**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE HALL OF THE WIDDRINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 24TH MAY, 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.**

In attendance were Councillors Mrs M Willoughby (Chair), 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. To receive the declaration of acceptance of office.**

Each Councillor declared their acceptance of office which was signed and made before the Parish Clerk.

Declaration of Interests Forms were issued to each Councillor for completion and submission to the Monitoring Officer at

County Hall.

**4. Election of Chair and acceptance of Office.**

Nominations for the Chair were requested;

Cllr Batson proposed Cllr Mrs Willoughby; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and resolved. Cllr Mrs Willoughby

accepted the office.

**5. Election of Vice Chair acceptance of office.**

Nominations for the Vice Chair were requested;

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed Cllr Batson; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and resolved. Cllr Batson accepted the

office.

**6. Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 12.04.2021 by ZOOM for approval and adoption**

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

**7. Matters Arising on the minutes**

**(**Minute 5 page 32) Cllr Mrs Willoughby confirmed that a short service with a piper playing had been held at the Memorial

Garden at Widdrington Station on Friday 16th April, 2021 in regard to the Late HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

(Minute 12 page 33) Cllr Tate confirmed that he had been in contact with the Diocese representative in regard to the

former Roman Catholic Church at Grange Road. He was hopeful that the accommodation for the food bank would be

allowed to continue.

**8. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Cllr Tate had attended a ZOOM Meeting with the North Stead Community Windfarm, Meet the Funder meeting held on

the 11th May, 2021. The meeting was informative in regard to applications for grants and details of recent grant approvals

were given.£20,000 was the maximum limit of any grant. The Northumberland CVA (Community Voluntary Association)

were also involved to assist with advice.

**9. Planning Applications**

a) Planning Ref: 21/01494/FUL proposal – insertion of first floor patio doors and the provision of a balcony above the

existing ground floor off-shoot at Grangewood House, Woodburn Street, Stobswood, NE61 5QD Applicant David Hogg.

There were no objections expressed and the application was recommended for approval.

b) Planning Ref: 21/00733/ FUL proposed car port at 54 Elizabeth Street, Widdrington Station, NE61 5NW

Applicant Ant Mcghie. There were no objections expressed and the application was recommended for approval.

c) Planning Ref 21/01681/OUT proposal – Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved for 2 semi-detached 3

bed dwellings with garages and on-site parking. Location land between Nos 69 and 71 The Gables, Widdrington Station,

NE61 5RB Applicant Shenstone Properties Ltd. Concern was expressed that the proposal was too close to the proximity

of the main railway line. Any development should be in keeping with the style of properties at the Gables and

surrounding area.

**10. a) Highways Act 1980, Section 118 Parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood Public Footpath No 11 Extinquishment**

**Order 2021.** The Northumberland County Council made the above Order on the 23rd April, 2021 (Copy Map Supplied)

**b) Highways Act 1980, Section 119 Parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood ( Public Footpath No 11) Diversion Order**

**(No 1) 2021** The Northumberland County Council made the above Order on the 23rd April, 2021 (Copy Map Supplied)

**c) Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Section 257 Parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood (Public Footpath No 11)**

**Order (No 2) 2021.** The Northumberland County Council made the above Order on the 23rd April, 2021 (Copy Map

Supplied) The Parish Council received the information without comment.

**34.**

**11. Gleeson’s Development at Widdrington Station. Meeting to be held with the Northumberland Coounty Council Planning**

**Officers on Tuesday 1st June by ZOOM at 2.00 pm.**

The NCC Development Area Manager (South East) have had discussions with Gleeson’s in regard to the requirements of

the Section 106 Agreement for the Development. All Parish Councillors were requested to attend the meeting if possible.

**12. Parish Council Events 2021.**

**VE Day, VJ Day and Armed Forces Day Saturday 26th June, 2021**

The Parish Clerk advised that the Hired Marquee delivery details will be confirmed nearer the date. 2 generators had

been hired which will be filled with fuel. Barriers to be supplied by the Northumberland County Council will be required

for the stage performance area. Hire of Toilet facilities were in hand. The Northumberland County Council Event

Notification Form had been submitted. Publicity for the event was discussed.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby commented that the event would have to be postponed if the Government did not proceed with the

release of all Covid Lockdown restrictions. An announcement is to be made on the 14th June.

**13. Parish Council Event- Open Day at the Community Centre Tuesday 22nd June, 2021**

Cllr Mrs Willoughby with support considered that if the Covid restrictions are lifted from the 21st June it would be

appropriate and of benefit to the community for the Community Centre to be open from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm to enable

people to come for a coffee/tea and a chat after such a long period of lockdown restrictions.

**14.**  **To discuss the Government’s COVID -19 Guidance for the safe use of multipurpose community facilities.**

The Governments Guidance in regard to reopening community facilities such as community centres was discussed. The

Council were very keen to support the Community by allowing training and fitness sessions within the Guidelines. The

Hall was large enough to allow groups spread within the Hall to provide Social distancing. The doors would be

open for ventilation with Sanitation and where possible the wearing of face coverings until the 21st June if the

Government lift the restrictions.

**15. Santa Group and Santa’s Sleigh**

The sleigh is used for 1 week of the year to bring festive spirit to the parish and raise funds for local causes. The Santa

Group are looking for somewhere to store the sleigh which is currently stored at the Grange View First School.

Although the Parish Council do not have a location the Councillors would enquire through social media of any

suitable locations.

**16. Replacement Bus Shelters**

At the last meeting it was resolved to consider purchasing two further bus shelters to replace the shelter adjacent to the

Widdrington Station Community Centre and beside Beaumont Court at the top of the Mile Road, Widdrington Station.

A quotation had been submitted by Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd who provided the previous shelters. The cost of the 2

shelters is £12,662.00 plus VAT including delivery. The Clerk advised that in addition the removal of the 2shelters and

the foundations for the new shelters would be approximately £2,000.00.

Cllr Batson proposed that the 2 new shelters are purchased to replace the shelters referred to; Cllr Tate seconded the

proposal which was carried.

**17. Request from resident asking if it would be acceptable for her to scatter wild flower seeds on the bare soil around**

**the boulders on the small green areas at the top of the Mile Road where the Village Christmas Tree is placed**.

The matter of planting further trees at the Community Park was also raised which the Council are to look at together

with any schemes to encourage the planting of trees. The area where the former BMX track was located was suggested.

The bare soil around the boulders is caused by the need for weed killing in the area and therefore would not be suitable

for the planting of wild flowers. A suitable site would therefore need to be identified.

**18. Finance**

i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 30.04.2021 £85,020.76

reconciled with Bank Account statement for April, 2021Receipts :- NCC Precept half yearly payment £26,000 received.

Receipts - £3,758.00 VAT reclaim, £500.00 Grant from the Ballinger Trust towards community food bank support,

£1,088.00 Recharge to Grainger for Playgrounds cleaning and maintenance checks.

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.

iii) 2020 Audit Report – The Auditors PKF Accountants had completed the limited assurance review for the year ended

31st March, 2020 and the Completion Certificate was supplied. The 2021 Audit for the year ending 31st March 2021

is due to commence.

**The Meeting Ended at 8.25 pm**

**35.**