

WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 12th November, 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

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

R A Smith (Parish Clerk).

Police Constable Paul Dent plus 3 Public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr David Baron and NCC Cllr David Towns

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)

None – no public in attendance

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th October, 2018 for approval and adoption

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

5. Matters arising on the Minutes none

6. Reports from Outside Bodies none

7. Correspondence Received none

8. Planning Applications

- a) Planning Ref 18/03280/COU Change of use from public to private use to extend garden and driveway, Location Glendale, Heavensangel Cattery, Grange Road, Widdrington Station, NE61 5LY
Concern was expressed that if the application was allowed there would be severe restrictions for vehicular access to neighbouring properties as well as parking problems. Therefore, the Parish Council recommended the Northumberland County Council the Planning Authority to refuse the application.
- b) Planning Ref 18/0373/FUL – Proposed junction for agricultural forestry access to land adjacent to Fir Tree Nursery Site, Widdrington Station, NE61 5DW
The Council considered that there was already adequate access just West of the property The School House in the area and it was unnecessary for a further access to be provided. Therefore, the NCC Planning Authority are recommended to refuse the application.
- c) Planning Ref 18/02715/FELPO – Tree Preservation Order: Trim and remove split branches to Oak Tree, Sycamore and Birch Trees at Woddland View, Woodburn Street, Stobswood. Letter received from NCC Planning dated 29.10.18 advising Planning Permission Granted.

9. Unveiling of the commemorative stone on the 100th anniversary of the awarding the Victoria Cross to James Bulmer Johnson VC held on Sunday the 14th October, 2018.

Costs to date in regard to the Ceremony and the creation of the Parish Memorial Garden were submitted by the Clerk as follows:- James Burrell Ltd – various materials in regard to the formation of the Garden £955.87. M Beverley, Ground Works Specialist creation of the Garden £1500.00. Ian Watson Painter & Decorater cost of painting Railings at the Plantation in front of Co-op Building and the Memorial Garden £850.00. Selection purchase of 20 Cast Iron Poppies for Garden £102.95. Furnitubes Harrogate Bench Seat for Garden £716.00. Northumbria Ironwork repair and replace fencing for Garden £309.50. Reception after unveiling ceremony at Community Centre – refreshments etc £55.67. Plants Kindly donated by the Alnwick Garden. Total costs to date £4,489.99

Both Northumberland County Council Ward Members for the Parish, County Councillors Scott Dickinson and David Towns are donating £1300.00 each from their Community Benefit Budgets. In addition £310.00 donation towards the Garden from Slaters Fun Fair following Slaters recent visit to the village. Balance to be paid by the Parish Council £1,579.99. Cllr Mrs Willoughby expressed on behalf of the Parish Council the pride of the community in being involved in such a historic event with the creation of the Memorial Garden and the unveiling of the Commemorative Stone. She referred to the previous day which was Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day and was very impressed at the turn out of those from the Parish at the Memorial Garden at 6.00am to listen to the commemoration given by the lone piper which was repeated throughout Britain. Again, great pride and respect had been shown by the parish community on such an important anniversary for the country.

10. Section 137 Grant Application submitted by Stobswood Allotment Association

The application was in regard to a grant towards the cost of the provision of new access gates to increase security to the allotments together with the acquisition of a 10' long Metal Container to store a Grass Cutting tractor and equipment securely. The Council appreciated that there was a need to make the allotments and property secure. However, it was considered that the Council should not have to meet the costs of all the proposed items referred to in the application. As a community-based organisation it would be appropriate for some kind fund raising towards the ongoing requirements of the Association. Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that the Council meet the costs of the provision of the gates and as Landlords will arrange for quotations to be obtained and the gates to be installed. Cllr Tate seconded the proposal which was carried.

11. The Fifth Annual Town & Parish Council Conference with the Northumberland County Council held at County Hall on Thursday the 11th October, 2018.

The Clerk reported on his attendance at the Conference which included a Market Place for representatives to discuss matters particular to a Parish Council with Departmental Officers. Cllr Roughhead Chair of the Town and Parish Council Liaison Group welcomed all to the Conference. Session 1 - Our vision for the future was led by Cllr Peter Jackson, Leader of the County Council. He stated all residents in Northumberland should be valued and all Towns & Communities vibrant. He referred to improvements for access to services across the County and the ongoing work to refurbish County Hall. There was a great opportunity in Ashington to improve the services, shops and facilities provided at Ashington Town Centre. The 5 Local Area Councils are developing together with the mechanism for Local Planning Decisions. In regard to Education steps are being taken to improve qualifications. Reference was made to the Local Development Plan which was entering the final phase of Consultation. A major drive to improve Educational Standards is required.

Session 2 Local Services update followed by Q and A given by Cllr Glen Sanderson Cabinet Member for Local Services and Paul Jones Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery. Thanks, were expressed to all staff employed in Local Services in dealing with the problems of the severe winter storms. 6 new gritting vehicles had been purchased and there was a stock pile of 38,000 tonnes of Salt. Reference was made to the Street Lighting Contract. Hopefully the process of dealing with road pot holes had improved.

Session 3 – Strategic approaches to addressing Northumberland's Health Issues: the role of town and parish councils given by Liz Morgan Director of Public Health. A different approach was required and reference was made to the difference of 13 years life expectancy in the areas regarded as deprived compared to the rest of the County. She was hoping to link in to the activities on offer in communities run by the voluntary sector and was keen to create a data base so assistance could be given, specially to inform residents of the community groups and activities available in the parish to enable residents the opportunity to be involved. Individuals need a sense of purpose.

Session 4 – Finances was given by Barry Scarr CPFA Executive Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive. He confirmed that after taking account of Central Government Funding 24 Million Pounds of further savings in continuing to provide services was required for the next 3-year period. Consultation in regard to reducing the level of Council Tax support for working age claimants in Northumberland is available on the County Council Website.

Cllr Alex Wallace, Chair of Northumberland Association of Local Councils gave the concluding remarks thanking all those involved for taking the time to attend.

12. Parish Council Events

a) Guy Fawkes Public Fireworks Display at Stobswood Welfare Ground Sunday 4th November, 2018

The display this year was very well attended the good weather conditions resulting in the largest crowd to date who were entertained by a Spectacular display confirming that the extra funding for the fireworks was worth it. Total cost £1,684.96 20% VAT to be reclaimed. Donation of approximately £50.00 received.

b) Posters in regard to the Parish Winter Warmer to be held on Saturday 24th November, the Annual Panto Cinderella Saturday 8th December, Christmas Tree Lights Switch on Sunday 2nd December and the Free Christmas Lunch for over 60s on Friday 14th December and New Years Eve Party were available and will be displayed. In addition on Friday 7th December at the Community Centre an event to be held to raise funds for Mental Illness/ Depression support organisations involving a Dire Straits Tribute Band 'Brothers in Alms'

13. Finance

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 31.10.2018 - £58,571.20

reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for October 2018

Receipts:- £4,581.44 from Ansvr Insurance Claim, £779.99 from James Burrell Ltd credit re materials for Memorial Garden, £310 from Slaters Fun Fair donation towards cost of Memorial Garden

Bank Account Monthly Interest £5.42

ii) Payments to be Approved: -

Parish Clerk's October Salary £638.40

Parish Clerk's October Expenses £26.97 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet and Telephone £8.00, Postage £8.97)

A Henderson Parish Handy Person, October Invoice £445.00 (includes £188.50 for additional work and materials)

K Arries Parish Grounds Maintenance Worker Seasonal October Payment £326.00
Northumbria Ironwork £309.50 Repair and replace fencing for Memorial Garden
The Stephen Carey Fund £64.00 IPAD SP1 Replacement Pads for Defibrillator
Canon Hygiene £107.42 Set up costs and quarterly charge for hygiene units for Community Centre
(Regular Delivery & Collection)
Washeteria £104.00 laundry of table linens and chair covers
The Great North Air Ambulance £100.00 donation approved at October meeting
Community Action Northumberland £50.00 donation approved at October meeting.

In addition, the following payments were made during October in accordance with the resolutions passed: -
Turnock Ltd £261.60 Display Star for Parish Christmas Tree
M Beverley & M E Cassidy £1500.00 Ground Work Specialists – Creation of Parish Memorial Garden
Petty Cash £160.00 Various items in regard to Parish Council Events

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

- iii) To determine the Budget for 2019 – 2020 and set the Northumberland County Council Precept
The Clerk reported that the Finance Working Group of the Council met on the 8th November, 2018. The meeting was attended by Cllrs D Baron and K Batson and notes of the meeting had been circulated. Many of the Budget Heads remain the same or with a slight increase or decrease. The total budget proposed was £53,720 which is almost the same as the current year's budget. The current year's precept payment levied on the Northumberland County Council amounted to £45,610. The expenditure for October, 2018 was £12,008 mainly due to payments for the Refurbishment of the Cladding & Gutters at the Community Centre and the provision of the Parish Memorial Garden. There will probably be a Budget overspend for the current year. **It was therefore recommended that a precept amount of £47,890 is levied on the Northumberland County Council for 2019-20, an increase of 5% on last year's precept. Expenditure during the year in excess of the precept will be met by the Council's Bank Account Reserves.**
Cllr Batson proposed that the recommendation of the Finance Working Group is approved; Cllr Mrs Willoughby seconded the proposal which was carried.

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 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: -
Planning Application re Section 106 Agreement for Brickworks Site at Stobswood.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

