**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

 **ON MONDAY 13th November 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.**

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

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).

Eight members of the Public

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

 Upkeep of the Mile Road/footpath – The footpath along the Mile Road is in a poor condition and the hedges are

 Completely overgrown. Public have to walk onto the road to pass in places.

 Speed Bumps were mentioned and MW suggested that the Emergency Services did not like them. Who is responsible?

**MW** – County Council is responsible for the public highway/footpaths on the Mile Road to the small bridge just after the houses on the left. After the this it is the responsibility of Ellington Parish

**PC**- Fix My Street. Explains website on County Council website and how to report an incident

**4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th May for approval and adoption**

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

 **5. Matters arising on the Minutes**

None.

**6. Reports from Outside Bodies.**

 **MW** – Reads out report from PSO Sutcliffe stating that there have been no reports of disorder or ASB

 **MW** – Explains that the nearest policing team are at Alnwick. Only patrols in the area. PSO Sutcliffe suggested calling

 101 or 999 in emergency in report?

 **Fireworks** – Postponed due to wet weather and field conditions being too dangerous underfoot to deal with fireworks

 This will be reorganised in due course by K Batson

 **Coast & Castle** – Bins - This is not something that the Parish will deal with. It is a issue between Coast & Castle an their

 Residents. C Council attended and there is NO obstruction. It is private land

 **7.Correspondance Received**

 **Resignation** – Councillor Aaron Carrier has resigned from his position – Cllr S Horton to commence website

 **Panto** – Treasure Island. The pantomime is taking place at **7pm on 16th December 2023** at the Community Centre. Due to

 **This year** there will be a 50p entry fee to cover the cost of the panto.

 **Tree –** The Xmas tree is to be delivered and dressed on 24th November 2023.

 **Precept –** 2023/24 KB – Explains that there is to be a 6% increase this year which is to be discussed and agreed- c**losed**

 **8. Planning Applications**

 **none**

 **9. Co-option applications**

 **MW –** Explains that all Prish Councils ate having issues getting applications for County Councillors

 **MW** Acknowledges co-option application from candidates. Explains “Declaration of Interests”

 **Advising** that if “Widdy Welcomes or other groups were in discussion on relevant subjects (ie funding). Then

 **Persons** involved would be expected to leave the room.That there were no financial benefits and would the two

Candidates still like to serve. “Reply – YES”

 **MW – Invites Mrs W Childs & Mrs T Jerdan** onto the County Council and asks them to sign and read out **Co Option**

 **Declaration** to the meeting.

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 **MW –** Discusses the importance of Councillors working as a team

 **MW –** Addresses the letter placed on FB by Gareth Tate in relation to the co-option application, previous resignation

and a statement that GT is said to have demanded be placed on the noticeboard.

 **GT** – Responds by suggesting that it was best for transparency should be minuted. **GT** states that it was not correct to

 Discuss this any further when he had made a formal complaint to the **Monitoring Officer.**

Will go higher if Chair is not sacked by MO.

 **MW & GT –** Continue to discuss the complaint to Monitoring Officer and GT states that what he had said was the truth.

Parish Chair had not followed correct procedures. **MW & GT** discuss reports of previous incidents of ASB, fires

 That **GT** states he reported to **MW**. This is disputed and said to be second hand information. **GT** disputes this.

 **MW** – Returns to letter sent to **GT** about Co option and that it had been rescinded.

 **GT** – Explains how the letter had affected him. Comments on tone of letter.

 **PC** – Intervenes and advises that it was in fact her error that the letter had been sent out with all councillor’s signatures

Before it had been approved by all.

 **GT** – Advises that he does not agree that PC is at fault.

 **MW & GT** – Continue**. MW** mentions message from Cllr A Carrier and his concerns about the letter being made public.

 **GT** – Responded that he had made it public but removed two of the Cllr names not involved.

 **GT** - Comments that he has received no apology. Suggest Chair should resign.

 **MW** – Chair states that she will not resign. **MW** – You should be careful what you wish for as if I resigned the Parish

Would be returned to County Council who would take over the running of the Parish. No Community Centre for

 User Groups. Staff would be out of a job

 **GT** – Good. It is better then being a dictatorship. You do not like to be challenged and will not apologise

 **MW & GT** – Continue to discuss their disagreement. **MW** – States that **GT** comments show his personal distaste

And hate for her. **GT** – Responds that he does not hate the Chair. Compliments Chair on her work. Suggests

 That the Chair is abrasive, condescending and forceful.

 **GT** – Points out that it is clear he is not going to be co opted onto the Council and asks that the Chair “get on” with the

 Co option of the two other candidates. **End**

 **12.Finance**

i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account. **NOT YET RECEIVED** as at reconciled

 with Bank Account Statement.  **TO FOLLOW**

 **DEBITS**

 **Jospeh Noblett (Xmas Tree) Including delivery £2040.00**

 **Wage £910.81 Wage £537.54**

 **Wage £326.89 Wage £450.20**

 **Wage £299.20 MMRC 434.56**

 **Kings Catering (Elderberries – Ban Marie) £192.00**

 **Elderberries Entertainment (Singer) £160.00**

 **Elderberries Provision for meals £500.00 (all receipted)**



 **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.**

 **14. 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.**

 **S Sainthouse Parish Clerk – email** **pcclerkwiddstob1@outlook.com**

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