new funding stream needs to be found.

MA

3. Allotments

The water supply is good but the water system needs more storage capacity and the group is working on tanks, pipes etc that will be needed. It is agreed that the water provision is more important than a new gate. It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to set a budget of £750 for the allotments water tanks and associated works.**

BE/MA

Clerk

4. Closed Churchyard.

Hedge maintenance has been completed.

Clerk

5. Village Archive.

The archive is being digitised at the moment and Cllr Mark Rome is liaising to bring “pieces” of the archive into the village hall for display from time to time.

MR

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

1. Footpaths and PRow.

- 1. FP1: No update on PRow replacing the stile with a suitable bollard. MA to progress.

MA

2. Highways and footways

- 1. Clean-up of verges and overgrown footways: Noted that this has been attended to .
- 2. Reinstatement of Ashview verges: Noted that the verges have been done at the Parish Council’s expense.
- 3. Road safety concerns by Greenacres, Ware Road: These have been raised, were noted and were expressed again in public comments later in the meeting.
- 4. Highways Fault Reports ref 401002754363 Hunsdon Road and 401002754085 Hunsdon Road were noted. Cllr Mike Allen agreed to raise with Cllr Eric Buckmaster.
- 5. Parking concerns on Woodland Road: The Chairman reported that the situation has been monitored over the last six weeks and there has been no evidence of any ongoing problem.

MA

3. Other parish matters and concerns

- 1. Alternative location for the QEII Platinum Jubilee Memorial bench
Three suggestions were made:
 - (i) The Playing Field: Cllr Mike Allen to take suggestion to the PFMC
 - (ii) The bus stop
 - (iii) Ashview “island”.The alternative locations to be considered and decided later.

22.072 Benningfield Green

- 1. Annual Licence renewal: The draft licence was agreed and it was **RESOLVED to increase the annual fee by applying an increase in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) to be published by The Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 15th July 2022.**
- 2. Ongoing parking issues: Wording to be agreed to add to the licence letter.

Clerk

MA/Clerk

22.073 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda:
None raised.

Suspension of Meeting for Public Comments

A parishioner reiterated the concerns they had expressed regarding the dangers created by the loss of sight lines for vehicles exiting onto Ware Road from properties on the south side of the road in the Greenacres area. A solicitor has reportedly suggested that highways and planning laws have been broken by visibility splays being compromised. There was recently an accident in Ware Road. The Parish Council and Cllr Eric Buckmaster said they will support and help the maintaining of safe sight lines for vehicles egressing on to Ware Road.

The meeting was restored to order

22.074 Items for future agendas

None raised.

22.075 Date of next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 13th September: Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Clerk/MA

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.07pm.

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

APPENDIX

District and County Councillor Report, July 2022

Hertfordshire County Council is brightening up Welham Green, Hatfield with a wind and solar street lighting trial: Hatfield wind solar street lights, Cllr Bibby and Ringway team. In its ongoing mission to create a cleaner, greener and healthier Hertfordshire, the county council is trialling new wind and solar street lighting in Welham Green, Hatfield.

The trial, which is the first of its kind on the public highway in the county, will see two LED lighting units installed on the remote footpath in Corner View, Welham Green, Hatfield, which is currently unlit. This also supports safe, active and sustainable travel such as walking and cycling.

The lighting will operate with both zero energy consumption and carbon emissions. It's silent in operation and operates instantly following a quick and clean installation, which was completed on Wednesday 15th June 2022. The trial will run for around 12 months to see how they perform over the four seasons (to account for variation in daylight / sun hours).

Armed Forces Covenant - To those who proudly protect our nation, who do so with honour, courage, and commitment, the Armed Forces Covenant is the nation's commitment to you. After 3 years Hertfordshire residents were, once again, able to show their appreciation of our Armed Forces and veterans during Armed Forces Week (20-25 June) with local events celebrating those men and women across the county who are serving, or have served, in the military. Hertfordshire County Council Chairman, Cllr Annie Brewster is hosted a ceremony to raise the Armed Forces Day flag at County Hall in Hertford on 21 June from.

Hertfordshire County Council is a signatory to The Armed Forces Covenant, a commitment from public and private organisations to support the Armed Forces community, operating locally under the name Hertfordshire Heroes. Hertfordshire County Council is also a Forces Friendly employer and member of the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Board which works in partnership with business, military organisations, charities, NHS and local authorities to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant locally.

ONS data estimates that there are 28,000 veterans living in Hertfordshire. There are approximately 388 children of military families attending Hertfordshire schools. Through the Covenant, Hertfordshire Heroes provides support to those who need it, including personnel looking at leaving the service and returning to "Civvy Street", and requiring support with work, housing, or schooling.

New contracts to end landfill for Hertfordshire's waste Hertfordshire County Council plans to stop sending waste to landfill sites by 2025 after signing new long-term contracts for disposal of the county's residual waste. Waste that cannot be reused, recycled or composted will be sent to energy recovery facilities where it will be used to generate electricity as a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for the Environment, said: "We want to create a cleaner and greener environment in Hertfordshire, so being able to stop sending waste to landfill sites is really a significant step for us. Of course, we want to help our residents throw away less, and to reuse or recycle as much as possible, but we're still left with around 250,000 tonnes a year that we need to dispose of, and these new contracts will help us do that in a more environmentally sustainable way."

Hertfordshire residents produce around 540,000 tonnes of waste a year, and currently 52% of this is reused, recycled or composted. Although our focus is on reducing, reusing and recycling waste, there will always be some material left over that cannot be recycled, and the county council is responsible for disposing of this. The new disposal contracts will run from April 2024

for ten years, with an option to extend for another five. The contracts are with:
Cory Topco Limited (three separate contracts)
Indaver Rivenhall Limited
Viridor Oxfordshire Limited
Veolia ES UK Limited

Currently the waste that cannot be reused, recycled or composted is managed through a series of short-term contracts including both landfill and energy recovery. Under the new long-term contracts, once planned new shredding facilities are operational, all of Hertfordshire's residual waste will be able to be sent to energy recovery facilities, with none going to landfill.

Primary school pupils get a taste of rural life at Hertfordshire Schools Food and Farming Day
Over 500 Year Six primary school pupils were given a fascinating insight into the origins of the foods on their dinner plate for the first Hertfordshire Schools Food and Farming Day, held on Tuesday (28th June).

Organised by Hertfordshire Agriculture Society in conjunction with Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Catering Ltd and Hertfordshire Primary Heads Forum, the event provided an interactive experience enabling children to explore, touch and taste different foods and learn about healthy eating. Held at the Herts County Showground in St Albans, the day's activities were based around the 'Eatwell Plate' which highlights the different components of a well-balanced diet. A big-top tent was split into the different sections of the plate, corresponding to different food groups within the human diet, each containing a range of farmers and food production experts who gave an interactive talk to pupils.

For lunch the children had the opportunity to put together their own nutritionally balanced meal, thanks to Hertfordshire Catering Ltd, based on what they had learnt. Outside of the tent were a number of other educational exhibits such as live animals, agricultural machinery, an oil press, a mobile mill and organisations such as the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, National Farmers Union and local Colleges Oaklands and Capel Manor. The pupils also heard from local bakeries and mills and explored the subject of bread and flour, before looking at various local wheat crops with agricultural science research centre Rothamsted Research.

HAPpy camps are back this summer

HAPpy camps are back this summer: More than 80 free, fun HAPpy activity camps are running across Hertfordshire this summer. Hertfordshire County Council is funding free summer activity camps for children and young people in Hertfordshire. HAPpy (Holiday Activities Programme) camps are for children and young people who attend a Hertfordshire school and are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

The camps, which are delivering healthy food and fun activities during the school holidays, are funded by Hertfordshire County Council, coordinated by Herts Sports Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) and run by over 80 different providers.

Booking is now open for more than 45,000 places available at 190 HAPpy camps running across the county from 25 July until 31 August. Hertfordshire schools are currently giving the booking codes to families of eligible children.

At the sessions, which vary in duration from four to seven hours long, eligible children and young people can enjoy free food, free sports and free craft activities. They will also receive advice on nutrition and cooking skills to enhance their health and wellbeing.

Healthy little trips can help make a big difference Hertfordshire County Council is launching a new campaign encouraging residents to think about those little trips we take and whether we can walk, cycle, scoot or use the bus instead of jumping in the car.

The campaign focuses on the healthy little trips and choices we can all make; whether it's just a walk to school or a visit to the local high street. It all adds up to improving our mental and physical health, air quality, traffic congestion and the local economy.

A new web page www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/littletrips has just been launched, which will provide hints, tips and news of events and activities taking place across the county, helping to

get us out and about that little bit more. A video has also been created showing what it means to children to travel actively to school and the adventures they have Healthy Little Trips – YouTube

Hertfordshire Libraries prepare to launch this year's Summer Reading Challenge

On 9th July is the launch of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, a completely free, summer activity for children aged four to 11, run by Hertfordshire libraries. The Challenge - titled 'Gadgeteers' – has been created with a special science and innovation theme for 2022, aimed at sparking children's curiosity about the world around them, and how science plays a part in everything they love to do – as well as encouraging children to keep up their reading during the school holidays. Running until Saturday, 3 September, the popular initiative tasks children to read six library books of their choice over the summer holidays. Everyone who signs-up will receive a special activity-sticker pack to record their reads in, that also follows the story of six young 'Gadgeteers' who have some great experiment and activity ideas for young readers to try at home, as well as asking for their help coming up with cool inventions for their summer party.

Age UK Handy person service will be available to all older people living in Hertfordshire. Their team of Handy people have had a DBS check, are fully insured, and will arrive with a smile and equipment needed to complete the job safely and to a high standard. They can arrange regular visits or one-off DIY tasks such as fitting security chains, hanging shelves, fitting, and supplying key safes, changing tap washers and much more. This service costs £25 per hour, with a minimum of 1 hour per visit. For more information, or to request help with these services please contact Carla Johnson on 07951 105370

Meet air pollution targets by 2030, says Hertfordshire Council. As reported by Air Quality News, the English local authority has revealed calls for minimum air quality standards to be met by 2030, a decade ahead of Downing Street's aims. Following the release of a new report by the National Audit Office that the British government is failing to deliver on its air quality standards, Hertfordshire Council wants to meet limits ten years ahead of Westminster's target. Hertfordshire County Council focus is on promoting the news that we **have joined local and regional authorities from across the UK in signing a letter to the UK Environment Secretary George Eustice, pledging to meet World Health Organisation (WHO) targets on deadly air pollution ten years ahead of the Government's 2040 deadline.** The pledge comes as a new report from the National Audit Office reveals the Government is failing to deliver on air quality standards. Councillor Morris Bright, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Public Health & Community Safety said he had signed the letter because "air pollution is one of the most significant challenges to public health and the environment that we face in Hertfordshire, and we want to work with the Government to deliver our Sustainable Hertfordshire ambition of cleaner air for all by 2030."

This letter responds to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 'consultation on environmental targets', and pledges our collective commitment as Local and Combined Authorities to meet the WHO-10 guideline for PM2.5 by 2030 in partnership with the UK Government. Evidence that we have collated tells us that with small additional support from the UK Government, achieving WHO-10 for PM2.5 is feasible by 2030. Modelling by Imperial College for The Clean Air Fund's 2022 report 'The Pathway to Healthy Air in the UK' found that 99% of the UK is likely to comply with WHO-10 by 2030 as a result of existing Government policies and plans. This means that with a small increase in ambition, meeting WHO-10 across the whole of the UK is entirely feasible by 2030. We know from work undertaken by the CBI that this will deliver a significant economic dividend for the UK – a £1.6 billion economic benefit and three million working days gained by reducing sickness absence.

As priorities we urge the Government to:

- bring forward the PM2.5 target of 10ug/m3 to 2030 in line with the WHO's interim guideline, and to provide local leaders with the powers and funding to meet this target.
- put in place a longer term target to meet the WHO's updated guideline for PM2.5 of 5ug/m3. Many areas across the country already meet the PM2.5 guideline of 10ug/m3. This is still not considered to be a safe level by the WHO, and so it is important that a 35% population exposure reduction target is put in place for areas already meeting 10ug/m3.
- Establish a national public awareness campaign around the health impacts of air pollution and its causes. Domestic combustion from burning wood and coal is one of the largest

contributors to PM2.5 pollution, yet many people are unaware that their heating choices are producing toxic emissions.

Widford School, Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended). DECISION NOTICE. Replacement of windows, external doors and cladding. Widford JMI School Ware Road Widford Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8RE. In pursuance of their powers under the above mentioned Act and the Orders and Regulations for the time being in force thereunder, the Council hereby Grant Consent subject to Conditions.

Wareside Children moving to other primary schools including Widford. A request was received by the County Council for support in purchasing new school uniform. I have agreed to provide a grant from my locality budget towards the cost which Wareside school will administer.

*District and County Councillor Eric Buckmaster
July 2022*

DRAFT