

Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council



Meeting Minutes

Draft until signed

Monday 10th August 2026

Started at 6.00pm

In Attendance: Cllr Trudy Jerdan(Chair), Cllr Wendy Childs(Vice Chair), Cllr R Longstaff, Cllr J Bexfield Cllr S Bexfield, Cllr J Juszczuk, Cllr Tina Wills-Porter + 3 MOP including P Lee – Caretaker/Cleaner.

Parishioners Input:

To receive questions from parishioners' present (limited to 2 minutes each) 20 minutes – the following items were mentioned within the meeting and will be followed up on if required:

- Recap of items brought to the previous meeting. See July 26 Minutes.
- Request to park in the community centre car park overnight for 3-4 nights per week. This request was discussed and discouraged and suggested parking in the car park in the karbon homes car park next to the community centre instead due to the size.
- Request to put a dog foul bin at the entrance to the old brickworks – this request has been redirected over to Widdrington Village as this is their parish and also sent to Cllr Scott Dickinson for review.
- Discussion with regards to moving the speed sign heading in to the village on the B1337 – this is due to the speed that people enter the village and being unable to slow in enough time to enter the village. Email to be sent to highways to see if there is a way to add signage informing of upcoming speed change around the corner and also to see if there is a way to cut back the brush to elevate the ability to view around the corner as this is part of the issue.
- Contact made with regards to the bin at the bottom of the mile road being replaced. This has been discussed and agreed that will be completed.
- Approached by charity for Red Squirrels requesting information on Ancient forrest and land behind Stobswood. Supplied ownership details for the Forrest and advised that UK coal or Harworth may own the land in question – email to be sent off to gain this knowledge then shared.

Formal Parish Council Meeting:

Parishioners are welcome to stay and listen to proceedings but may make no input to the meeting and remain silent

To receive Apologies for Absence:

- Cllr Ed Dungait.

To receive Declarations of Interest:

- Grange Garage

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th July 2026 for approval and adoption:

Signed _____

Dated _____

- Approved and signed. Proposed JJ Seconded TW all in favour.

Matters Arising on the Minutes:

- N/A

Amendments to standing orders:

- Standing order regarding maximum spend of £400 without further approval and a minimum of 2 quotes as discussed and proposed in April 2026 meeting. This is to be confirmed as the appropriate time frame has now lapsed. This is now a standard practice to follow. Policy updated as per guidance. Item 15 changed which includes the above.

Standing Agenda Items:

- Christmas Lights – update from NCC gained - now waiting on Funding confirmation before moving forward.
- Facebook – Currently at 377 members. Comments remaining on.
- Bus shelter update – Colourdec completed can be removed from agenda.
- Fireworks update- 1st November @ 7pm, Display to last 20 minutes – site map to be returned & Costs approved. Deposit now paid.
- Christmas tree – Tree retained by Joseph Noblett to be cancelled and Tree to be ordered from Northumberland Christmas Trees. To be delivered on 31st of November 2026
- Staff Training - Safeguarding Adults and Children to be completed by Cllr T Jerdan. Ride on mower course, hedge trimmer course, hard surface cleaner course all to be completed by caretaker/handyman. Hard surface cleaning training has been completed following the meeting – Thanks to Michael Guy.
- Elderberries Christmas Dinner discussed – this will be on December 12th 2026 - entertainment now agreed – soft music during lunch and carols thereafter - £100 payment agreed.
- Handyman/Caretaker area of work. Full workout of time used given to continue and assess.
- Bench now delivered and agreed will be added outside the factory entrance – Parishioner in attendance at the meeting will approach the farmer to initially cut down the brush and Phil to continue to upkeep this thereafter.
- Solar Speed Sign to be requested to be replaced at the stobswood end of the village as it has not worked for some time and now out of guarantee. RL to review prior to replacement to see if it is an easy fix i.e. battery. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Village Green – awaiting update from Karbon Homes as no contact been gained – Cllr Trudy Jerdan to make contact following the meeting.

Actions:

- N/A

Reports from outside bodies:

- Police Report – sent prior to the meeting to all councillors. Regular updates will be posted on <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

Correspondence Received:

- Response received from Gleeson Homes from email sent following July meeting. Trees to be planted in November as per original plan, Rubbish to be reviewed and path to be started soon as in previous meeting discussions.

Planning Applications:

- **26/02401/FUL** – Amerdale, Mile Road - No objections
- **26/01287/FUL** – The Haven, Mile Road - No objections

Signed _____

Dated _____

- **26/02031/FUL – 4 Lambert Tce - No objections**

Financial:

- Widdrington Community Centre Account Balance as of 3.8.26 – £11,112.84
- WSPCC Current Account Balance as of 3.8.26 = £41,091.18.
- Out = £14,690.42
- In = £0
- To Pay = £1856.76.
- All payments on agenda are now completed and approved for payment.

Any Other Business:

- CCTV upgrade – Agreement to move forward with the change over and payment authorised. Arrangements to be made following the meeting.
- Next Police Engagement Session @ Widdrington Community Centre was held on Wednesday 5th August 2026 @ 6pm. Next one will be 5th September @ 1pm.
- Flags – Design/layout discussion completed – Widdrington Arms flag will be orientated in Portrait rather than landscape. Awaiting size to order boom.
- Flooring in the community centre – Costings returned to be discussed and grant sourced for this to be completed.
- Pantomime – costings gained and agreed to book – proposed WC seconded TJ all in favour. Booked following the meeting for 13th of December. Further details to follow.
- Remembrance day service to be held on November 8th 2026 – details to follow – added to September Agenda.
- Splash Park – discussions still ongoing.
- Hedge Trimmer and Chainsaw discussed and agreed to be purchased – Stihl brand battery powered for both. Proposed TJ Seconded RL All agreed.
- Ride on Mower all repaired – this can now be removed from discussion.
- Joint Town and Parish Council Meeting 8th October 2026 – Cllr Jerdan and Cllr Childs to be in attendance. Booking form now completed and returned.
- Pantomime – some costings gained. Add to August agenda
- Community Centre Structural Concerns. Estimates being sourced.
- Remembrance Day Service. Sunday 8th November. Add to August agenda.
- Bench outside factory – this has been purchased – awaiting delivery and installation.
- Play Park Repair – decorative wooden posts around the park are in a poor state and price to be gained to replace all. See Saw is faulty and top had to be removed. Playdale contacted and parts are being sent out for this repair. Update to follow.
- Bus Stop Timetable training – Cllr Childs attended training to assist Bill Lynch with timetables within our parish. This is now complete and wil complete when needed.
- New expenses policy created – detailed discussion on what this should entail within the meeting – further review required – Cllr Jerdan to revise and will be discussed again in September 26 meeting.
- New Tree Saplings – discussion paused as reviewing new park for that location. Cllr Jerdan to contact Pentagon to discuss an accessable park – see above.
- Grit Bins around Maple Drive – to be removed from discussion as this is a matter for NCC.
- Other issues discussed – Cllr Childs met up with Cllr David Smith to discuss various items such as parking in village, Maple Drive ownership issues and Village Green Status proposal. Clerk followed up this meeting with an email highlighting all discussion topics. Youngsters are still making dens in the trees next to the park

Signed _____

Dated _____

using items from behind coop, this has been followed up on with the owner and he is actively trying to stop things being removed from his premises and will continue to do so. CCTV 24hrs signs to be purchased and placed outside the community centre. Cars left at own risk signs to be purchased and placed outside the community centre. Contact Kevin Batson with regards to the EV chargers – who gains the money from these if any.

- Next Meeting: 14th September 2026.

‘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.’

- Closed Session: N/A

Parish Clerk – Bonnie Watson – 07729100219

Email: clerk@widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil@gov.uk

Signed _____

Dated _____