

**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> April, 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.**

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

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

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllrs George Askew and Gareth Tate

**2. Co-option of David Baron as Parish Councillor for the Widdrington Station Ward of the Parish Council.**

Mr Baron made the Declaration of Office which was signed by him and the Parish Clerk.

**3. To receive declarations of interest**

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

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

P C Dent reported two incidents of note since the last meeting involving an unprovoked attack to Cars parked at East Acres Widdrington Station. In one of the cases a number plate was stolen.

Door to Door sellers had also been operating in the Parish and offering false goods from vans. Telephone scams especially affecting the elderly continue to be reported. Although it was reported at the last meeting that a meeting had been arranged with the owner of the Junctions and Sidings Bar in the village, he did not attend. The NCC Public Protection Officer is involved in regard to the Licence and a further meeting is to be arranged.

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

**5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 for approval and adoption**

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

**6. Matters arising on the Minutes**

(Minute 5 page 26 refers) Cllr Mrs Willoughby stated that the property Avala Park on the Mile Road which was being offered for sale by auction was withdrawn from the Auction.

**7. Reports from Outside Bodies.**

As previously reported arrangements are being made by the Northumberland County Council to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victoria Cross awarded to James Johnson on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 who was born at Scotswood. Consideration is being given to the formation of a memorial garden at the fenced area in front of the Co-op/ Widdy Chippy Premises.

Reference was made to the decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to refuse the Highthorn Opencast application by Banks. It is understood that an appeal will be made by Banks.

**8. Correspondence received**

a) Northumberland Local Plan – Spring 2018 Consultation. A letter from Mark Ketly the Northumberland County Council Head of Planning Services had been circulated. The County Council was preparing a new County- Wide Local Plan. The new full Local Plan will set out both strategic and detailed policies (including site allocations) which will guide the growth and development across the County up to 2036. The timetable for the preparation of the plan is set out in the published Local Development Scheme. Consultation on a draft Local Plan will take place later in the summer of 2018.

b) Village Christmas Display Tree – Letter from parish resident thanking the Parish Council for providing the Christmas Tree and requesting that a star is provided for the top which was agreed

**9. Planning Applications**

a) P/App Ref 17/04191/VARYCO Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 14/03004/FUL in order to allow a reduction in the scale of the scheme as supplemented by revised tree report. Location – Oaklands, Mile Road, Widdrington Station. Applicant – Mr Fitzakerly, letter received from NCC Planning confirming permission granted.

b) P/App Ref 18/00913/FUL Enlarge existing pedestrian access to form vehicular access. Location – Alyncoft, Mile Road, Widdrington Station. Applicant – Rev Ray Biddiss. Parish Council had no objection to the application.

**10. Finance**

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 31.03.2018 - £48,001.66 reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for March, 2018

Receipts – Bank Account Monthly Interest £3.51.

Value Added Tax Reclaim from HMRC £4,797.79

£1,000.00 Returned from Northumberland County Council Youth Service – Section 137 Grant – Scheme re Allotment at Stobswood did not proceed.

ii) Payments to be Approved: -

Parish Clerk's March Salary £703.36

Parish Clerk's March Expenses £49.42 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet and Telephone £8.00, Postage £31.42)

A Henderson Parish Handy Person, March Invoice £260.00 (includes £62.00 for additional work and materials)  
Northumberland County Council £707.24, Installation and removal of festive lighting at Village Christmas Display Tree.  
Northumberland County Council £505.22 Commercial Waste Collections from Community Centre, period 01.04.18 to 31.03.19.  
Campaign to Protect Rural England £36.00 2018 Subscription.  
Cormeton £384.00 Annual Fire Alarm Maintenance Fee Period 01.04.18 to 31.03.19  
Morpeth Net £43.49 Annual Renewal of Domain Name & hosting fees for web site.  
Viking £98.36 Shredder Promax RSX 1035  
Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee £50.00 Donation  
Alnwick Playhouse & Arts Centre £50.00 Donation  
Both donations approved at Parish Council Meeting 12.03.18  
HMRC £457.18 Quarterly Payment of PAYE & NIC Q/E Jan, Feb & March, 2018.  
Northumberland County Council Small Society Lotteries Annual Fee for Parish Council Events during 2018.

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

iii) Quarterly Statement 2017/18 – Budget against expenditure as at 31.03.2018.

The Clerk circulated a report showing the Council's expenditure for the period 01.04 to 31.03.2018. The total Budget for the year was £47,670 and £45,218 had been spent. The report would be published on the Parish Council Website and Notice Boards to conform with the Government's requirement for information to be available to the Parish Community.

iv) Details of Newly Appointed External Auditors and Timetable for the Audit of Accounts for the year ending 31.03.18

The Clerk stated that the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) has appointed PKF Littlejohn LLP of 1 Westbury Circus, Canary Wharf, London as the external auditor for 5 years following a Tendering Process. The Key dates in regard to the Return is as follows: -

Deadline by which completed & Approved Annual Return and supporting documents Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 to be received by External Auditors.

Statutory common period to be included in the small authority's period for the exercise of public rights – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

Statutory deadline by which the Annual Audit return and signed external auditor report must be published together with the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.

It was agreed that David Booth is again requested to carry out the Internal Audit Report and a meeting in regard to the Risk Assessment under the Annual Statement of Assurance is to be held on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 4.30 pm.

**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.....

