

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 9TH September 2019 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 Andrea Teasdale

Nine members 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)

a) Police Constable Andrea Teasdale reported that there were no reports of incidents associated with the visit of the Fun Fair at Hadston, hopefully it would be the same with the Fun Fair at Widdrington Station which was due to visit that week.

There had been some reports of Poaching, unfortunately Resources do not allow for the number of patrols that are required to have any impact on dealing with this criminal activity.

From November the Parish will be included with the force area covered from Alnwick rather than Ashington. As generally the number of crimes is less in the Alnwick force area there is a likelihood of additional resources available.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to the recent incident of a Fire at the Yum Yum's premises in the early hours of the morning involving a vehicle being on Fire. The owner has CCTV to assist with the investigation.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby thanked PC Teasdale for her attendance and report, P C Teasdale left the meeting.

b) A number of residents from the Grange Court Area of Widdrington Station were in attendance with some voicing their concern at recent problems with the standard of maintenance of the grassed areas etc by the Contractor for Karbon Homes. Cllr Mrs Willoughby had received a number of complaints from residents in recent weeks. Apparently, the grass was cut in a somewhat hurried manner which left cuttings scattered and strewn all over the pavement areas.

Unfortunately, there have been further reports of problems, surprisingly on the 8th August there was a gentleman armed with a hoe, two plastic bags and a small pair of clippers, no brush or shovel which eventually he had to borrow from a resident. There seems some confusion as to how many cuts the Contractor is required to carry out over the year.

A representative of Karbon Homes and the Contractor was invited to the Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to a reply received from Donna Elliot Rent, Estate Services & Service Charge Officer of Karbon Homes stating that unfortunately Karbon Homes do not have any members of staff available to attend the Council meeting, however she could arrange a meeting with representatives of the Council, residents and the Grounds Maintenance Contractor during the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. She is aware of the issues raised and apologises that that it is taking so long to resolve. The grass should typically be cut every fortnight March to October.

The Clerk was instructed to confirm an agreed time and date for the meeting to be held week commencing Monday 16th September, 2019.

c) A resident referred to the protracted problems he was experiencing in regard to the application for the change of use from public to private use to extend the garden and driveway at Glendale, Heavensangel Cattery, Grange Road, Widdrington Station. Following the approved Planning Permission an Order is to be made by the Department for Transport under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as part of the procedure. The resident was frustrated at the lack of response from the Northumberland County Council Planning Authority and Highways Department that he has applied to the Local Government Ombudsman who deals with cases of maladministration.

The Clerk advised that he had written to the Department For Transport in regard to the Public Notice stating that the Parish Council resolved to formerly object to the proposed order stopping up the highway in accordance with the objections to the Planning Application as there was concern that by allowing the application there would be severe restrictions for vehicular access to neighbouring properties as well as parking problems. A reply was received stating "that the Department of Transport are unable to accept the objection on this occasion. It is noted that the comments were submitted as an objection to the associated planning permission. Please note that it is not within the Secretary of State's remit to revisit matters that have already been considered by the Planning Authority"

The Parish Councillors considered that a visit to the roadway by an appropriate Planning Officer together with a Highways Officer from NCC to discuss the matter further is required. The Senior Planning Manger at NCC does not consider that a meeting should be arranged as it would not achieve any alteration to the planning permission. The Highways Officer has responded that no drainage problems of the area are likely to occur. The applicant will probably need an agreement with BT in regard to a Telegraph Pole to gain access, there are no problems envisaged with the highway utilisation proposed.

d) The resident of the adjacent property to the demolished Avala Park site on the Mile Road expressed concern at the fencing that had been installed and hoped that it was going to be painted to fit in with the area. A discussion arose on the number of dwellings that the owner was proposing on the cleared site. Cllr Mrs Willoughby give details of the problems on the site since it ceased to be used as a Residential Care Home. The determination on the application by the NCC Planning Committee was awaited.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th June, 2019 for approval and adoption.

Meeting scheduled for the 8th July, 2019 cancelled insufficient Councillors in attendance for a quorum

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 9 page 6) In regard to the Village Christmas Tree and the proposed switch on of lights for Friday 29th November, 2019. Cllr Batson requested that arrangements are made for the Tree to be delivered and installed week commencing the 18th November to enable the lights to be installed.

6. Reports from Outside Bodies. none

7. Correspondance Received

Northumberland County Council Local Transport Plan Programme for 2020-21

Letter received from Neil Snowdon the principal Programme Officer stating that they are starting the Local Transport Plan Programme 2020-21 and as part of this process he has requested the Parish Council's top three highways and transport issues for the area. Details of the record of highways and transport related requests currently contained on the Directory of Requests database were as follows: -

Directional Signs from Widdrington Station to Acklington.

Request to extend hardstanding area or change grassed areas to more parking bays at Grange Court Widdrington Station.

Request for a footpath/cycle way from Red Row to the Mile Road Widdrington Station.

The Parish Council's priorities were as follows: -

Improve existing footpaths and roadways throughout Parish but especially Liddle Terrace and Sanderson Terrace which is one way and does not even have a footpath – Safety is an issue.

More lowered kerbs are required to assist users and provide safe accesses.

The footpath from Widdrington Station to Stobswood is generally a mess and needs improving.

8. Planning Applications

Planning Application Ref 19/02283/FUL – Change of Use from Residential care Home to 8 private residential dwellings on site of Avala Park (demolished) Mile, Road, Widdrington Station. Applicant Mr Farad Maftoon.

The application was dealt with during the Parish Recess in August due to the time consultation requirements of the Northumberland County Council Planning Authority. The Parish Council had no objection to the proposal and therefore recommended approval. Pleased with the lay out and newly appointed entrance. No proposal for Solar Panels to be installed to produce Electricity Feed in Payments as well as a clean source of energy.

Section 106 Agreement to be included in regard to Community Benefit Payment, perhaps £5,000 per dwelling upon occupation would be appropriate.

9. 6th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference – Thursday 3rd October, 2019 at 4.00 pm at County Hall

The Clerk stated that details of the Conference had been received, two nominees from Parish Councils were requested. Cllr Mrs Willoughby indicated she would try and attend. The Clerk who has attended in recent years confirmed he was available to attend again.

10. Parish Council Event – Guy Fawkes Public Fireworks Display Sunday 3rd November, 2019 at the Stobswood Welfare.

The display firework packs which were similar to last year's very successful display were agreed.

Posters were ready for the Parish Council Notice Boards etc.,

11. Community Centre Management Sub-Committee AGM held on Monday 3rd June, 2019

The Minutes of the meeting were distributed for information. The following User Groups were represented:-

Widdrington Methodist Church, Widdrington Line Dancing Group, Craft Class and Widdrington Spiritualist Congregation.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby was reappointed Chair and Cllr Batson Vice Chair. The Financial Report was provided by the Clerk showing a statement of financial accounts for the period 01.06.2018 to 31.05.2019 and the five previous years were shown for comparison. The Income showed a sum of £15,293.85 which included £2,145.85 Electricity Fits Payments, £9,148.00 Centre Hire Booking Fees and £4,000 funding from the Parish Council.

Expenditure for the period was £14,913.62 The Balance in regard to the bank accounts was as follows:-

Opening Balance as at 01.06.18 - £2,759.71 Bank Balances at 03.05.19 Lloyds Account £504.68, HSBC Account £3,442.74 Total £3,947.42

All User Groups were happy with the arrangements for the Centre especially assistance give by Ken and Noreen. Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to the application by Gleeson Homes for 179 Houses on Land West of the Surgery, Grange Road and in particular the Parish Council's comments in regard to Community Benefit to be included in a Section 106 Agreement for the scheme, which hopefully would enable a new car park and extension to the Community Centre as well as alterations and improvements. To enable the Parish Council to be prepared the Council had approved the engagement of Sullivan Associates of Amble to advise on the proposals and draw up construction plans etc. The next meeting to be held on Monday 18th November, 2019 at 6.30 pm.

12. Stobswood Allotment Association Rent Review due 28th August, 2019

3.15 Acres of Land North of Stobswood House, Stobswood Allotment Association

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the terms of the lease between Harworth Estates and the Allotment Association which was taken over by the Parish Council on completion of the purchase of the land on the 18th August, 2016 the annual rent is payable from the 1st June each year. The lease is for a period of 10 years from the 28th August, 2013 with the rent to be reviewed every three years the next review was applicable from the 28th August, 2019. The lease provides for the rent to be raised by the appropriate increase in the UK Retail Price Index at the date of the review. The increase in the UK Retail Price Index as at the 28.08.2019 was 2.8% an increase from £525.00 per year to £540.00 the proportion due up to 31.05.2020 is £409.96 plus £126.72 for the 01.06.19 to 27.08.19 £126.72 Total Payable £536.68 The Parish Council confirmed the information in regard to the Rent Review.

13. South East Northumberland Rail User Group (SENUG) Letter appealing for financial assistance.

Letter received from Denis Fancett Chair of SENRUG the group that campaigns for better passenger rail services in South East and along the East Coast of Northumberland is seeking to raise £3,715.50 to cover its core running costs for the next 5 years. As a member of SENRUG a request had been submitted to the Parish Council for a donation to support the campaigns. Reference was made to the lack of improvement to Rail Services serving Widdrington Station even though there had been a number of campaigns by SENRUG. Therefore, on this occasion it was agreed not to give a donation. The Council would continue to subscribe to continue their membership of SENRUG.

14. Finance

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 30.06.2019 £36,050.32 reconciled with Bank Account Statement plus NCC Precept half yearly payment £23,905.00 to be added to Bank Account Balance. Monthly update – Bank of Ireland UK Account as at the 31.07.2019 £31,074.31 plus £23,905.00 referred to above, reconciled with Bank Account statement for July, 2019. Monthly update – Bank of Ireland (uk) Account as at 31.08.19 £27,384.71 plus £23,905.00 referred to above Reconciled with Bank Account Statement plus further £23,905 second half yearly precept payment due from NCC during September.

ii) Payments to be Approved: -

Arrangements for Payments during the Recess Period applied as no Parish Council Meeting until 09.09.19

Parish Clerk's June Salary £860.14 (5 weeks) includes pay award back dated to 01.04.19

Parish Clerk's June Expenses £28.02 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home internet & Telephone £8.00, postage £10.02)

A Henderson Parish Handy Person June Invoice £513.43 (includes additional work and materials £304.43)

K Arries Parish Grounds Seasonal Maintenance Worker June Payment £601.92

Fish Electrical Services Ltd £238.56 Re-lamping of Community Centre Hall lighting.

Fish Electrical Services Ltd £576.00 Community Centre Electrical Installation Report (EICR)

Aura Events N.E. Ltd £550.00 Deposit 50% for 9m x 24m clear span marquee for V E Day 75th Anniversary Event Saturday 9th May, 2020 .

H M Revenue & Customs £623.19 PAYE & NIC Quarterly Payment April, May and June.

Northumberland County Council £526.04 2019/20 Annual Charge for Waste Collection Service.

Widdrington Community Centre £330.00 Hire Charge for NCC using Centre for Polling Station 23.05.19 paid to incorrect Bank Account in error by NCC.

Viking Direct £128.71 Printer Toner, Copy Paper, Plastic Files and Envelopes.

Sovereign £1,887.06 Supply and install wet pour surface repairs to are at Community Park Junior Park.

Parish Clerk's July Salary £628.54

Parish Clerk's July Expenses £19.50 (Working from Home, Internet & Tel Allowance plus postage)

Ken Arries £749.61 Parish Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Worker July Payment.

Playsafety Ltd (Rospa Inspection) £181.20 Annual Inspection of Community Park Play Areas Equipment.

Standard Security Ltd £149.88 called out 26.07.19 to replace 8 way power supply after damage by electrical storm.

A Henderson £608.31 Parish Handy Person July Invoice (includes £297.56 for additional work and materials)

Parish Clerk's August Salary £628.54

Parish Clerk's August Expenses £18.00 (Working from Home and tel/internet allowance.

A Henderson £290.00 (includes £70.00 for additional work and materials)

Ken Arries Parish Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Worker £498.00.

Sullivan Associates Ltd £1,260.00 work to date re plans for proposed extension and alteration to Widdrington Station Community Centre
Broxap £1,523.64 Supply of 6 no Derby E Litter Bins with fixing kits.
Fish Electrical Services Ltd £246.00 Replaced extract hood in kitchen.
Washeteria £26.00 Laundry delivered 22.08.19 11 std round tablecloths & 2 std square tablecloths.
Alzheimer's Society £250.00 monies raised from the Decorative Cupcake Day Saturday 15.06.19 including a £50.00 donation from the Widdrington Spiritualist Congregation.
Crescent Printing Co Ashington £67.20 Supply of 400 no Parish Garden Certificates
Standard Security Ltd £150.00 Annual Maintenance Charge for Community Centre CCTV System.

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

iii) Quarterly Statement Budget against Spending for 2019-2020 as at 30.06.19

The Clerk presented a report showing the Council's expenditure for the period 01.04 to 30.06.2018. The total Budget for the year was £53,720 and £12,305 had been spent. The report would be displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards and Website.

15. 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.

The Clerk stated that a Finance Working Group Meeting will be held in October probably 3rd to propose recommendations for the 2020/2021 Budget.

16. To be held in closed session

Councillors resolved that members of the public and press are excluded from the remainder of the meeting which is to be held in closed session due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Application for co-option to the Parish Council
Annual Staff Review

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

