

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 12TH February, 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

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

R A Smith (Parish Clerk).

Police Constable Paul Dent
Public - two

1. To receive apologies for absence

NCC Cllr S Dickinson and D Towns

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Batson declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Stobswood Welfare and Cllr Askew declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Area Training & Activity Centre (ATAC) at Widdrington Station and NCC Coquet Children's Centre.

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

P C Dent reported that there had been a theft from an insecure garage at Ulgham as well as some opportunist thefts of scrap from gardens. He again referred to telephone scams in particular recently involving the use of iTunes vouchers, he reiterated that private financial details should not be requested by a telephone call. He has been following up complaints in regard to the later licencing hours for the Junction and Sidings Bars at Widdrington Station and hopes to report progress at next months Parish Council meeting.

No further progress to report in regard to the property Avala Park on the Mile Road.

P C Dent was thanked for his report he then left the meeting.

Reverend Joanna Dobson was in attendance to discuss the proposal of starting a drop in Tea and Coffee sessions for a trial 6 week period after Easter. The Community Centre Lounge would be required from 9.00am to 12 noon probably on a Thursday. Cllr Mrs Willoughby in support proposed that the charge for the sessions to be applied is £10.00 per session, Cllr Batson seconded the proposal which was carried.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th February, 2018 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 8c&8d page 22) The Clerk reported that the meeting with Geoff Horsman Northumberland County Council Senior Planning Officer had been held on the 29th January, 2018 and the Community Benefits to be included in the Section 106 Agreements in regard to the application for the Outline Planning Permission for 165 Dwellings with associated infrastructure and areas of public open space on Land South of Grange Court, Grange Road, Widdrington Station together with the application for the Variation of condition 29 (Approved Plans) pursuant to planning permission CM/20090001 to allow re-design of the site and reduction in proposed numbers at the Old Brickworks, Stobswood had been discussed.

The meeting was followed up with formal submission by letter for the Planning Committee to consider when determining the Planning Applications as follows:-

In regard to the development of 165 Dwellings on Land South of Grange Court, Grange Road, Widdrington Station. The scheme includes a series of Play Areas, however the agents have been advised that there is a large Community Play Park within a short walking distance of the proposed development and any monies allocated in respect of Community Space and Play Parks would be better utilised in enhancing the Community Play area. The 15% affordable housing requirement to be applied is welcomed. Concern in regard to the increase in traffic in the area was expressed.

In regard to the development at the Old Brickworks, Stobswood the Planning Officer was advised that the details contained in the Draft Section 106 Agreement dated the 17th September, 2013 had been agreed, it was considered that circumstances in the area have changed and certain proposals need to be reconsidered.

The provision of Affordable Housing should be reconsidered with at least 15% of the Housing to be provided within the current policy of the Northumberland County Council for new developments. Recreation – The Play Area Scheme needs to be revisited as the construction of two play areas is considered unnecessary in view of the play area already located at Woodburn Street, Stobswood and the large Community Park at Widdrington Station. The building proposed to be constructed as part of the Community Space Covenant is considered to be unnecessary and the funding for Community Benefit purposes should be allocated for the refurbishment and improvements including an extension to the Widdrington Station Community Centre to enable the facility to provide the wanted Community Hub for the Parish.

The provision of allotment gardens is no longer required in view of the purchase of the 3.15 Acres of Land by the Parish Council to maintain the 25 full plots and 8 half plots for the Stobswood Allotment Association.

Further information in regard to the Management Company in regard to the Combined Heat and Power Point was required.

6. Reports from Outside Bodies.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby reported on the possibility of the Parish Council providing Santas Sleigh for the Charity collection in the Parish next Christmas.

7. Correspondence received

a) The Salvation Army – Fundraising Department

Letter dated the 6th February, 2018 thanking the Parish Council for the £200.00 donation raised from proceeds of Raffles at Christmas Events.

b) Stobswood Allotment Association

Letter dated 29th January, 2018 from the Secretary advising that an application is being submitted to the Community Benefit Fund managed by Community Foundation Tyne& Wear and Northumberland. The Association’s application is in regard to the replacement of two large gates and two pedestrian gates. They would also like to lay some ground reinforcements grids at the entrances to prevent churning up of mud and around a plot used for a disabled lady to help with her wheelchair. A further proposal is to replace the wooden shed which stores the sit-on grass cutter with a metal container for security purposes similar to the unit at the Community Park. The Parish Council’s approval as Landlords was required in regard to submitting the application.

It was considered appropriate to support the provision of the reinforcement grids and the metal storage unit provided it conforms with conditions included in the current lease. However, the replacement gates were considered unnecessary as the gates are in good condition.

8. Planning Applications

P/App Ref 17/04244/FUL – Replacement of existing boundary fence and driveway gate on front of property adjoining public road with new fence at gate. Location Greenville, Grange Road, Widdrington Station – Applicant Mr Barnes

9. Parish Council Standing Orders.

Standing Order 1(a) states “ Meetings of the Council shall be held on the second Monday of each month starting at 6.30pm unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting. Where this coincides with a Bank Holiday, the meeting will be held on the next Monday following the Bank Holiday. That the Parish Council has exclusive use of the Widdrington Station Community Centre Lounge from 6.30pm on the second Monday of each month. That the duration of the monthly Parish Council Meeting shall be limited to a maximum of two hours subject to the Chair’s discretion to prolong the meeting if required”. Reference was made to the January meeting having to be rearranged because two Councillors could not attend because of illness and a quorum was not available for the meeting. In regard to the August meeting which falls in the School Holidays a number of Parish Councils operate a recess period in August as many Councillors have holidays in August especially those with school children. The Chair has the discretion to call a Special meeting to deal with any urgent business. To enable the amendment to be approved a formal resolution will be required at the monthly Parish Council to be held in March.

10. Parish Council Events:-

a) Annual Panto at the Community Centre – Saturday 8th December, 2018

The Clerk provided details of productions that are available by Chaplins for 2018. There was a mini panto The Adventures of Treasure Island at a similar cost to the 2017 Panto or Cinderella a traditional panto with an increase in cast. Cllr Mrs Willoughby considered that it was appropriate for a larger production to be performed and proposed that Cinderella is booked at the cost of £920.00 plus VAT. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and carried.

b) Financial Statements in regard to Parish Council Events –

- i) Winter Warmer Saturday 25.11.17 Expenses – Purchase of Buffet Food £175.09, ‘Ho Down Entertainment supplied by Station Entertainments £200.00. Ticket Sales £250.00.
- ii) Elderberries Christmas Lunch Friday 15.12.17 Expenses Food Items and Raffle Prizes £410.99, Entertainment provided by Station Entertainments £185.00. Entry Free Meal cost to be met by Banks Mining.

11. Review of Widdrington Station Community Centre Hire Charge Rates for 2018-2019 Effective from the 1st May, 2018.

Details of the current Hire Charges had been included.

It was considered that the current level of charges did not need to be increased and the Community Centre was being used by new groups. Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to the cost of laundering the Linen Table Cloths and Chair Covers after events such as weddings and proposed a charge of up to £50.00, Cllr Batson seconded the proposal which was carried.

12. Finance

i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 31.12.2017 - £48,380.14 reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for December, 2017

Receipts – Bank Account Monthly Interest £4.23. Parish Council Events Raffle Proceeds £178.50

The Clerk advised that the Annual Claim for Value Added Tax from HMRC was to be submitted amount to claim £2,852.49

ii) Payments to be Approved:-

Parish Clerk’s January Salary £562.69

Parish Clerk’s January Expenses £31.44 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet and Telephone £8.00, Postage £13.44)

A Henderson Parish Handy Person, January Invoice £467.56 (includes £224.56 for additional work and materials)

Northumberland County Council £293.70 Supply and Installation of new Community Centre Sign.

Viking £96.55 (Trolley for portable use of the new sound system for the Community Centre) (Toner for Printer)

ADT £716.58 British Telecom Redcare and Maintenance/Monitoring of the Community Centre Alarm System.

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

13. 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 8.30 p.m.

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

