

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE HALL OF THE WIDDRINGTON
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON Monday 12th December 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs M Willoughby (Chair), K Batson, A Carrier.

Parish Clerk

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. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th November 2022 for approval and adoption

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

4. Matters Arising on the minutes

Allotments – KB added – Inquires made with other Allotment associations showed the following Fees for plots in other associations shown to be £50 per plot. Widdrington & Stobswood Parish fees £13 per plot Increase thought to be acceptable. 36 plots on allotments. Increase for annual rent (£1000) Plot rental fees considerable.

5. Reports from Outside Bodies Gareth Tate – As requested – Statement to be recorded on minutes of this meeting Concern raised about ASB and a statement issued by the Parish Council to David Bawn from Auld Solicitors for their client From Coast & Castle in relation to an ongoing complaint of ASB by their resident. Reported by G Tate (as statement) to Parish Council (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT ON THE MINUTES) Names have been redacted for confidential reasons.

COPY TO BE PLACED ON NOTICE BOARD – COOP AND ON WEBSITE

Gareth Tate – Read out his prepared statement to Parish

Highlighted how he believes that the Parish had failed in their position as a Parish Council, on dealing with the complaint Of ASB

CCTV – It was noted that No specific cctv of the individual person(s) or said family who are named as being responsible Was available to support allegations

Gareth Tate commented that he had raised his concerns in Parish meetings and that these had not been recorded It was explained that any matters raised in meetings would have been recorded, however, Gareth Tate had not asked for His concerns to be added to the agenda/minutes and the said concerns had either been covered in the “closed” meeting And as such NOT recorded or it had been discussed outside the meeting and was deemed to be hearsay and/or third party Evidence.

Reference made to June minutes and Police attendance where ASB was discussed and noted.

Gareth stated that the response made by the Chair to D Bawn (Auld) was incorrect and should be retracted as it was incorrect

He stated that he was considering making a formal complaint to the “Monitoring Officer” at County Hall about the Chair and Widdrington & Stobswood Parish Council as he had lost confidence in the Parish Council

Telephone Call – Reference is made that a telephone call between Gareth Tate and the R Hignett (Coast & Castle) Had been witnessed by M Willoughby. The Chair stated that this was untrue and she had removed herself from the Conversation and was not witness to the call. This was held between Gareth Tate and R Hignett

M Willoughby tried to respond to the statement read out by Gareth Tate but this was met by Gareth standing up And refusing to discuss the allegations put to the Parish Council. He then left the meeting abruptly having been asked to Stay twice by the Chair to discuss his concerns

Gareth Tate responded “All a waste of time.” I will be making a vote of “No Confidence” in the Parish “Are all you Councillors willing to go to jail because the Chair has lied”

6. Correspondence Received

none

7. Planning Applications

Community Centre – refurbishment. KB discussed the financial implications of the extension. Quotes have been obtained For the ground works and these are a staggering amount. It was therefore put to the Parish that we should consider Holding off on the full extension and consider refurbishing the kitchen area, lounge and toilets. Update the canopy in the

Hall and flooring

Correspondence is to be submitted to County Hall for compensation for the Planning departments discrepancies in the Gleeson planning application. If successful, then a smaller extension will be considered to the rear of the centre. Incorporating the hall
Next Parish meeting to revisit this with a view to sending an email to Glen Sanderson, Rob Murfin (Planning) S Dickinson And Rick Farrell to progress the claim.

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8. Parish Council Event

Elderberries – Event to be held as each year – Event to be covered by using the Chairs Allowance

Warm Space – The warm space on Thursday has been successful. This is to cease for the Xmas period and will recommence

In the New Year. Event has collected £116.00

ATAC – Warm Space runs on a Friday. **Widdy Welcomes** – Runs on a Thursday

12. Widdrington Station Community Centre Website

Cllr Carrier gave details of the number of visits both to the Parish Council Website Up by 41%

Community Centre down 32%

Cllr Carrier suggested that more should be done to advertise and ask for feedback from persons using the Community Centre for the website.

13. Finance

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at **30/11/2022** - £114,555.19
less £70,000 refurbishment) = **£44,555.19**
Reconciled balance (- £70,000) = £38,289.83

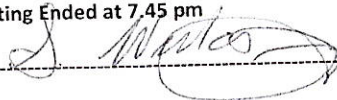
14. Staff Matters.

Discussed in closed session.

Allotments discussed in closed session

The Meeting Ended at 7.45 pm

Signed



Date

9-1-23,

39.