

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

**CENTRE ON MONDAY 12th May 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00. P.M.
(amended)**

In attendance were Councillors Ms J Bexfield, Cllr R Longstaff,
Cllr S Bexfield, Cllr T Wills Porter , Cllr T Jerdan Cllr W Childs

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).

Public 1 .

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2.To receive declarations of interest

Declaration of Interests to be determined and completion of relevant forms to
NCC

Vote to elect the new Parish Chair -

Decision – Parish Chair elected – Councillor Jacqui Bexfield

Vote to elect Vice Chair

Decision – Vice Chair elected – Councillor Trudy Jerdan

Confirmation of the following to be forwarded to Elections

Declarations of Acceptance

Declaration of Interest

Chair & Vice Chair of Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council

3 To receive questions and comments for the public (time limit 20 minutes)

None

4 Minutes of Parish Meeting held for approval and adoption

Cllr Wendy Childs proposed to approve and adopt the minutes. The proposal
was seconded by **Cllr T Jerdan**

Matter arising on Minutes – 14th April 2025

Mower - JB – Proposers that the Lawn Mower be repaired at Grange Garage

instead of being sent to Sherriff as last Parish Council for repair

PC – Suggests that this would be a conflict of Interests due to Cllr R Longstaff renting the garage at the Grange Garage Widdrington and the work would be undertaken there, resulting in payment to the business

The mower should be repaired by a specialist company

JB – This is not a conflict of interests as he has declared a pecuniary advantage

RL – I have worked on lawn mowers before through NCC and other machinery

JB – I propose that the mower be sent to Grange garage for repair and Ken Arries is asked to have the mower taken to the garage

PC – Ken does not have the keys to the container. They are at the Community Centre and he does not have a driving licence

PC – I will give the keys to Cllr Longstaff to deal with removal of the mower

JB – All in favour of proposal – Cllrs agree – **All in favour – PASSED.**

Staff – Community Centre

JB – We will now look at the hours of staff employed by the Parish at the Community Centre

Discussion commenced between Councillors about the hours of work and requirements for the Caretaker position, Cleaner and Handy man

It was decided that adverts would be placed in Widdy Chit Chat, FB and the notice boards asking for interest in the positions by **Cllr Jerdan**

Councillors would then return to this at the next meeting.

Service Users – Commencement – Community Centre

JB The Community Centre needs to be made available to service users at the earliest opportunity. I have had a number of calls and emails asking when the centre will be opening

I suggest that we open the centre from Friday 16th May 2025 for Judo There is also a birthday party booking on Saturday 17th

JB – Proposes that until staff are in place Cllrs will take turns in opening and closing the centre

All in favour – **All agree**

JB – Proposes that service users be given keys to the Community Centre to open and close.

PC – To give keyholders keys to the centre will invalidate the Insurance held by

the Parish Council as we have to have named keyholders of whom have to be staff or Parish Councillors

This is also a security risk as keys could be handed out, giving access to anyone. It also affects the alarm company as they have named keyholders and a limited number of fobs to disarm the alarm.

JB – We could have a “Drop off box” for keys for service users?

JB – To discussed again at the next meeting

Bank Accounts

JB - We need to open a new bank account as a priority.

Add signatories and remove old

PC – I am completing a new bank application with Lloyds and I am having the previous signatories removed from the Bank of Ireland & HSBC.

PC - Propose the Chair and the Vice Chair are signatories on accounts

Insurances have been advised of the change in signatories and that this will delay payment for insurances.

Insurances payment due June 2025

To update at next meeting

Play Park Stobswood

TJ- Explains to councillors the ringfenced £20,000 for the play park from the Community Foundation grant

The plans that have been discussed and received.

All of the equipment in the play park apart from the tunnel has to be replaced as it is not fit for purpose.

A further grant will need to be sourced to cover the costing for the repairs and replacement equipment,

Plans will be made available at the next meeting for perusal

JB – ROSPA report – Do we have the ROSPA report for the parks

PC - We have a ROSPA for the People’s Park but not the Stobswood Park as we were gifted this by the owners of the Ancient Woodlands when they bought the land. The play park did belong to the woodlands

JB – **Conifer Trees** – These are dangerous and need to be cut down. Can you contact the tree surgeon at NCC

TJ – The conifers have a TPO. They can not be removed until a tree report is submitted by a qualified tree surgeon outlining the dangerous condition of the trees.

TJ – I propose Stan Timmins be contacted to submit a report?

Solar Panels – **PC** – The solar panels are damaged and as such are not providing any power

They are of an age and need to be replaced. There is a grant available from NECL who will replace the solar panels

JB- I will look at this. Information passed

Co Option – Parish Councillor

Jacek Juszczyk -An application was received from J Juszczyk for co-option onto the Parish Council.

JB – I propose Mr Juszczyk as being co opted

All in favour – All Councillors in favour. **Passed**

PC I will forward Declarations and ask Mr Juszczyk to complete and attend the next meeting on Monday 9th June 2025

Website

JB – Who is responsible for the website

PC – Aaron Carrier deals with the website at this time for the Parish Council

JB – Can we ask Aaron to attend the meeting in June to discuss

6 Planning Applications –

Cattery – Mile Road Widdrington ‘ **JB** – I do not see that this will have any detrimental effect if approved

PC - Concerns raised about noise, smell and an increase in traffic on the Mile Road/parking issues.

PC Raised by members of the public and an overall majority have been objections submitted to planning.

JB – I propose that we approve the cattery. All in favour – **agreed**

Seconded – Cllr Longstaff

7 Finance

Parish clerks financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland balance as at 30 April 2025 - **£134,631.84**

Reconciled balance – **131,235.43**

Ringfenced funds = **£20,000** Play Park Stobswood

S106 Community Centre - **£70,000** – refurbishment costs to date

Balance of funding held - £ **38,536.00**(receipted)

Debits to be presented

Thomas Sherriff (Mower repair) £238.21
M Tully (Accounts) £144.00
Wage Caretaker - £1,051.47
Wage Clerk £950.51
Wage Cleaner £427.53
Wage Handyman £264.48
HM Revs & Customs (PAYE/NIC) £320.21

8 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 business is deferred to the next meeting

None

9 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

Meeting closed 7.30pm

Signed.....S...Sainthouse...Parish...

Clerk.....

Date.....

17.05.2025.....

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