

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER, 2020 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

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

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr D Baron

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 9th March 2020 for approval and adoption.

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

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes none

5. Reports from Outside Bodies

- a) Cllr Mrs Willoughby advised that the Service for Remembrance Day to be held on Sunday the 8th November at St John's Ulgham had been cancelled by Reverend Dobson owing to COVID-19 restrictions. Cllr Mrs Willoughby confirmed that she will lay the Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council Wreath on the War Memorial on Armistice day the 11th November.
- b) Cllr Tate referred to the delivery of food parcels to residents in the parish during the Covid-19 problems. He was in the process of liaising with the Northumberland County Council and no doubt an increase in assistance will be required during the winter. Morrison's at Amble have been very helpful in donating goods. A Committee from the Volunteers which includes a Treasurer and Secretary has been formed.

6. Correspondance Received

- a) Northumberland Age UK – letter re Covid-19 Support was issued with Agenda.
- b) Great North Air Ambulance - Update of Service and request for a donation issued with Agenda.
- c) Combat Stress for Veteran's Mental Health – Update and request for a donation issued with Agenda.
- d) The Salvation Army – Request for a donation issued with Agenda.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby considered that all the organisations were worthy of support and proposed that a £100.00 donation is made to each. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

7. Planning Applications

- a) Information from the National Association of Local Councils who have united with the Local Government Association to keep planning local.
NALC states that people want their local area to have high-quality affordable homes built in the right places, supported by the right infrastructure, which provides enough schools, promotes greener and more active travel and tackles climate change. This can only be achieved through a local planning system with public participation at its heart which enables councils to deliver resilient, prosperous places that meet the needs of their communities. Any suggestion that planning is a barrier to housebuilding is a myth. Nine in 10 planning applications are approved by councils, while more than a million homes given planning permission in the last decade have not yet been built.
Taking further planning powers away from communities and councils will only deprive them of the ability to define the area they live in and know best the risk giving developers the freedom to ride roughshod over local areas.
The Parish Council has already informed the NCC Director of Planning and the local NCC Ward Members of their concern in regard to the Government's proposals in regard to Planning Matters and the loss of Parish Council involvement in the planning consultation process including agreements of Community Benefits through Section 106 Agreements with Developers.
- b) Gleeson Development and the proposed Car Park and Land for the proposed extension to the Widdrington Community Centre.
Reference was made to problems which had arisen in regard to the Section 106 Agreement with Gleeson Regeneration Ltd dated the 4th June, 2020 for the Planning Permission for the Housing Development on land West of the Surgery, Grange Road, Widdrington Station. The Parish Council had made representation to the NCC Planning Officer that the details of the Community Benefit included in the Section 106 Agreement did not include the agreement by Gleeson's to provide land for part of the proposed extension in addition to the new Car Park even though reference was made in the report by the Planning Officer to the NCC Strategic Planning Committee held on the 04.02.2020 when it was resolved

to grant Planning Permission for the Gleeson Housing Development together with the Section 106 Agreement to include Community Benefits. The Clerk advised that it was appropriate for the Parish Council to make a formal complaint to the Northumberland County Council. Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that the formal complaint is submitted to the Northumberland County Council and Cllr Glen Sanderson the leader is advised together with the NCC Ward Members for the Parish Area. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

8 Widdrington Station Community Centre Electricity Supply Charges

The Clerk reported that the fixed contract with British Gas for the supply of Electricity was due to expire on the 23.02.2021. However, an agreement in regard to a further three years to the 23.02.2024 had already been approved by the Parish Council.

9. New Bus Shelters to replace the shelters demolished.

The Clerk reported that work in regard to the foundations for the Shelters were soon to commence and the Shelters would be delivered and installed towards the end of November.

10.Village Christmas Display Tree

The Clerk stated that the suppliers of the tree were proposing to deliver and install the Tree on Wednesday the 25th November. Cllr Mrs Willoughby commented that because of Covid 19 Social Distancing restrictions that there would not be an official switch on of the lights this year. Cllr Batson proposed that the Northumberland County Council are requested to make arrangements for the lights and star to be installed to the tree and switched on; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Tate and carried.

11. Parish Council Events

The Clerk reported that the large Marquee had been booked for the V E Day Event to be held at the Community Park on Saturday the 26th June, 2021 and Station Entertainments had confirmed details of the entertainment to be provided. Cllr Mrs Willoughby confirmed that because of the Covid 19 Restrictions it was not possible for the Christmas Lunch to be provided this year.

12.Finance

- i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.10.2020 £82,928.93 reconciled with Bank Account statement for October, 2020. Receipts received NCC half yearly precept amount £25,142.50.
- ii) Payments Approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council in accordance with the Covid 19 restrictions arrangements were issued to the Councillors with the meeting Agenda.
- iii) 2020 Audit Report
The Clerk advised that the report and certificate was awaited from PKF Littlejohn External Auditors. The period for the issue of the report and certificate had been extended to the 30th November, 2020 by the Government's Covid 19 Regulations.
- iv) Budget and NCC Precept for 2021/2022 Current year's Budget Statement and Expenditure had been issued with the meeting Agenda.
The Clerk reported that it will be necessary to determine the Parish Council Budget and Northumberland County Council Precept for 2021/2022 at the next meeting.

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.

Parish Council Website and Community Centre Website. Cllr Carrier advised that work in regard to the new Websites was progressing and he was liaising with MorpethNet in regard to the transfer of the details required. He will circulate drafts of the Websites for comments. The cost of the domain name and enquiry facility for each website would be £8.50 per month.

Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m

The next ZOOM Meeting to be held on Monday the 14th December, 2020 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Signed ----- Date-----

