WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

www.widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT

WIDDRINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON MONDAY 12TH OF OCTOBER 2026 @ 6PM

In Attendance:	Cllr Trudy Jerdan (Chair)	Cllr Wendy Childs (Vice Chair)	Cllr Jacek Juszczyk (left the meeting at 19.52 - health reasons)
	Cllr Tina Wills-Porter	Cllr Richie Longstaff	Cllr Jacqui Bexfield
	Cllr Sandra Bexfield		
Also in Attendance	Phil Lee – Caretaker/ Handyman	1 MOP	

PARISHIONERS INPUT:

To receive questions from parishioners present (limited to 2 minutes each) 20 minutes in total.

- Cllr Richie Longstaff stated that he personally had numerous complaints from parishioners with regards to the vegetable planter at the top of mile road. Member of the planting group that was in attendance alongside the caretaker/handyman stated that this was a project by the children of ATAC and there have been many positive comments given to them since planting.

- Parishioner asked if following the Rememberance Sunday gathering on 8th of November if it would be ok to meet up at Widdy Welcomes for a coffee – it was agreed that this would be arranged by Cllr WC.

	AGENDA ITEMS
1.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** 1. County Councillor Ed Dungait
2.	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 1. N/A
3.	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** 1. The minutes from the meeting of Monday 14th of September 2026 were approved as a true record – Approved and signed.

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4.	**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** 1. EV chargers on Karbon Homes car park/community centre car park – contacted Karbon with reference to these to see who these belong to, where the electricity is coming from and where the money for the use of these go to if any gained. Awaiting answer. Cllr J Bexfield stated that these are not Karbon homes and are Gleeson – Clerk to contact Gleeson to discuss further. 2. BT - still in the process of moving over to broadband with BT – no further update. This line is to remain active so this can be used as an emergency line to work alongside the emergency shelter status that the community centre holds. 3. Window on bus stop – awaiting estimates – ask for quote for Toughened Glass as this is preferred by all at the council. 4. Seat to be added to the Fernybeds bus stop – discussed and a seat to be ordered – concrete base to be created prior to installation. WC proposed, SB seconded All in favour. 5. Signage for community centre – all in favour of the new logo for the community centre to be used suggested by cllr Jerdan. Sizes for the signs to be gained and then estimates from multiple sign makers to be gained to take to Novembers meeting. 6. Grit Bins around Maple estate to be discussed. Awaiting update from County Councilors. Agreed to check prices ready for purchase. 7. Crockery, glassware and cutlery update – Now completed. Discussed 20 Gravy boats/jugs, 20 Glass water jugs and 200 tumblers to be purchased. 8. Village restoration project discussion update. 9. Sign added for the community centre on Grangemoor Road – highways contacted. Refused. No further action – To be removed. 10. Discuss stone bus stop removal next to railway line – safety concerns/ vandalism. Discussion required as unsure of the feasibility and cost vs gain on this project. No longer viable – to be removed. 11. New Planters in village. This is to be moved to spring 2027 agenda. 12. Gain estimates to repaint the play equipment – Paint to be purchased in the new year for the handyman to complete following the winter. All in favour. 13. Website update – To include live booking page including paperwork completion and payment options for the community centre bookings. In progress. 14. Solar Powered speed signs not working – discussion with county councillors taken place – update to follow.
5.	**AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS:** • N/A
6.	**STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:** 1. Christmas Lights – Awaiting Funding confirmation before moving forward. 2. Facebook – Currently at 426 members. 3. Date for Diary – Fireworks – 1st November 2026 @ 7pm – Fully paid – letters to local residents with animals created & to be hand delivered – Cllr TW & Cllr JJ to facilitate following meeting. Clerk to contact a food truck to see if they will attend during 6-8pm for this event. 4. Christmas Tree 2026 – paid – delivered approx 30th November 2026. NCC installing lights and turning on 1st December 2026. 5. Staff Training – Safeguarding Adults and Children for Cllr T Jerdan to complete. Ride on mower course still waiting on date. Chainsaw and Cross

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	Cutting course arranged for Phil 27/28th October with assessment on 30th. Clerk completed volunteers and the law training. Training for CCTV to be reviewed – Information to be taken to the next meeting. 6. Elderberries Christmas Dinner 12th December 2026. Entertainment booked – awaiting payment details. 7. CCTV upgrade – completed. Standard Security to be taking over monitoring in the meantime due to this governance not yet being in place by WSSPC. Training to be sourced. 8. Flooring in the community centre. This will be getting completed on 13th November 2026. All groups informed – no use of the hall over this weekend so this can have time to set. 9. Play Park repair – Awaiting update from Cllr Longstaff regarding repair. 10. Police Engagement Next Session is on 28th October 2026 @ 6pm @ Comm Centre. 11. Flags – Union Jack, St Georges & Northumberland Flags received ready for installation in spring 2027. This can now be removed from the next agenda. 12. Community Centre Structural Concerns. Work to be started on 12th of October will last approximately 1 week. Clerk to enquire to see if this can be covered by the insurance on the community centre. 13. Date for Diary – Remembrance Day Service 8th November. Wreaths purchased through Ulgham Church. To be collected. 14. New mileage expenses policy updated and confirmed (this includes expenses for petrol for tools). Cllr S Bexfield queried if the documented expenses supplied are a true account due to some mileage claims being high. Discussed that this was agreed in previous meeting but unfortunately not documented. Another vote taken - TJ proposed, JJ Seconded, majority in favour. 15. In-post locker update – Will be installed following the repair of the CC wall. 16. Bin update – awaiting confirmation we can change the bins from single to double from NCC. New contact gained from conference on 8th of october 2026 clerk to contact to discuss this further.
7.	**ACTIONS:** 1. To determine what are the standing agenda items and what are classed as any other business moving forward - Standing agenda items are things brought forward from previous meetings. New agenda items to be used for new items added prior to the meeting as per the request from the council. Any other business only to be used for items that are brought up within the meeting itself.
8.	**REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES:** 1. Police Report – received 4/10/26 forwarded to PC on 5/10/26
9.	**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** 1. Light in the park still not working – reported by parishioner in June & to be reviewed and repaired – this is the PC's. Due to its location and the trees planted previously this light it can not be fixed without the use of a cherry picker or removal of the tree directly next to it. Clerk to contact rail company to discuss its removal to enable the light to be serviced. RL to review cost of tool required to bend the light to repair this. This will be brought to the next meeting to discuss purchase. 2. Received a request for a meeting with the chair/vice chair from a member of

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the Longhirst 13/37 group who are concerned with speeding traffic on this road. Chair/Vice – Chair and Vice chair agreed to meet on 29th awaiting confirmation. Information will be shared at next meeting.

3. Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment Update – Invitation to Contribute – shared email on 5/10/26 with all councillors.
4. Request for Dog Foul bins to be placed on the path alongside the railway lines. Initial enquiry sent to county councillors. Proposed within the meeting that normal bins to be added so it could be emptied by NCC. Will contact Cussins Housing to see if they will fund these due to the new build.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

	APPLICATION NUMBER / ADDRESS	PLANNING INFORMATION	RESULT
1.	26/02401/FUL – Amerdale, Mile Road, Widdrington Station Northumberland, NE61 5QW	Retrospective replacement of detached wooden garage with a breeze block/rendered construction	GRANTED

11. FINANCIAL:

1. Balance of Community Centre Account: £12,166.24 (Account now closed – discussion to be completed due to cheque sent is in CC name not PC name) New account at BOI in the name of the Community Centre to be opened as a reserves accont for the PC. Clerk to complete following the meeting.
2. Balance of WSSPC Account: £92,141.72
3. Total In: £44,224.69
4. Total Out: £11,700.55
5. Future Payments**:** £1008 Foresters (Grass cutting – August/September) + £11,541.36 Standard Security for CCTV cameras.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. DBS – Phil & Bonnie – both Comm Centre openers & First Aiders. Phil's DBS is current Bonnies is required. Clerk to contact following meeting to arrange.
2. Next meeting to confirm Budget for 27/28. Meeting to be arranged for w/b 26.10.26.
3. Net around solar panels – Quoted £300 by Drain Kings. TJ Proposed, TW seconded, All in favour. Clerk to arrange.
4. Charity Donation bin at the community centre broken in to. Company contacted awaiting new lock. This is not an isolated incident according to company.
5. SLCC/Clerk hourly pay rise – Raised by £0.55 per hour. To be backdated to April 1st 2026. This is for information only and to be calculated and added to Octobers pay.
6. Thanks given to Phil for updating the Notice Board at the Coop. Stobswood Notice board in the process of being updated also. College contacted with regards to the new notice board being commissioned.
7. Light in small meeting room @ Comm Centre to be fixed – Repair Agreed - clerk to arrange repair following the meeting.

13 NEXT MEETING:

- The next meeting for Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council will take place on Monday 10th of November 2026.

Meeting closed at: 20.17

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