

# Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council



## Meeting Minutes

Draft until signed

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Started at 6.30pm

**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 + 11 MOP

### Parishioners Input:

To receive questions from parishioners' present (limited to 2 minutes each) 20 minutes

- Query as to why outside parties brought in to complete jobs on the bus shelters when there is a handyman employed by the PC. This was explained due to the skill set required for the work the handyman does not possess these skills hence outside parties required.
- Stobswood Fence Repair: fence around the Stobswood park is now at a level of disrepair that requires it to be replaced. 3X quotes to be gained to match current fence neighbouring it to bring this back up to good quality.
- Missing bin: there is a missing bin in the park that has been requested to be replaced, There are 2 bins on the opposite side of the road to each other that one of them can be removed – East acres/Margaret Street. This will be done following the meeting.

### 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: N/A
- To receive Declarations of Interest: N/A
- Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 for approval and adoption: All Approved
- Matters Arising on the Minutes: N/A
- Amendments to standing orders: continued discussion regarding spending limit without 2/3 quotes required. This will be finalised at June 2026 meeting.

### Standing Agenda Items:

- AGAR 2025/26 update: completed AGAR to be brought to June 2026 meeting.
- Policy updates – GDPR updated due to new CCTV being added to the inside of the community centre which includes sound and vision – Approved.
- Christmas Lights – Awaiting update from NCC for final costing for the 20 lamp post electric box additions and the updated price list for available lights from Lite-LTD.co.uk – no update at this time - to be addressed in June 2026 meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

- Email address – Now in place – [clerk@widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk) out of office now on old email confirming this and all changed on website and paperwork required.
- Facebook – Currently at 176 members. Discussion re: commenting required – full discussion completed – proposed: Cllr J Bexfield, Seconded: Cllr T Wills-Porter. This has now been actioned. Cllr T Jerdan disagrees and wishes for the comments to remain active.
- Bus shelter update – see below for invoice for refurbishment of some of the shelters plus attached for the new quote for the remainder in the village – Discussed and further quotes for the wooden shelters required.
- Bus shelter roof damage – 2/3 quotes to be received prior to work moving forward.
- Play Park Updates: Maple Drive, Stobswood & Widdrington – checks completed for all work required to be done prior to ROSPA coming for inspections in June – confirmation required for the work to proceed. 2025 ROSPA report to be sourced to see what actions were required to be taken then. Handyman has created a list of jobs required to be completed and will move forward with these where possible.
- Stobswood – new gate for allotment and refurb of notice board update. This is in the process of being completed.
- Fireworks 2026 update. Discussion completed with some residents and no opposition regarding fireworks from these residents but others to be approached – update to be given at June meeting.
- Christmas Tree 2026 – still awaiting price list. The size will depend on if lights are in place – 25ft only if lights in place – 40ft if no lights in place. Update to follow.
- Party in the Park proposal. Youth Leader and Young Leader completed a presentation of what is being proposed – funding and assistance required from the PC. This was hoping to take place late August 2026 – this was discussed and proposed a smaller event this year due to budget constraints and budget will be sourced for funding towards this in 27/28 precept. Picnic in the park suggested as an alternative.
- Staff Training – Clerk/CILCA starting September – application to be made to share cost between 3 councils. Phil – training to be undertaken: Ride on mower course on 28<sup>th</sup> May confirmed – all councillors in agreement that he should attend. First aid and H&S to be given to both Clerk and Caretaker. First aid training to be given locally by trained professional and Health and Safety course to be completed online. Floor polishing course to be completed online (Caretaker only)

#### **Actions:**

- N/A

#### **Reports from outside bodies:**

- Police Report

#### **Correspondence Received:**

- Youth Bridge NE – regarding youths in the village – email received with questions/concerns and all answered prior to the meeting.

#### **Planning Applications:**

- The Haven Mile Road – Closed 5<sup>th</sup> May – sent to all councillors via email – no further action required.

#### **Financial:**

Widdrington Community Centre Account Balance – 4.5.26: £12,969.57

WSPCC Current Account Balance – 4.5.25: £66,073.58 includes £41,295 1<sup>st</sup> precept of 2026 & CC insurance reimbursement from 2025.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Out = £6171.51 In = £42,840.33, To Pay = £2457.31

Payments completed or for Approval:

- Wages: Clerk £1750.37, Caretaker/Handyman £632.50 – Paid (these amounts include any overtime owed)
- Cleaning company - £360 Paid (final bill)
- NCC invoice: Tree Lights - £904.80 paid
- Spotty Dog Signs -£168 paid
- M Tulley final invoice - £130 paid
- Foresters Grass Cutting - £424 paid
- Grange Garage Invoice – Muga Lighting - £1168 paid
- 2024/2025 AGAR bill – Forvis Mazzars - £474 paid
- Drain King – comm centre drain clear-out - £150 paid
- Bank Charges - £6.04 – paid
- Colourdec – Bus shelter upkeep - £1025 to pay
- Standard Security call outs March/April - £201 – to pay
- NCC Rubbish Collection - £716.10 – to pay
- NALC subscription - £515.21 – to pay

**Any Other Business:**

- CCTV further quote gained including internal cameras and sound – fully monitored by WSSPC. According to new policy further quote requested.
- Police Engagement Next Session – 16<sup>th</sup> May 1pm.
- Morpeth Bathrooms update. No contact at all – Company gone in to liquidation – No further action required.
- Citron/PHS Group – called to survey re:installation – could not install at this time due to where electric supply is will do a survey of costings and come back to us.
- Asset Register – ongoing.
- Flag – 2x quotes received to discuss which to move forward with. Further quote required.
- Awaiting prices for 25 ft Christmas tree including delivery and installation. 1 quote received, awaiting 2 more.
- Caretaker/Cleaner/Handyman Contract update – further update required prior to signing. To complete prior to june meeting.
- Facia repair on the junction chased with George F White estate agents – awaiting date for work being completed. Number received to follow up on from Cllr S Bexfield.
- Village Planters update – empty and refill ready for the summer. Phil to review and complete.
- Electric work @ Muga to be checked and certified by registered electrician. Still awaiting outcome as not done prior to the meeting.
- Infinis Sisters Windfarm Fund Update: Cllr JJ. Initial meeting completed – awaiting first meeting.
- Citizens Advice request for donation\* Agreed to £100.
- PC Lock up – keys to stay with handyman and tools within the lock-up to get full servicing moving forward. This was agreed, Handyman to collect following the meeting.

Additional Item:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

- Grass cutting next to the coop – this land belongs to network rail – contact to see when/if this is being done.

**Next Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> June 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

Email: [clerk@widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_