

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 11th March, 2019 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

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

R A Smith (Parish Clerk).
One member of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

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

none

4. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 4th February, 2019 and the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th February, 2019 for approval and adoption

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed to approve and adopt the minutes of the Special Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th February, 2019; The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed to approve and adopt the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th February, 2019; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and carried.

5. Matters arising on the Minutes

(Minute 10 page 21) The Clerk stated that the signed Terms of Engagement document in regard to the appointment of Sullivan Associates Ltd Chartered Building Surveyors had been forwarded to them for the preparation of plans in regard to proposals to provide an extension and alterations to the Widdrington Station Community Centre. Cllr Batson confirmed that representatives of Sullivan Associates Ltd were to commence surveying the building and the area proposed for the extension on Friday 15th March.

6. Reports from Outside Bodies

none

7. Correspondence Received

- a) The Salvation Army – Letter of thanks received for the Parish Council's donation of £200.00.
- b) Healthwatch Northumberland – Letter received giving details of the annual survey requesting publicity to be given to posters in regard to the scheme.
- c) Northumberland County Council – Roadside Litter Campaign – The NCC had launched a new campaign to encourage motorists to play their part in keeping the county clean and green. Litter and rubbish which is either dropped in the street or thrown from vehicles casts a real blight and clearing up litter costs the council around £2.6m each year. The Campaign is aimed at encouraging people not to drop litter and be proud of their county, posters were supplied.
- d) Coquet Children's Group – Cllr Mrs Willoughby had learnt from concerned mothers and child minders that sessions of the Toddler Group which had been available at the Community Centre on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm for many years during school term time was being reduced to approximately one session every seven weeks together with an online booking system. The Clerk confirmed that notification of the change had not been made to the Parish Council by the Coquet Children's Centre based at Hadston. Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that the Coquet Children's Centre are advised that the Community Centre will no longer be available to them on such a limited basis and alternative provision for a weekly toddler group for a Tuesday afternoon and a Friday morning is being considered. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

8. Planning Applications

- a) Planning Ref 18/03703/FUL- Proposed junction for agricultural forestry access to land adjacent Fir Tree Nursery Site, Land West of Site Applicant Clive Milner. Letter received from NCC Planning Officer confirming the Council have granted permission.
- b) Planning Ref 18/04245/OHL – Proposal Erect aerial bunched conductor at Ferneybeds North Substation, Widdrington Station. Applicant Mark Joyce. Letter received from NCC Planning Officer confirming that NCC has no objection to the proposals. Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to the plan that was supplied with the application, which she considered was the incorrect location.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

- a) Molly Muir member of a group of Senior Section Guides who have been selected to go to Sri Lanka from the 18th August to 1st September, 2019 to carry out a care and community project. The cost of the expedition was approximately £2,500 per person and each person in the group had to raise the funds. Details of the costs had been submitted with Molly’s letter. Cllr Mrs Willoughby considered that the project was very worthwhile and proposed a donation of £100.00 towards the cost. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and carried.
- b) Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering to be held 26th to the 28th April, 2019
This year is the 52nd year of showcasing all things Northumbrian with local traditional music, song, dialect, dance and crafts as well competitions helping to keep the heritage alive for future generations to enjoy. Last year a donation of £50.00 was approved by the Council.
Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed a donation of £50.00; Cllr Baron seconded the proposal which was carried.
- c) Northumberland Pride Request for a financial donation. A letter giving details of the work of Northumberland Pride which was set up in 2017 was considered. Last year they delivered the very first Northumberland Pride Event in Northumberland at Alnwick which was attended by over 2,500 people and engaged over 50 organisations for the benefit of the LGBT community in Northumberland and it is proposed to hold a similar event this year which can only continue with the support from funders, sponsors and community donations.
Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed a donation of £50.00; Cllr Tate seconded the proposal which was carried.

10. Review of Widdrington Station Community Centre Hire Charge Rates for 2019 to 2020 (Effective from 01.05.19)

Details of the current year’s rates had been included and it was considered that the current level of charges did not need to be increased. Cllr Batson referred to glasses getting broken or going missing at some events.
Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that the Hire Rates remain the same except for the inclusion of a £15.00 refundable deposit in regard to glass breakages etc. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

11. Finance

- i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 28.02.2019 £47,101.82 reconciled with Monthly Bank Account
Receipts - Bank Account Monthly Interest £4.15, The Clerk stated that the Bank of Ireland had advised that current account monthly interest will cease from the 7th May, 2019.
Proceeds from Parish Council Events during Christmas 2018 £600.00
Monthly VAT Claim paid online by HMRC £671.74
- ii) Payments for Approval: -
Parish Clerk’s February Salary £591.36
Parish Clerk’s February Expenses £31.92 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet & Telephone £8.00, Postage £13.92)
A Henderson Parish Handy Person, February Invoice £522.00 (includes £313.00 for additional work & materials)
Ken Arries Seasonal Parish Grounds Maintenance Worker, payment for work at Community Park during February £231.56 (Removal of Trees and Shredding)
Fish Electrical Services Ltd £415.80 Emergency call out to hoist problem
Chaplins Pantos £240.00 Deposit for Panto ‘Jack & The Beanstalk’ Date of Performance Saturday 7th December, 2019
COMBAT STRESS For Veterans ‘ Mental Health £300.00 from Raffle Proceeds at Parish Council Christmas Events.
J A Gordon & Co £60.00 Hedge cutting at Stobswood Allotments
Viking £89.36 Supply of Toner for Printer and Brown Self Seal Envelopes.

Cllr Batson proposed approval of the payments; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Baron.

- 12. 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.
none

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

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

23.

