

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 8th October, 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

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

NCC Councillor Scott Dickinson
R A Smith (Parish Clerk).
Police Constable Paul Dent plus 3 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)

P C Dent was pleased to report that criminal activity in the area had been relatively low in the Parish and surrounding area since the last Parish Council Meeting held in September. Halloween and Guy Fawkes events were forthcoming, the force in Northumberland would be enforcing CSO orders in regard to unacceptable behaviour involving Trick & Treating as well as Fireworks. Fortunately, the Parish Council continues to organise a Public Firework Display which assists considerably. Reference was made to the visit of Slaters Funfair to the Community Park for four days from the 12th to the 16th September. Although the Parish Council had received a complaint from an Anonymous Resident of the Parish in regard to noise, diesel fumes and running over of time. P C Dent confirmed that the Police had only received complaints in regard to the Parking of Vehicles in the area surrounding the Community Park in connection with those attending the Funfair.

P C Dent announced that the meeting would be the last he would be attending as he was taking Leave prior to retirement. His position was being advertised and hopefully he would be replaced soon.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby thanked Paul for his time as the Community Police Presence in the Parish and for taking the time to attend the monthly Parish Council Meeting which had been of great benefit to the community. A presentation was held as a thank you to Paul who then left the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th September, 2018 for approval and adoption

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

5. Matters arising on the Minutes none

6. Reports from Outside Bodies none

7. Correspondence Received

a) The Clerk advised confirmation had been received that the Community Centre Hall Hoist Motors Repairs which had been the subject of a claim with the Parish Council's Insurance Company for the Hall Norris and Fisher Agents of Ansva Insurance that the claim in the sum of £4,681.44 was to be paid in full less £100.00 excess.

b) Letter from Linden Dodds, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Northumberland County Council in regard to complaints about Slaters Funfair at Widdrington Station Community Park – Environmental Protection Act, 1990. He realises that this type of event is transient and only happens for a few days a year but if the Parish Council could provide operators of such events with some guidance to avoid nuisance or annoyance to residents in the immediate neighbourhood.

A letter from an anonymous resident of the Parish had been received referring to the experience of excess noise, over running of the time the Fair was operating, diesel fumes from generators and anti-social behaviour with reference to the recent events of cars being set on fire in the Parish. A request had been made under the Freedom of Information Act that the Council sets out in detail how the Fair is Financed and what income the Council receives.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to P C Dent's remarks earlier in the meeting advising complaints in regard to the Fair had been received only in regard to vehicle parking while the Fair was operating. Gangs setting Fire to vehicles some weeks ago was a separate matter and the police were investigating individuals from outside the area of the Parish. The Fair was allowed to use the Community Park as some previous visits to the Parish at no financial cost to the Parish Council. Indeed, Slaters have made a donation of £310.00 towards costs associated with the formation of the new Memorial Garden in the area within the railings in front of the Commercial Buildings at the Railway Level Crossing. Clearly there is still an appetite for going to a Fun Fair as Slaters have been touring towns and villages in Northumberland for many years. The Parish Council considered that a Survey of Residents views was not necessary on the matter.

- c) Letter from Community Action Northumberland requesting financial support to enable the work they do providing advice and support to communities across Northumberland and acting as a critical 'rural voice'
Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed a donation of £50.00; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.
- d) Letter from the Great North Air Ambulance Organisation requesting financial support to assist the service to continue operating three emergency response helicopters that fly to aid critically ill patients. With doctor led crews, pioneering procedures and equipment on board, they are able to give even the most seriously ill, a better chance of survival.
Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed a donation of £100.00; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Baron and carried.

8. Planning Applications

Planning Ref 18/03280/COU Change of Use from public to private use to extend garden and driveway, Location Glendale, Heavensangel Cattery, Grange Road Widdrington Station, NE61 5LY Applicant – Mrs Amanda Lennox.

A resident of the parish was in attendance and requested permission to voice her concern in regard to the application, which The Chair agreed to. She was very concerned that if the application was approved there would be severe restrictions for vehicular access to neighbouring properties as well as parking problems. The Clerk confirmed that an issue with the application was that the applicant did not own the land to the front of the site. The Parish Council deferred consideration of the application to the November monthly Parish Council meeting with a request to the NCC Planning Officer for an extension of time for comments prior to the application being determined.

9. Arrangements to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Award of the Victoria Cross to James Bulmer Johnson on Sunday the 14th October, 2018

The ceremony to unveil the commemorative stone located at the new Memorial Garden at Widdrington Station would commence at 2.00 pm. Reverend Joanna Dobson would give the blessing and there would be appropriate Hymns. Northumberland County Councillor Dave Ledger will unveil the Memorial Stone as Armed Forces Champion for Northumberland. The last Post is to be played by Buglers and there would be Reveille followed by an address. After the ceremony all are invited to the Widdrington Community Centre for a Reception.

10. Parish Council Events

- a) Halloween Disco at the Community Centre on Saturday 27th October, 2018 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm
Cllr Mrs Willoughby confirmed refreshments including Hot Dogs would be available.
- b) Guy Fawkes Public Fireworks Display at Stobswood Welfare Ground Sunday 4th November, 2018
The display would commence at 7.30 pm and the Clerk confirmed that the Fireworks had been ordered in accordance with the purchasing requirements discussed at the last Parish Council Meeting. As usual the Police Fire Brigade and Coast Guard had been advised and arrangements in regard to paramedic and stewarding cover for the event had been made.

11. Finance

- i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 30.09.2018 - ££62,484.28 reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for September, 2018
Receipts:- £612.12 in regard to the cost of the bench seat and plaque kindly provided in memory of her Late husband Tom by Mrs Margaret Brown.
Northumberland County Council half yearly precept payment £22,805.00
Bank Account Monthly Interest £3.94
- ii) Payments to be Approved: -
Parish Clerk's September Salary £767.42 (5 weeks including back dated pay ward)
Parish Clerk's September Expenses £35.94 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet and Telephone £8.00, Postage £17.94)
A Henderson Parish Handy Person, September Invoice £472.12 (includes £198.37 for additional work and materials together with back dated increase in hourly rate)
K Arries Parish Grounds Maintenance Worker September Payment £501.75 (includes back dated pay award)
Northern Structures £4,732.80 Cladding & Guttering Replacement Work, Temporary Sit Safety Fencing at Widdrington Community Centre.
Standard Security £150.00 Annual Maintenance Charge – Community Centre CCTV System
Station Entertainments £175.00 Halloween Party at Community Centre Saturday 27th October, 2018
HMRC £473.20 Quarterly Payment of PAYE & NIC Q/E July, August and September, 2018
PKF Littlejohn Accountants £360.00 Audit completed for the Limited Assurance Review of Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ended 31st March, 2018

In addition, the following payments were made during September in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Council:-

Furnitubes £716.00 1200mm Harrogate Bench Seat for Memorial Garden
James Burrell Ltd £1,735.86 Various materials in regard to the formation of the Memorial Garden

Ian Watson Painter & Decorator £850.00 Painting of Railings at Plantations in front of Co-op Buildings
Jordans Fireworks £1,684.96 for Fireworks for Guy Fawkes Public Display Sunday 04.11.18
Selections £102.95 Purchase of 20 number Cast Iron Poppies for Memorial Garden
Strictly Tables & Chairs Ltd £1,297.68 for 50 Chairs and 2 number 5' Round Tables

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

iii) Quarterly Statement 2018/19 – Budget against Expenditure as at 30.09.18

The Clerk presented a report showing the Council's expenditure for the period 01.04 to 30.09.2018. The total budget for the year was £53,740 and £31,634 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 made available to the community.

iv) Completion of Audit – Limited assurance review for the year ended 31st March, 2018

The Clerk reported that the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit dated the 16th September, 2018 had been received from PKF Littlejohn Accountants. Copies would be displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards for the required statutory period.

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.

13. 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: -

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

