

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE HALL OF THE WIDDRINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 14TH June, 2021 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

Cllrs D Baron and G Tate.

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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 24.05.2021 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

(Minute 11 page35) Gleeson's Development at Widdrington Station ZOOM Meeting held with Northumberland County Council Officers on Tuesday 1st June, 2021.

Disappointment was expressed that little progress had been made in the matter especially as the NCC Director of Planning Services Rob Murfin had confirmed following the formal complaint submitted, that the Northumberland County Council were at fault for failing to ensure the full extent of planning obligations required to make the development acceptable in planning terms secured. On behalf of the County Council, he apologized for the failure and confirmed that the County Council is at fault in the matter and offered assistance to sort it out. In regard to the date of the Section 106 Agreement produced by the County Council and completed on the 4th June, 2020 it was considered that it does not have any bearing on Gleeson's contention that they are not required to provide land for the proposed extension to the Widdrington Community Centre with direct access from the Car Park to the extension. The County Council should have included the details in the Section 106 Agreement. If a draft of the Agreement had been submitted to the Parish Council the omitted details would have been picked up. Reference was made to the Car Park provided by Gleeson which was considered to be sub-standard as no drainage allowance with a gutter running down the middle has been included. Problems of flooding will no doubt occur as has already happened at the rear of the Community Centre following Gleeson's development works. The County Council also require the Car Park to have a Vehicle Electricity Supply point which no doubt will be a safety issue with a flooded car park. At the meeting on the 1st June the Planning Officers confirmed that the easements in regard to the area of contention should not be a problem in providing access to the proposed extension.

Cllr Batson proposed that the Clerk should write to the Chair and Leader of the County Council, the Chief Executive and the Head of the Development Section giving details of the Parish Council's concern that the matter cannot be sorted out to the benefit of the community of the parish. Cllr Batson also suggested that the mishandling of the Section 106 Agreement may result in an Insurance Claim being submitted to the County Council's Insurers'. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Willoughby and carried.

(Minute 15 page 35) Santa Group and Santa's Sleigh – No suitable location had been identified, however it was considered that there may be a Local Authority empty Garage which the Housing Associations Karbon Homes or Bernicia may be willing to allow to be used.

5. Reports from Outside Bodies

Police Constable Teasdale, Neighbourhood Policing (Rural) Northern had provided the following report: -

During the lockdown it had been relatively quiet in the parish with anti- social behaviour, however over the last few weeks there have been some issues reported. She will start to monitor the bus stops again as there were some problems last year. Any problems to be referred to the Police on 101 or through the Northumbria Police Website. Monitoring of speeding in the area has taken place over the past few months to try to slow people down through the area as it has been a lot busier with visitors to the coast and the local areas due to lack of travel elsewhere. There are issues with off-road bikes in the area but this is happening all over Northumberland. The Police are working with the County Council and partner agencies to try to resolve the problems.

6. Correspondence Received

a) Memorial Seat to be donated for the Community Park. The donor had confirmed that the seat was ready for installation and a meeting is to be arranged to confirm location.

b) CCTV the Parish Clerk confirmed that Reay Security were to purchase the new SIM Cards in regard to the CCTV System at the Community Park and recharge the Council.

c) Harewood Green Investments – New Owners of Grange Wood, Woodland & Roadway, Verges and Land, Grangemoor Farm, Grangewood Road, Widdrington Station. The Clerk had sent correspondence to the owners without a reply to date. He would obtain details of the Solicitors who acted for them in purchase.

7. Planning Applications

Planning Ref 21/01494/FUL – Proposal insertion of first floor patio doors and provision of balcony above the existing ground floor off-shoot at Grangewood House, Woodburn Street, Stobswood, NE61 5QD. Applicant David Hogg notification received from NCC Planning confirming permission granted.

8. Northumberland County Council – Notice of consultation on the Northumberland Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications.

The details of the consultation were received.

9. Parish Council Event – Commemoration of VE Day and VJ Day Saturday 26th June, 2021

Reference was made to the Prime Minister's announcement made earlier in the evening to extend the Covid 19 restrictions for a further period and consideration would be given to lifting them by the 19th July, 2021.

Although the above event was to be held in a Marquee with good ventilation at the Community Park it was considered appropriate to postpone it until Saturday the 24th July, 2021. Station Entertainments had confirmed that the entertainment to be provided would be available for the rearranged date.

10. Parish Council Event – Open Day at the Community Centre Tuesday 22nd June, 2021

In accordance with the Prime Minister's announcement to extend the Covid 19 restrictions the Open Day was postponed until it was appropriate for the event to be held.

11. Widdrington Community Website

Cllr Carrier advised that he was working on the new website which he hoped to submit to the next Parish Council Meeting.

12. Flag Poles for the Community Park

Cllr Batson requested consideration be given to the installation of Flag Poles at the Community Park to be used to commemorate important events. Consideration to be given when costs are available.

13. Finance

- i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.05.2021 £80,277.24 reconciled with Bank Account statement for May, 2021
- ii) Payments Approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council since the last meeting in accordance with the Covid 19 arrangements were issued to the Councillors with the meeting Agenda.
- iii) 2021 Audit Report – The Auditors PKF Accountants had sent details for the year ending 31st March 2021. In regard to the timescale for submitting the documents the Clerk had applied for an extension of one month to the end of July owing to the proposed extension of Covid 19 restrictions which had been allowed.

The Meeting Ended at 8.15 pm

