

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

ON MONDAY 20th March 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs S Willoughby (Chair), K Batson, A Carrier

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).
6 Members of Public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr S Dickinson

2.To receive declarations of interest

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

**CLLR WILLOUGHBY READS OUT STATEMENT TO MEETING BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS**

MW – Parish meetings **are not** Public Meetings. However. Members of the public **DO** have a statutory right to attend as Observers. Members of the Public have **NO** legal right to speak at a Parish meeting **UNLESS** the Chair invites them to do so.

Widdrington & Stobswood Parish Councils agreed time for Questions/Comments is **20 minutes**

Neither the Clerk or the Chair can be put under pressure to respond immediately to any comments or questions from the public. **Members of the public** do not have a right to force items onto the agenda or insist on how matters are minuted.

Parish Council meetings will not conduct parish meetings on line or via social media.

Emails **ONLY** to the Parish email address will be acknowledged

MW – Discusses complaints of fighting in the park. Complaint of expenditure on CCTV, but no response when anti-social behaviour reported.

The Park is covered by a security firm who report any anti-social behaviour to their patrol teams who respond and the Police are informed if required.

The CCTV IS NOT for public viewing. Neither do we the Parish Council, view it (Data Protection)

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

JB – Challenges the statement that Parish Meetings are not public meetings. **MW** – States that this is correct. Although the public have a right to attend as observers

JS- Public Notice boards in Ferneybeds. Doors are missing? **MW**- They have been removed to be repaired by the Handyperson

JD – Shrubs, bushes and grassed area – Grange Court. The place is in a state of disrepair and needs to be addressed.

MW- Parish have NO jurisdiction over Grange Court as this is Karbon Homes property

JD – The damage to the grassed area on Grange Court. Any update?

MW – Yes. This was from a furniture Removal wagon that caused the damage and this has been reported to the responsible party. Empty bungalow. This is in hand and housing association are dealing

State of the road Grange Road – Pot holes. **PC** to email highways to have this reported and repaired

CI – Dog dirt – There is a large amount of dog fouling in Widdrington. Can this be addressed please.

PC to inform Street Cleaning to attend and clear area

JS – There is a further bin required on the path to Stobswood. **PC** To deal

JB – Asks why the increase in Precept for 2023. **KB** Explains the overspend and the increases in different areas, such as salaries and how staff are paid hourly. Not salaried other than the PC who is on a set pay scale.

AB – Points out that he often works more hours than he is actually paid. **KB** – Advises that if only the contracted hours were worked by Caretaker, cleaning staff then the Community Centre would NOT be able to take as many bookings as it would not be covered.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 13th June 2022

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

5. Matters arising on the Minutes

none

6. Reports from Outside Bodies.

Resident — Intimidation and threats from a neighbour over boundaries of properties. Reported to the Police to attend and deal with report as Parish are unable to get involved in neighbourly disputes

New PCSO – Neighbourhood Policing Team – PCSO Darin Fawcett

7. Correspondence Received

- a) North of Tyne Major – Jamie O’Driscoll – Update of the Precept for 2023 and NO increase to be added to CT
- b) Northumbria Connected – Updated from Northumbria Police and the ongoing crimes and detections in the area
- c) Emails received from persons in community introducing themselves for work opportunities and plans for Open Spaces
- d) Panto 2023 – Pantomime was discussed and it was decided that alternative Panto’s would be looked at this year due to significant increase in price for the Chaplin Pantos under the current budgeting.
- e) Allotments – To be discussed in closed session and a meeting to be organised to discuss annual fee and any other relevant questions.
- f) Voting ID – New legislation that has been passed stating that anyone from 2023 that wants to vote in any forthcoming elections MUST have a photo ID before they are allowed to vote

8. Planning Applications

PC a) Planning Application Single storey kitchen extension – Wooderfield Grange Road – Mr T Barrat - Granted

10. Hire Agreement– PC – An updated Hire Agreement has been added to the Community Centre when hiring the hall/ lounge

Discussed and agreed

11. Kings Coronation – May 2023 – MW – Parish has not made any arrangement to date in relation to the Coronation and has asked if the Santa Group wanted to organise the event?

ATAC are having their event on **Saturday 6/5/2023 - Tea Party.**

Alternative day for any other celebrations by Parish. MW – To discuss and address at next meeting

12. Website Cllr Carrier. Up to date

13 Finance

- Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account 31/3/2023
- Balance £107,053.34 (- ringfenced £70,000 = **£37,053.34 Year ending**)

ii) Payments to be Approved: -

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

ii) Clerks March wages	£829.86
HM Revs & Bens	£173.80
K Batson (Reimbursement for payment made)	£30.00
K Arries (Reimbursed – Fuel Lawn Mower)	£125.73
T Sherriff (Contractor – Lawn Mower servicing)	£415.15

Bank of Ireland 31/3/2023

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 member 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: -

- **Adoption of Auditor** – Discussed that due to the retirement of Mr Booth. Parish Internal Auditor. Mrs M Tully would now oversee the Parish Council Internal Audit as from April 2023. This was proposed by Cllr M Willoughby and seconded by Cllr K Batson. Agreed Cllr A Carrier. **Carried**
- **Seasonal Contract** – R Ainsworth is now to be given a seasonal contract commencing April 2023 – November 2023

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

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

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