

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th February, 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs M Willoughby (Chair), D Baron, K Batson, A Carrier, G Tate.
Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence

none

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Batson declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Stobswood Welfare.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council ZOOM Meeting held on the 14th December, 2020 for approval and adoption.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed to approve and adopt the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes

none

5. Reports from Outside Bodies

none

6. Correspondence Received

Letters of thanks and email in regard to the Parish Council's donations of £100.00 to The Salvation Army, Combat Stress, The Great North Air Ambulance Service and Age UK Northumberland.

7. Planning Applications

- a) Ref 20/02995/VARYCO Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) relating to approved Planning Application Ref 18/04481/FUL to revise the proposed site layout plan. Gleeson Development, Land West of Surgery, Grange Road, Widdrington Station. Notification received from NCC confirming permission granted.
- b) Ref 20/04175/Retrospective – Construction of porch to front of property, garage to side of property and construction of 1.85m high boundary fence at 51 East Acres, Widdrington Station, NE61 5NS. Applicant Geoff Phillips. There were no objections to the application.
- c) Ref 20/04054/FUL Proposed two storey extension to create new bedroom, wet room, therapy space and hydro therapy room as well as associated works to improve site accessibility. Willow Grove Cottage, Grangemoor Road, Widdrington Station, NE61 5PU Applicant Sarah Christie. There were no objections to the application.
- d) Ref 20/02751/FUL Retrospective application for erection of fence over 1m 1metre high. 50 East Acres, Widdrington Station, NE61 5NS Applicant David Young, notification received from NCC confirming Planning Permission Granted.

8. Gleeson Development re proposed Car Park and Land for the proposed extension to the Widdrington Community Centre. To consider the Northumberland County Council's Response to the Stage 2 submission of the Formal Complaints Procedure.

The Clerk reported that the response from the Mr R Murfin NCC Director of Planning Services had been received earlier in the day. The response was lengthy and detailed with the conclusion that the County Council was at fault for failing to ensure the full extent of planning obligations required to make the development acceptable in planning were secured together with the Director's apologies on behalf of the County Council for this failure and confirmation that the County Council was at fault in the matter and the Parish Council's complaint is sound. He was happy to be contacted in regard to a mutually convenient time to begin discussions on seeking a solution.

The positive response was welcomed by the Parish Council and arrangements are to be made for meetings to be held with Mr Murfin and officers of NCC Planning Services together with representatives of Gleeson and the Parish Council as well as the Architect engaged for the proposed extension. Cllr Batson proposed that if the meetings cannot result in a satisfactory resolution and provide what was agreed by the Gleeson representatives at the consultation meetings the Parish Council will be inclined to seek financial compensation from the County Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Willoughby and carried.

In line with the Governments Covid 19 restrictions it was not possible for physical meetings to be arranged, however it looked as though the Government would be lifting some restrictions during March when hopefully an initial meeting can be arranged.

9. Public Rights of Way – Parish of Widdrington Station and Stobswood, Public Footpath No 11, Public Footpath No 11 Proposed Diversion Order in relation to Planning Application Ref 18/04481/Ful re Gleeson Development.

Notification had been received from Tony Derbyshire the Northumberland County Council Area Countryside Officer. Prior to making a legal diversion order the County Council formally consult with the Parish Council. Details and Plan of the proposed diversion was considered and no objections were expressed by the Parish Council.

10. CCTV System at Widdrington Station Community Park

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Reays Security Ltd who had supplied and installed the CCTV System in regard to maintenance charges. They had confirmed that a charge for a maintenance visit would be £180.00 plus VAT which would include the cherry picker. Details were also given of the charge for Emergency Call Outs. It was also confirmed that the SIM Cards were in situ for the operation of the Cameras but that an annual payment to the suppliers of the two cards supplied by EE was required. A meeting would be arranged with representatives of Reays Security to discuss the operation of the cameras subject to the Government's Covid 19 Lockdown restrictions.

11. PCC, County and Selected Parish Elections to be held on Thursday 6th May,2021.

Widdrington Station Community Centre to be used as a Polling Station.

The Clerk advised that the Elections Returning Officer has been offering Postal Voting for the Elections to reduce the amount of voters attending Polling Stations. Details of the nominations process which may be on line has not as yet been forwarded.

12. Proposal for bench seat plot at the Widdrington Station Community Park.

At the last Parish Council Meeting a kind offer to provide a seat at the Widdrington Community Park in memory of the Late Peter Davison O'Brien and Alfred Dodds was considered and approved. A picture of the type of seat to be installed was requested. A picture had been circulated with the Agenda and accepted.

13. Finance

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.12.2020 £67,673.06, reconciled with Bank Account statement for December, 2020. Payment of £6,000 has been received arranged by NCC Cllr Scott Dickinson from the Members Small Schemes Fund towards the cost of Play Equipment at the Widdrington Station Community Park.

Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.01.2021 £64,298.18 reconciled with Bank Account Statement for January 2021.

ii) Payments Approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council in accordance with the Covid 19 restrictions arrangements were issued to the Councillors with the meeting Agenda. (Details Attached)

iii) Quarterly Statement Budget against Spending as at 31.12.2020 (Report circulated with the Agenda)

The Clerk stated that the report showed the Council's expenditure for the period 01.04 to the 31.12.2020. The total Budget for the year was £58,870 and £40,053 had been spent which included the cost of £14,860 for the two new Bus Shelters. Cllr Batson queried the charge of £448.00 applied by the Northumberland County Council for the collection of commercial waste for the year when for most of the year the Centre had been closed under the Government's Covid 19 restrictions regulations. The Clerk confirmed he would contact the County Council.

The report would be included on the Parish Council's Website.

iv) 2020 Audit Report.

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that notification had been received from the Auditors dated the 29th November, 2020 stating that the Parish Council had submitted its Annual Governance and Accountability Return together with supporting documentation prior to the 30th November, 2020; however, the Auditors had not been able to complete the review work in time to enable the Parish Council to publish the required documentation in line with the statutory requirements. Once they have completed the review a final report will be provided with the certificate of completion detailing any qualifications and 'other' matters. It was further reported that the final review was still awaited.

14. To consider any urgent business which shall be limited to circumstances in which the Council's responsibilities cannot be met or the Council's interests are likely to be prejudiced, if the business is deferred to the next available meeting.

Cllr Batson proposed that a new seat and litter bin is installed at the Ferneybeds junction on the Mile Road at Widdrington Station and a further supply of litter bins is ordered. Cllr Carrier seconded the proposal which was carried.

Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m

The next ZOOM Meeting to be held on Monday the 8th March 2021 commencing at 6.30 pm.

signed ----- Date-----

