

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

ON MONDAY 8th April 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs S Willoughby (Chair), K Batson, S Horton, W Childs, T Jerden

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).

14 - members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

none

2.To receive declarations of interest

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

Cllr Jerden declared – scouts

Cllr Childs declared – Widdrington Food Bank

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

CS -Public – Asks why the website is not updated with the 2022/23 budget of spending. MW – explains the Issue recently faced with the website and the expenditure. This is to be updated by the PC in due course.

CS – Why is Party in the Park not on this year? **MW** – Explains that the Parish budget can not allow for the event This year due to other important expenditure (toddler park – Stobswood) **CS** Why does the Parish not apply for funding to cover costs? – **MW** – We are looking to apply for funding but this will only cover some of the cost. The Parish will still have to cover the shortfall and the equipment and refurbishment is vast.

MW – explains that the ringfenced money for the CC, can only be used for the centre and not on any other areas

Public – Visibility on notice boards and website is inadequate. There needs to be more information for the residents in the Village available. **MW** – Agrees and the **PC** is to make sure that the issues with the website are addressed and all information will be available very soon. The notice boards have the minutes and any other information available at the CO OP and CC The issues this month with the NB was due to illness. **PC** was not available for the meeting last month and the minutes were Therefore, published late.

Public – Speeding – Mile Road Excessive speeding is ongoing on the Mile Road. Evenings. **MW** – We are having a meeting with the local Police Officer this month “Cuppa with a Copper” and this will be discussed. All residents are welcome to attend.

CS – Are there any other events this summer. **MW** – No

Fireworks – **KB** The fireworks have been stored a secure holding for 2024 firework display.

Maple Drive – Still issues with brass cutting – **MW** to try to contact owner to request that the grass is cut

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th April 2024 for approval and adoption

Cllr K Batson proposed to approve and adopt the minutes; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Childs and carried.

5. Matters arising on the Minutes

Northumbria Connected – **TJ** explains what Northumbria Connected is and where the public can access the website for information and help for any criminal activities or ASB

Coastal Village Forum Meeting – **MW** Explains that this is not a public meeting, but is a meeting involving local County

Councillors discussing topics and concerns in their local area and how they can work together to resolve issues

Karbon Homes – **MW** This is a drop-in session with Karbon Homes that is for residents of the village to attend and discuss

Their issues and concerns with the local housing officer. We have asked for dates to be arranged and have had no response Therefore, **PC** is to send a =n official complaint to head office.

MW – The canopy has been repaired and cleaned

WC – Discussed with Cllrs in the meeting the prices fir equipment for the Toddler Park in Stobswood. It is estimated that it Will be at least £10,000 to restore the equipment and a grant is too looked into.

Panto – Due to the rising costs from Chaplin’s Pantos, other pantomimes quotes are to be acquired. Cllr Horton, Cllr Jerden to undertake.

Refurbishment of Community Centre – The refurbishment is to commence on 22/4/2024. This is to replace the toilets

In the CC, starting with the disabled toilets, gent’s toilets and the ladies

FB and Social Media posts – MW discusses the ongoing issue with comments and spurious allegations on social media

Points out that this forum is not the place to air concerns or negative comments or attacks on Cllr or others. If there are Problems or concerns about the community or the Parish Council, then MW asks that the persons concerned attend the local

Monthly meeting to voice their concerns in a calm and respectful manner

Precept – KB advises that the reason for the increase in this year's precept is due to the expenditure last year and that

Of the previous years has left the Parish reserves low and therefore the precept has had to be increased for the second Consecutive year to make sure the reserves are not spent

John Shepherd – Labour candidate – Letter received from John Shepherd who introduces

8. Planning Applications

13. Finance

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update Bank of Ireland Account as **28th March 2024 NOT YET**

RECEIVED

TO BE ADDED TO MINUTES ON RECEIPT

Payments for Approval: -

Viking Direct – cleaning materials – 2594 - £164.62	NCC Waste 2024/25 – 2595 -£645.12
Refurb (CC) – Morpeth Bathrooms – 2596 - £20,000	Viking (CC Refurb) – 2599 – 3214.62
Wages – 2603 - £887.28	HMRC – 2604 - £499.22

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.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Parish Clerk – S Sainthouse Tel 07939612575
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