**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th April, 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.**

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

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 ZOOM Meeting held on the 8th March, 2021 for approval and adoption.**

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

**4. Matters Arising on the Minutes**

(Minute 5 page 29) Cllr Mrs Willoughby thanked Cllr Gareth Tate and his wife Marlow for all their work in getting volunteers

to give support to the vulnerable of the Parish during a difficult time with the Covid restrictions. At the Event to be held at

the Community Park on Saturday the 26th June she proposed that the volunteers’ efforts are recognised in a form of thanks

for everybody who has given assistance. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

5**. Reports from Outside Bodies**

Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to the recent death of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh and advised that she had been in

conversation with Reverend Joanne Dobson in regard to a service of remembrance. It was hoped to hold a short service at

the Memorial Garden at Widdrington Station. Reverend Dobson was planning a service at the War Memorial at Ulgham

Church to be held at 6.00pm Friday 16th April, 2021 followed by a service at Widdrington Village at 7.00pm.

**6. Correspondence Received**

Grange Wood Woodland and Roadway, Verges and Land, Grangemoor Farm, Grangemoor Road, Widdrington Station.

The Clerk reported that Grainger Plc have been unsuccessful in finding a buyer so far when the above was offered for sale

at a recent Auction. The Development Team at Grainger Plc are of the opinion that they would be happy to gift the

registered titles to the Parish Council. The Clerk had enquired with Grainger Plc for details of the responsibilities that the

Parish Council would have to maintain if they were to accept the offer. Grainger Plc had confirmed the following: -

Woodland Culvert – currently Grainger Plc have a Contractor attend to the culvert in the Woodland once a month to make

sure it is free and running ok, clearing any blockages.

The work that the Parish Council undertake such as litter picking and reporting maintenance requirements at Play Areas

which are periodically billed to Grainger Plc.

Gardeners cut the grass on the sound barrier.

Two plans had been distributed in regard to the extent of the land remaining in each of the Title Plans.

Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that the Council agree in principle to accepting the gift subject to further details of costs of

maintenance etc., which will fall upon the Council to which the Council would be answerable to the residents of

the parish. Cllr Batson felt that there should be income in regard to maintenance recharge of residents in the areas to be

gifted. Cllr Carrier seconded the proposal which was carried.

**7. Planning Applications**

Planning Ref 21/00733/FUL – proposed Car Port at 54 Elizabeth Street, Widdrington Station, NE61 5NW

Applicant Ant Mcghie. There were no objections to the proposal.

**8. PCC, County and selected Parish Elections to be held on Thursday 6th May, 2021**

The Clerk reported that following nominations for the election of Parish Councillors for Widdrington Station & Stobswood

Parish Council to be submitted by the 8th April, 2021 no election was required as the nominations from the current

councillors was uncontested.

**9. Parish Council Events 2021.**

**VE Day, VJ Day and Armed Forces Day Saturday 26th June, 2021**

Last year the 75th Anniversary of VE Day Event had to be postponed owing to the Covid 19 Government Restrictions. On

Monday the 22nd February, 2021 the Prime Minister announced the Government’s roadmap that will see Covid 19

restrictions eased over four steps, spread across at least four months that are linked to data which will act as a checklist

that must be met before moving onto the next step of reopening. In regard to Step 4 which will be no earlier than the 21st

June, 2021 the Government expects to be in a position to remove all legal limits.

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Large events with restricted capacity maybe allowed from the 17th May, 2021. The hire of the Marquee for the Community

Park for the day has been booked together with P A, sound and Lighting Systems as well as a number of Entertainers

provided by Station Entertainments.

Cllr Carrier confirmed that information in regard to the event would be included on the new Parish Council Website.

**10. Parish Council and Community Centre Websites.**

Cllr Carrier stated that there had been a number of enquiries to the Parish Council Websites. Some updates were still

required. He was working on the new Website for the Widdrington Station Community Centre.

**11. Finance**

i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31.03.2021 £64,691.74

reconciled with Bank Account statement for March, 2021

Receipts - £3,758.00 VAT reclaim, £500.00 Grant from the Ballinger Trust towards community food bank support,

£1,088.00 Recharge to Grainger for Playgrounds cleaning and maintenance checks.

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. (Details Attached)

iii) 2020 Audit Report – Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending the

31.03.2020.

The Clerk reported that the final completion of the review by OKF Accountants was still awaited.

iv) Budget against Spending Year Ending the 31st March, 2021

The Clerk had distributed a report showing the Council’s expenditure for the year 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021

The Expenditure for the year was £48,046 against a budget of £58,870. Although COVID 19 Restrictions have reduced

the Parish Council’s Events activities during the year the major expenditure was the two new replacement Bus Shelters

for Grangemoor Road, Widdrington Station.

Cllr Batson referred to the budget underspend of approximately £10,000 and proposed that consideration is given to a

further two new Bus Shelters to be purchased to replace the shelter adjacent to the Widdrington Community Centre

and beside Beumont Court at the top of the Mile Road, Widdrington Station. Cllr Mrs Willoughby in seconding the

proposal requested that further details of type and costs are available for the next Parish Council Meeting.

**12. 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.**

Cllr Tate raised the matter of the accommodation for the food bank items may not be available in the near future. He

understood that the Church of England may not renew the lease of the former Catholic Church at Grange Road.

**The Meeting Ended at 7.50 pm**

**33.**

**31.**