

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 14TH MAY, 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs S Willoughby (Chair), K Batson, D Baron, G Tate.

R A Smith (Parish Clerk).
Police Constable Paul Dent

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs George Askew and NCC Cllr David Towns.

2.To receive declarations of interest

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

3.Election of Chair and acceptance of Office

The Chair asked for nominations. Cllr Batson proposed Cllr Mrs Willoughby, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and resolved.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby accepted the office.

4. Election of Vice Chair and acceptance of Office.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed Cllr Batson, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Baron and resolved. Cllr Batson accepted the Office.

5. To appoint representatives to outside bodies/working groups.

The following Councillors were appointed: -

Community Park Sub-Committee Cllrs Mrs S Willoughby, K Batson, vacancy

Community Centre (Sub-Committee) Cllrs Mrs S Willoughby, K Batson, vacancy

Amble & Coquet Children's Centre Advisory Board vacancy

National Association of Local Councils vacancy

ATAC Cllr Mrs S Willoughby

Health Committee Cllr G Tate substitute rest of Parish Council

Contracts Working Group Cllrs K Batson, vacancy D Baron, Substitute the Chair Ex Officio

Finance Working Group Cllrs G Tate, K Batson, vacancy, Substitute the Chair Ex Officio

NCC Transport – Buses All Parish Councillors

Planning Matters Working Group Cllrs Mrs S Willoughby, K Batson, substitute vacancy.

Sisters Wind Farm Community Liaison Group Cllr Mrs S Willoughby

Director of HMP Northumberland meetings with Local Councils Cllrs K Batson and Mrs Willoughby.

Community Assistance Committee to be formed to deal with emergency assistance required in the area i.e. very bad weather conditions

6.To receive questions and comments from members of the public (time limited to 20 minutes in total)

P C Dent reported that there had been a couple of incidents involving the removal of objects for scrap metal from gardens, the removal of a bike was included. There was also some damage to cars and a theft of some expensive photography equipment from the vehicle of a bird watcher visiting the area who had left the equipment on display inside the car. A theft occurred in Grangewood Terrace, Stobswood involving Specialist Industrial Equipment. An exercise had been carried out with the DVLA in regard to up to date Road Tax Certification and 15 vehicles in the area had been identified at Morpeth. Spots checks can be carried out at any time. Organised fighting at the Community Park by persons from other areas is of concern and investigations are being carried out including possible CCTV footage.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby thanked P C Dent for his attendance he then left the meeting.

7. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th April, 2018 for approval and adoption

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

8. Matters arising on the Minutes

(Minute 6-page 28refers) Cllr Mrs Willoughby stated that the property Avala Park on the Mile Road has been sold. No further details are known.

9. Reports from Outside Bodies.

None

10. To receive the Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19

In accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council the Clerk had circulated a proposed Calendar of Council meetings for consideration which was agreed subject to the addition of the Community Park Sub-Committee meeting half an hour prior to the Community Centre Sub-Committee Meetings.

11. Correspondence Received

- a) Letter received from the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee thanking the Council for their £50.00 donation. The event costs a great deal to stage and donations are vital to the ongoing success of the festival that is enjoyed by so many across the region and nationally.
- b) Letter received from The Alnwick Playhouse & Arts Centre, Chair of Trustees, thanking the Council for the £50.00 donation. The Playhouse is soon to move into an exciting new stage of development which is only possible through the continued support of local funders.

12. Planning Applications

- a) Planning Appl 17/00204/FUL – Proposed residential development of 9 houses at Karva Furniture, Ulgham Road, Letter dated 13.04.18 from NCC Planning advising application withdrawn.
- b) Planning Appl 18/00443/FUL – Proposed Kitchen extension including Garage conversion to form accessible bedroom and first floor bedroom with ensuite. Letter dated 19.04.18 from NCC Planning advising permission granted.

13. Northumberland County Council – Weed Control Policy

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Greg Gavin Head of Neighbourhood Services explaining improvements to the way the NCC tackle weeds in towns and villages. The County Council is investing £125,000 in the improvement programme which includes adding a harmless blue coloured dye to the treatment so the public can see where treatment has been carried out which will be visible for 10 to 14 days it takes to kill the weeds. While it is not possible to prevent weed growth altogether, County Council staff know their own areas and can be more responsive to local weather conditions, ensuring improvements to the quality and coverage of the spraying operation.

14. Northumberland County Council – Gathering views on road hierarchy

David Laux Head of Technical Services had written to all Councils stating that the County Council has classified all its roads, footpaths and cycleways into different categories for many years, using terms such as major roads, distributor roads and local access roads. Since 2008 these 'hierarchies' have been in place without change, other than minor tweaks to allow for new developments and changes to the road network. There is a National Code of Practice requiring the County Council to review and refresh the hierarchies to reflect current and expected use, resilience and local economic and social factors such as industry, schools, hospitals and similar, as well as the desirability of continuity and a consistent approach for walking and cycling.

It is intended to include nine categories following details of a survey which was available for completion on the County Council Web Site to be completed by the 1st June, 2018. Details of the new hierarchy will be published in September, 2018

15. Section 137 Grant Application – Stobswood Welfare AFC – Details had been circulated.

Clr Batson had declared a non-pecuniary interest left the meeting during consideration of the item and did not take part in the vote of the Resolution.

The Football Team have been successful in gaining an opportunity to progress to the Alliance League. The players would be playing at a better standard in a more competitive league. There are 24 players in the Squad. It would also give longevity for the team as the league is well organised. However, to meet the Alliance League's Regulations it is necessary to provide a Barrier around the football pitch. This has been costed at £1,000.00.

Clr Mrs Willoughby proposed a grant of up to £1,000.00; the proposal was seconded by Clr Baron and carried.

16. Parish Council Events

- a) Financial Statement- Tour of Britain Cycle Race – Passed through Widdrington Station on Monday 04.09.17, £450.00 cash allowed for purchase of plants etc for the cleared area in front of the Co-op/Railway crossing and some other areas. Details of the receipted purchases were received for information.
- b) Village Gala at the Community Park Saturday 16th June, 2018.
Details of arrangements for the Gala were discussed. Enquires were being made into the Hiring of Portable toilets. A Steel Band would be providing entertainment and stalls provided as in previous years. There would also be a Raffle for a local charity. Hopefully the sun will shine all day however in the event of it being a wash out the Community Centre will be available.

17. Finance

- i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 30.04.2018 - £66,229.44 reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for April, 2018
Receipts – Bank Account Monthly Interest £4.13. NCC Precept half yearly payment £22,805.00

ii) Payments to be Approved: -

Parish Clerk's April Salary £562.69

Parish Clerk's April Expenses £24.96 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet and Telephone £8.00, Postage £6.96)

A Henderson Parish Handy Person, April Invoice £661.40 (includes £463.40 for additional work and materials)

K Arries Parish Grounds Maintenance Worker Season commenced 23.04.18 April Payment £281.51 (includes £78.26 for fuel)

Greenlay £671.21 Service of Grass Cutting Tractor, Removal of blades and fitting with Mulch Blades. Supply of M2-MITOX BX Hand Held Blower.

Morpeth Net £100.00 Webmaster Services to 31.03.2019

Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd £1,105.80 Premium for Widdrington Community Centre for 12 months from 01.06.2018

Zurich Municipal £1,577.41 Insurance Premium for Parish Council for 12 months from 01.06.18.

In addition, the following purchasers had been made by Debit Card/Petty Cash on behalf of the Parish Council: --

John Lewis Dell PC with accidental damage insurance £1,053.95

W H Smith Norton Security for PC for one year £29.99

Booker Glasses for Events £133.14 and £160.72

Ken Arries £100.00 for fuel for Tractor at the Community Park.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed approval of the payments; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and carried.

iii) Annual Review of Risk Assessment & Annual Review of Audit Control

To receive the recommendations of the Finance Working Group Meeting held on the 23rd April, 2018.

Meeting attended by Cllrs K Batson and Mrs M Willoughby

Litter Bins – 4 new Bins purchased during the year, 2 replaced the two burnt out bins at Stobswood and the Community Park. The other 2 were located at Margaret Street and East Acres.

Bus Shelters –

Whinney Crook – Floor levelled out with self-levelling solution

Railway Crossing – Loose and broken roof tiles replace.

Grangemoor Road towards Stobswood – Wooden Walls have been painted as Shelter showing sign of rot and roof tiles requiring attention may be time to consider replacing.

Others continue to be without Perspex following vandalism.

Seats – no new seats are required.

Community Park – From Playsafety Report for ROSPA repairs to Skate Board Park Ramp carried out with fast set cement.

The Play Parks in the Housing Estates and Woodburn Play Park at Stobswood. Grainger have repaired play equipment etc when notified following inspections by Parish Handyman.

Parish Council Notice Boards – all have been cleaned and teak oiled. Still awaiting Co-op to confirm permission to install New Notice Board on End of Wall at Car Park next to Co-op/Widdy Chippy. Agents Johnson Tucker dealing with the request.

The Working Group recommended that 2 Litter Bins are purchased to be stored for use when required.

The Annual Risk Assessment Document was recommended for approval.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed approval of the recommendations, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

18. 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 in order to allow for inclusion on the relevant agenda.

In regard to the Village Gala and other events it was considered appropriate to purchase a further Marquee and a Gazebo.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed..... Date.....

