

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 13TH June, 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

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

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).

Police Constable 2296 Gibson PSO Olivia Coulson

0 Members of Public

1. To receive apologies for absence

PC - Cllr Aaron Carrier

2. To receive declarations of interest

PC - 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)

PC Gibson and PSO Coulson introduced themselves to the Parish Councillors and explained their role as Neighbourhood Officers and the locality that they

Covered within the Northumberland Area Command.

Cllr Willoughby outlined her concerns about the lack of Police presence in Widdrington. She explained the ongoing issues with Anti-Social Behaviour

In the Community Park and the previous incidents that had occurred. Crime reports in the Parish

Cllr Tate spoke about the ongoing problems with drug use by local youths and the concerns about a known male living in a caravan in the woods at the

Stobswood Brickyard and concerns about the reports from local residents about the alleged drug use at the locality.

PC Gibson commented on the provision of visible Police patrols and commented that this was an issue due to the large area that he had to cover.

PC Gibson discussed the vehicle crime of late. Keyless car thefts and the deterrent (faraday Pass)

PC Gibson explained about an ongoing Operation to commence for Motorbike & Quad bike anti-social behaviour in the area at allocated dates (unspecified)

PC Gibson outlined the channels available to Cllrs and the public to report offences and concerns to the Police

PC Gibson & PSO Coulson left the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 13th June 2022

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

6. Matters arising on the Minutes

none

7. Reports from Outside Bodies.

None

8. Correspondence Received

a) AWI (Asset Watch) It was agreed that AWI are to take over the CCTV & security for with within Widdrington & Stobwood Parish Council.

Quotes for the following were agreed by the Parish

Light Column Camera Installation & CCTV Monitoring (Control room monitoring service). Security Patrols. Reports

£4,560.00 IT Secure – Internet connection CCTV £1,052.39.

Reay Security. It was agreed that Reay Security to informed that their contract is now terminated forth with. (June 2022)

b) MRM Street Furniture – Litter bins. Agreed that 4 new litter bins were to be purchased. Two bins to be utilised now and 2 to be stored. -

c) Hoist. Community Centre. It was agreed that the repairs to the hoist in the Community Centre would carry out to achieve "Safe to Operate"

status.

d) Public Liability Claim – A claim was submitted by the Parish Clerk for damage by Storm Arwyn to the CCTV cameras and subsequent replacement of

the cameras to the Parish Insurers Ansvar Insurance.

e) Graveyard – Widdrington Trinity Church. A complaint was received and discussed about the lack of maintenance of this graveyard and the poor state the graves

and grassed area are in, in the graveyard. It was declared that the graveyard belongs to Widdrington Village Parish and that this would be passed to

the Parish to resolve the complaint. (Mrs V Seddon)

f) Party in the Park 25/6/22. Security was discussed for the forthcoming event. It was agreed by the Parish that AWI would provide security at the Park from 21.00 hrs to 0700 hrs to secure the equipment that is to be left over night. Costing for 2 x Officers £360. Dogs are to be allowed but MUST be kept on a lead at all times.

9. Planning Applications

PC a) Planning Application – Granted - 8 Properties to be built on land previously known as Alva Park Care Home, Mile Road Widdrington.

10. Allotments – PC - Yearly rental is due for Stobswood Allotment Association. Parish Clerk to send out invoice to Mr Shelley A review of the lease and yearly rental charge is due in 2023 and is to be discussed in the next Parish meeting It was also discussed that consideration would be given to possibly asking if the Allotments would consider Taking on the upkeep of the Parish Planters in Stobswood and Widdrington. (To be confirmed)

11. Parish Council Event – Village Gala (Party in the Park) to be held at the Community Park on Saturday 25th June, 2022

Cllr Mrs Willoughby stated that proceeds from the raffle to be held at the Gala will be donated to Combat Stress Northumberland.

12. Website Cllr Carrier absent from meeting. Nothing to add to minutes.

13 Finance

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 31.05.2022 - **£59,785.48**
Reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for May, 2022 - **£47,187.58**

ii) Payments to be Approved: -

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

ii) The 2022 Audit Report and Annual Governance Statement

The Clerk distributed the Internal Audit Report and referred to the statement of assurance relating to the accounts for 2021/2022

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed approval and was seconded by Cllr Batson and unanimously to resolve as follows: -

Statement of Accounts, Annual Return for the year ended 31st March, 2022 and signed by the Chair.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement.

1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements – **Yes**
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness – **Yes**
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances - **Yes**
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit regulations – **Yes**
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required - **Yes**
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems - **Yes**
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit – **Yes**

6.

We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements - **Yes**

9. Trust Funds – the statement was not applicable to the Parish Council

iii) Section 2 Accounting statements for 2021/22

Approved and Signed by the Chair of the Council – Mrs M Willoughby

iv) Notice of Appointment of Date for the Exercise of Electors' Rights – Accounts for Year Ended 31st March, 2022.

The Clerk referred to the Prescribed Notice to be displayed on the Parish Council Notice Boards for the period 4th July to the 5th August 2022 giving the Parish Electors the right to inspect the accounts on reasonable notice by application.

14. 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.

15. To be held in closed session

Councillors resolved that member 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: -
Food Bank. Discussion not published at Chair M Willoughby request.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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

