

**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

ON MONDAY 14th April 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

LAST MEETING OF CURRENT PARISH COUNCILLORS

In attendance were Councillors Mrs S Willoughby (Chair), K Batson (Deputy), S Horton, T Jerdan, W Childs

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).

3 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None

2.To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Batson declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to matters relating to the Stobswood Welfare.

Cllr T Jerdan declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to matters relating to the Scouts

Cllr W Childs declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to matters relating to Widdy Welcomes

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

Cattery – Mile Road. Concern raised in relation to the proposed cattery submitted to planning. This was in relation to the noise from the cattery, the intrusion from service users to the business with it being in a residential setting so close to other dwellings.

PC – Concerns will have to be submitted to Planning and an objection entered through the planning portal with the Planning reference No.

Objections from the Parish are to be forwarded to the elected councillors for their decision

Speeding – Mile Road – Resident of the Mile Road who moved into the village last year has raised concerns about the speed of vehicles and the lack of police presence in monitoring the problem.

Asks – Why there are no enforced speed restrictions other than what we have in place

20mph is of no use as there is no FPN for excess of 20mph only 30mph?

MW – Explains that speed bumps are not feasible due to buses and emergency services using the road speed camera has been requested on more than one occasion to date. As has double yellow lines to stop parking on the road.

MW – **Ask that this be passed for the new Parish Councillors to action**

Public - Member of the public raised concerns about certain members who have been Nominated for Parish Councillors. Outlining their concerns for integrity, honesty and how They would fulfil the role as a Parish Councillor.

PC – Any concerns are noted by the Parish council and will be initiated as required, but their Concerns need to be directed to the NCC elections team who will deal with the complaint

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th March 2025 for approval and adoption

Cllr W Childs proposed to approve and adopt the minutes. The proposal was seconded by

Cllr S Horton and carried.

5. Matters arising on the Minutes

Cuppa with a Copper – 22/3/2025 - Issue raised –

Anti-Social Behaviour – MW – Ongoing anti-social behaviour in and around the village and the park with youths vandalising equipment and unruly behaviour. The use of electric bikes in the village. One of which was seized by police when seen being ridden in the farmers field by a passing patrol.

Shoplifting – Coop – It was noted that there was NO police attendance at the last episodes of shoplifting at the Coop

Where an off-duty police officer who intervened was assaulted. This was raised **with PCSO Sutcliffe** at the meeting who stated that the police were not informed at the time. All incidents/concerns were to be rang in to 101 or 999

6 Agenda

Contingency Plan – Resilience Centre – There appears to be some confusion with the location of the resilience centre in the case of an emergency and the base for the emergency services to meet for all requirements

MW – Attended a meeting and put Widdrington Community Centre forward for the venue should this be required. This was agreed at the time with Nigel Fisher.

It has been suggested that Widdy Welcomes are also stating that they have been nominated as the venue for this venue if required. However, only one venue is required at anyone place.

This is for emergency services use only and no input from Parish other than making the space available

It was suggested by MW- That thought might be given to the ATAC having a Resilience Centre. This would cover any issues if the train crossings were closed and residents could not access the Community Centre but needed a venue

Action – To leave with new Parish to discuss and speak to N Fisher to register - if agreed

Allegations of Bullying

It has come to the attention of the Chair that there have been suggestions that she had tried to influence members of staff who work for the Parish Council to leave their positions.

The Chair would like to make it clear that **at NO TIME** did she or any other member of the council bully or try to influence any member of staff into leaving their posts. These allegations are completely untrue and disgraceful

30th April 2025 – The Chair, Deputy Chair & S Horton will step down from this date. Cllr Jerdan & Cllr Childs will remain and have applied for a position on the Parish Council in the May election 1/5/2025

ALL FINANCIALS & BUSINESS OF WIDDRINGTON & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL WILL CEASE UNTIL THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL IS IN PLACE AS IS THE REQUIREMENT DUE TO NO SIGNATORIES BEING IN PLACE – THE PARISH CLERK WILL BE IN PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE MAY ELECTIONS AND WILL THEN LEAVE POST

MW – Expresses concern about others asking the PC to make arrangement to have

another bank account application ready for signatories to sign on their election, before they have been elected

Indirectly approaching a retired member of the Parish staff to take on the groundsman position before having been elected request that the grass in the park is not cut before the new Parish is elected.

Community Chest funding Play Park – Allegations that the monies from the funding were fraudulent as the Councillors had resigned from their posts. Which in turn nearly resulted in the loss of the £20,000 funding

Community Centre Insurance – PC – The reminder for the insurance has been received for the Community Centre which is due on 1st June 2025. This is to be passed to the new Parish Council as no payment can be made at this time. Invoice has not been received and will not be available until after the 30/4/2025.

Lawn Mower – The lawn mower has been sent to Sherriffs for attention and it has been reported that the mower will require over £800 worth of repairs. This has been placed on hold until the next council is in place to decide if the repairs are to take place or alternative arrangement are made.

Cllr Jerdan – Suggests that the new parish council apply for funding to cover repairs

VE Day – Due to the current situation. It is decided that no arrangements are made for VE Day as the parish will not be in a position to make financial discussions. Cllr Jerdan – Scouts are to light a beacon

LAST PARISH CLERK FINANCIAL STATEMENT – ENDING STATEMENT

28TH FEBRUARY - 31ST MARCH 2025

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 31/3/2025 - £95,330.07

reconciled with monthly Bank Statement. - £89,989.34

ii) Payments for Approval: -

Cheque

02695 – HMRC - £772.45

02696 – Wage (including holiday

entitlement) - £1,766.31

02697 – Wage - £334.90

02698 - £244.80 – Wage

02699 – Wage - £765.88

026700 – Wage - £1,456.89

RINGFENCED MONIES – NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN SPENDING =

COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDING – PLAY PARK – STOBWOOD = £20,000
S106 AGREEMENT – COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT – (AFTER RECEIPTED) EXPENDITURE PASSED TO NEW PARISH COUNCIL = £35,000

RECONCILED BALANCE – INCLUDING ABOVE = £40,330.07

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

15. 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.

none

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

M WILLOUGHBY (CHAIR) *14/4/2025*
Signed ----- Date

S SAINTHOUSE (PARISH CLERK) *14/4/2025*
Signed ----- Date

Parish Clerk – Sainthouse -Tel 07939612575
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