

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs M Willoughby (Chair), D Baron, K Batson, A Carrier, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence  
Cllr Dickinson

Public in Attendance  
Ms J Becksfield, Ms C Maddison (Irving), Mrs J Devlin, Mrs S Swinhoe, Mr 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 the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 for approval and adoption.  
Cllr K Batson proposed to approve and adopt the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr A Carrier and carried.

4. Matters Arising on the Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Questions from Public

Q Ms C Maddison - Cllr A Carrier – Asked Cllr Carrier to explain the a FB interaction about health & Safety and policies posted By him and how it had been perceived by Ms Maddison tht this was a suggestion that he believed the ATAC did not have The relevant policies and procedures in place.

Cllr Carrier responded – This was the case. He was advising that the Community Centre had all the relevant policies in place For venues. This accusation was someone’s perception and therefore incorrect. Ms Maddison then accused Cllr Carrier’s Wife of adding a comment on the page which was INCORRECT and he requested that his spouse was not brought into such Meetings.

CHAIR – Mrs Willoughby Apologised for any ill feeling and again repeated Cllr Carriers explanation

PLANTERS – J Becksfield asked what was happening with the planters in Widdrington & Stobswood as they were unkempt Cllr Willoughby advised that she had purchased bulbs to be planted and that this would be undertaken in March by Ken Arries (Handy Person)

J Becksfield asked “Why is a professional not employed?” Cllr Willoughby explained. Parish had to keep its expenditure Down and this was the responsibility of the Parish Operative

Mrs J Devlin – Xmas food – Over 80,s in village. Why is there no food hampers provided for Over 80’s (Pegswood provide Their Over 80’s with hampers)

Cllr Willoughby advised that the Food Bank was in place to support those in need. She was not aware the Pegswood were Providing such a provision. To inquire and respond in due course.

Mrs S Swinhoe – Asked why Parish Clerk had interjected about food hampers – and stated “Is the Clerk allowed to speak”

Parish Clerk – responds – Yes if information is relevant to questions and they have information to add

PC – Explains that Hadston House provided a hamper for their clients this year over Xmas period

J Becksfield – Points out that the website is not up to date with the minutes of meetings.  
Advises that she believe that the Finance section on minutes is not clear and concise and the credits/debits Should be added as this is Public monies. PC – This would be rectified and the minutes would show all from March 2023 to date as requested.

5. Reports from Outside Bodies  
Solicitors – D Hall D Auld – No response

6. Correspondence Received  
To be discussed at next Parish meeting as received after minutes despatched to Councillors for this meeting and not On minutes.

## **7. Planning Applications**

Gleeson – S106 Agreement – Advised e,ail sent to R Murfin for a meeting

**J Becksfield** – (Public) Query £70,000. Why ringfenced?

**Cllr Willoughby** explains that the money is from County Council for the error made with the S106 Agreement  
And the land ownership that Planning had incorrectly allowed Gleeson to take and use as their own

Money was to be used for the Community Centre extension. Toilets, Kitchen and hall refurbishment.

**Mrs J Devlin** – Why hold up on extension –

**Cllr Willoughby/Cllr K Batson** explain – All has to be agreed before extension can commence. Quotes to date have  
Been expensive for the prosed plans to extend the Centre and due to this it is agreed that the £70,000 will be for  
Refurbishment instead of an extension unless further monies can be obtained from County Council

## **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 30 November 2022 –  
30 December 2022 **£109,600.90**

**Reconciled** with Bank Account statement for 30/11/2022 – 30/12/2022 - **£107,336.57 (including £70,000 ringfenced)**

**LESS £70,000 (Ringfenced) Community Centre – Reconciled Balance = £37,366.57**

**Receipts** – SEE ATTACHED BANK OF IRELAND STATEMENT FOR DEBITS/CREDITS

**PRECEPT** – Suggested/Agreed that a 33% increase be requested for 2023 Precept from County Council. Awaiting  
Application form

## **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.**

Letter of inquiry for Parish Councillor – To be discussed with applicant in due course  
Private staffing matter discussed.

**The Meeting Ended at 8pm**