

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE HALL OF THE WIDDRINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 13TH September, 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
Public 1

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

Reference was made to the request to scatter wild flower seeds on the bare soil around the boulders on the small green areas at the top of the Mile Road at Widdrington Station where the Christmas Tree is placed. It was confirmed that the bare soil around the boulders is caused by the need for weed killing in the area and therefore would affect the planting of wild flowers. It was considered that a more suitable area could be around the trees in the Community Park.

A request was made for a litter bin with a lid to be provided at the entrance to the lane leading to the old Stobswood Brickworks. Hopefully this would prevent the unsightly and environmentally unfriendly problem of scattered litter in the area. A lid is also required to the litter bin located at the lay-by at the bottom of the mile road as litter is removed and scattered by birds and foxes.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that a litter bin is provided at the entrance to the former Stobswood Brickworks and that an application is submitted to the Northumberland County Council for trees to be provided for the Community Park under the Free Trees Scheme 2021. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and carried.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 29th July, 2021 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th August, 2021 for approval and adoption.

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

5. Matters Arising on the minutes

(Minute 4 page38) Gleeson's Development at Widdrington Station

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Chair and Leader of the Northumberland County Council, the Ward Councillors and the Chief Executive as well as the Head of Development Services Section giving details of the Parish Council's concern that the matter cannot be sorted out to the benefit of the community of the parish and that the mishandling of the Section 106 Agreement by the County Council may result in an Insurance Claim being submitted to the County Council's Insurers'.

6. Reports from Outside Bodies

Northumbria Police Constable Teasdale was unable to attend the meeting, however she had submitted the following report: - There have been issues with low level anti-social behaviour around some of the bus stops, not large groups and monitoring will continue. There has been a report that off-road bikes have been in the woods at Stobswood over some weekends. This is a nationwide issue, bikes are going over beaches, fields and woods in many places so the County Council and other authorities are involved with the problem. She has been parking in the parish to monitor speeding by vehicles and will try to get the speed gun deployed to monitor the situation.

7. Correspondence Received

New drop-in sessions from Healthwatch, Northumberland

Information had been received advising the introduction of new drop-in sessions – Here to Hear which are to be held monthly. The sessions are free, confidential and give residents the opportunity to tell Healthwatch Northumberland about their experiences of NHS and social care services so that they can understand what is working well and what can be improved and help shape future provision. A poster is available for display on Parish Notice Boards, the nearest drop-in venue is the Northumberland County Blind Association, Morpeth NE61 1TD on the Fourth Wednesday of the month 11.00am to 1.00 pm for 6 months starting from September. There is also a monthly Zoom drop-in on the second Friday of the month 1.00 pm to 2.00pm details available at info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

8. Planning Applications

Planning Ref 21/02315/FELTPO – Tree Preservation Order – Proposal to fell Sycamore tree number 1 at Woodland View, Woodburn Street, Stobswood NE61 5QD. Applicant Mrs V Ellis. The application was a resubmission with amended/ additional information.



9. Highways Act 1980, Section 119 Parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood (Public Footpath No 11) Diversion Order (No 1) 2021. The Northumberland County Council confirmed the Order on the 20th July, 2021. Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Section 257 Parish of Widdrington Station & Stobswood (Public Footpath No 110 Order (No 2) 2021.

To comply with regulations, it was necessary to serve notice on the Parish Council. The formal notice together with a copy of the orders and map were available at the meeting. The Diversion Order was confirmed following the consultation period and was required because of the Housing Development on the land.

10. Widdrington Station Community Centre Proposed Extension

Drawings and Supporting Statement to accompany the submission of the planning application were distributed with the Agenda. The relocation of the toilets to the rear of the Centre would provide for a larger kitchen and lobby area together with increased storage. There would be a new entrance at the rear and an area to provide a further room for meetings and activities. The current kitchen area would provide a bar facility for functions leading into the lounge/meeting room. Discussion followed in regard to the merits of the proposals which would improve the functional capability of the Centre creating an enhanced community hub for parish residents.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby in supporting the proposed lay out of the extension and rearrangements to the existing building moved that the planning application proceeds to submission to the Planning Authority. Cllr Batson seconded the motion which was carried.

11. Parish Council Event – Guy Fawkes Public Firework Display Saturday 6th November, 2021.

At the last Parish Council meeting a proposal to enhance this year's display was approved as last year's display had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 Lockdowns. The cost for the event in 2019 was £1,374. Plus, VAT, therefore it was considered appropriate for the cost to be approximately £2,000.00 inclusive of VAT.

12. Community Park – The mound is looking unkept and out of control.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby considered that action was required to remove the Mound completely. This would involve a contractor. Perhaps an application for a grant towards the cost could be submitted to the Wind Turbine Fund as the removal would benefit the Community Park. Consideration to be given to the matter at the next Parish Council Meeting.

13. Widdrington Station Memorial Garden – To consider enhancements to the area.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby was looking at the possibility of obtaining a sign which was used for the Widdrington Station together with a coal bucket to be installed as part of depicting the history of the parish. There was also the possibility of some metal cut outs depicting historic silhouettes to be attached to the fencing. Further information to be submitted in due course.

14. Widdrington Station Community Centre Web Site

Cllr Carrier confirmed that he was currently updating the Website to include more information.

15. Finance

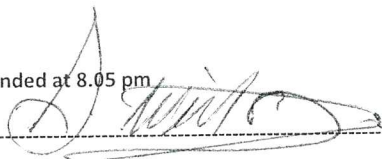
- i) Parish Clerk's Financial Statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.07.2021 £71,704.81 Reconciled with Bank Account statement for July 2021.
Parish Clerk's Financial Statement – monthly update- Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.08.2021 £69,625.95 Reconciled with Bank Account Statement for August 2021.
Receipts £460.00 from Raffle held for funds for the Combat Stress Charity at the Commemoration Day for VE Day and VJ Day at the Picnic in the Park on Saturday 24.07.2021.
- ii) Payments Approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council since the last meeting in accordance with Covid 19 arrangements were included with the agenda.

16. 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 in the relevant agenda.

The newly appointed Parish Clerk Simone Sainthouse had been introduced to the Parish Council and was in attendance at the meeting. She had signed her Written Statement of Employment which was also signed by the Chair of the Parish Council. Simone would commence duties from the 1st October, 2021. The current Parish Clerk had indicated termination of his employment with the Parish Council would be the 31st October, 2021 to enable the handover of the duties.

The Meeting Ended at 8.05 pm

Signed



Date

11-10-21