

**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE HALL
OF THE WIDDRINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 14th AUGUST
2023 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.**

In attendance were Councillors Mrs M Willoughby (Chair), K Batson, A Carrier, S Horton & Parish Clerk
Public 12

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 Stobwood Welfare.

3 Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 14 November 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

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

Woodland – GT – Why have the Parish not shown any interest in the woodlands. Why they have not put their “weight behind” the purchase of the woods. Are they prepared to buy the woods?

Would the Parish give a donation towards wood. (£20,000)

GT - We are constituted and have a bank account. All proceeds are to be placed in account and if woodland is not purchased. All donations will be returned

GT – We have had 3 meetings to date and no member of the Parish Council has attended. Why?

MW – Acknowledges all questions put to Parish and is to address these questions and other relevant inquiries in a statement during the meeting.

Maple Drive – Concerns were raised about a resident of Maple Drive who required medical care due to ongoing health issues and the Occupational Health Nurse assigned to the resident reported that emergency personnel would find it difficult to get to the address due to the overgrown vegetation and non-upkeep of the area from Harewood Green

MW – Explains that she has been advised that Harewood Green have sold the land at auction in Maple Drive to an unknown buyer. We have no idea who now owns the area and are to inquire with Land Registry.

MW – Explains that County Council are unable to deal with the upkeep of the land as it is privately owned and not their responsibility. Private estate.

Community Centre – MW – 3 quotes have been received for the refurbishment of the toilets and explains the thoughts on the refurb of the toilets

ROSPA – PC explains the report from ROSPA. 3 areas of the play park need attention and repair. This is in hand and will be dealt with at the earliest opportunity

Bus Shelters – Damage to roof of shelters. **KB** explains the age of the shelters and the cost to repair. Costing to be calculated in repair or replace?

Brickyard – MW – Advised meeting that the Parish has had a meeting with the current owner (Thompson) and Cussons about the plans for the brick yard and it transpires that Cussons are in the process of purchasing the site with the intention of building houses. They are also going to add a road to the site that is thought to be going to enter the through the farmers field between Whiney Crook House and the Pylon on the A1068. Current road to brick yard will be closed off.

Thompson – Is retaining part of the woodland near the mast.

Maintenance of housing estate – This is to be dealt with by a Home Owner fund as part of purchase that is paid and Cussons maintain the grassed area and footpaths etc.

Public footpath – There will still be a public right of way through the woods and the estate to cross the railway foot bridge. This will be updated when finalised

Woodland Statement read by Chair –

MW – read statement in relation to the woodlands to the public and other Councillors.

Full statement is to be published with minutes on notice board and website for viewing

Advises requested from NALC but no response to date as on A/L – To follow

MW – Advises that she has a meeting with Jamie O’Driscoll and will update GT after meeting

MW – Explains legality of Parish involvement on financial support of woodlands and that the Parish is in full support of the woodlands.

GT – Shares concerns about the lack of support the Parish has shown by not attending the meeting and that advice on funding and ideas could have been offered by Parish.

MW – Explains that she felt that she would be open to personal criticism if she had attended and it would have only hindered the meetings. The Parish meeting was the place to discuss involvement and any advice

ST – Suggests that support or a message of support would have been expected as figureheads of the Community.

MW – Advises that the Parish have been supporting the woodlands behind the scenes as evidenced by the meeting with

Jamiw O'Driscoll and advice from NALC.

MW – Explains that a “one off donation” would greatly reduce funds and is not available as these funds are required to support Parish throughout the financial year

2024 – There will not be a “Party in the Park as the budget is to be used to improve and repair the park.

Fireworks – 2023 – Date of demonstration this year is Sunday 5th November 2023

5. Reports from Outside Bodies

None

6 Correspondence received

Parish Councillor positions – PC advises that the required advertisement or 14 days for the Position of Parish Councillors had not received any applications. Due to this the Co option That had been received from Stephanie Horton was accepted by the Parish at the meeting On 14th August 2023.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor was read out by Ms Stephanie Horton During the meeting as required and duly signed but h Parish Clerk on 14/9/2023

PC – To advise Elections at Northumberland County Council of the Office of Councillor Pharmacy – Lynemouth pharmacy have taken over the dispensary of Widdrington Surgery New Surgery – Felton are gaining a new surgery as their building is deemed “unfit for purpose”

GT – Asks if a FOI can be submitted to inquire if there was a S106 agreement received from Gleasons for funding for Widdrington Surgery

7 Planning Applications

Oak Lodge – TPO – Reduction – PERMITTED

120 The Gables – Rear extension off back of existing single storey – NO OBJECTION

8 Parish Council events - Fireworks Display 2023 – Discussed and to be held on 5/11/2023

- **Stobswold Welfare**

9 Community Centre Web site

None

10. Finance

i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account Balance as at 31/7/2023 – 31/8/2023 – not yet received not reconciled, Bank Account statement for August 2023 **awaited**.

ii) Payments Approved by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council since the last meeting

Cheque/Debits

2501 – Gusharts – Equipment for maintenance of Park - £846.96

2502 – Wage & payment for holiday hours (owed 2022/23 £1,832.32)

2503 – Wage £679.35

2504 – Wage & holiday owed 2022/23 £835.36

2505 – Wage & holiday owed 2022/23 £1,280.34

2506 – wage & holiday owed 2022/23 £968.06

2508 – Fish Electrical (Hoist) £1,140.00

2509 – HMRC Paye/NIC £175.38

2510 – One Stop Hire (Generator hire) £447.40

2511 – Rapid Reaction (Medical) Party in Park £300.00

11. 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

Meeting ended 19.30

