

Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council



Meeting Minutes

Draft until signed

Monday 9th March 2026

Started at 6pm

In Attendance: Cllr J Bexfield (Chair), Cllr Trudy Jerdan (Vice Chair), Cllr Wendy Childs, Cllr R Longstaff, Cllr S Bexfield, Cllr J Juszczuk + 0 MOP

Parishioners Input:

Litter Pick: Litter Pick leaflets handed over to display in the notice board and on Facebook for Sunday 12th of April, 10th of May and 14th of June 2026. Meet @ 2pm Widdrington Co-op followed by Coffee and Cake at Widdy Welcomes.

Formal Parish Council Meeting:

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

Parishioners Input:

To receive questions from parishioners' present (limited to 2 minutes each) 20 minutes – No MOP in attendance.

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1. To receive Apologies for Absence: Cllr Tina Wills-Porter, Cllr Ed Dungait
2. To receive Declarations of Interest: ATAC & Grange Garage.
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th February 2026 for approval and adoption – Approved.
4. Matters Arising on the Minutes:
5. Amendments to standing orders:
6. Agenda Items:
 - Standing agenda item: AGAR 2025/26 plans – Confirmation of external auditor to review letter of engagement and accept in readiness to move forward.
 - Contacted Citron/PHS Group regarding updated costings for sanitation bins and hand dryers. There will be a cost for install – arranging time to come out to see what this will be.
 - Christmas Lights – awaiting prices for electric install on lamp posts. Further company info sent out to all councillors to review lights https://www.lite-ltd.co.uk/pdfs/LITE_brochure%202024.pdf Banner style preferred – Clerk to ask about renting per year rather than purchasing. Still awaiting contact from council for prices for electric hook up on lamp posts.

- Policies being reviewed – new policies discussed and being created by Clerk –All handed over to Cllr T Jerdan for review.
- Website update – meeting held with Hugofox on Thursday 5th via video call to discuss how to run the site. New email address being created. Further meeting to take place 16th March to finalise training. Will be completed before next meeting so update to follow.
- Facebook – Currently at 68 members. Continues to grow.
- Job descriptions updated – Clerk and Handyman/Caretaker now approved with updated hourly rate and rise in hours worked. Both signed and one copy saved on to drive for PC and one copy given to Clerk and Handyman.
- Bus shelter update – perspex to be replaced at a cost of £267 inc VAT.
- Update on repainting etc. Quote received from COLORDEC for £925 and it was decided to move forward with this. Proposed – Cllr S Bexfield, Seconded – Cllr W Childs.
- Sign for the Play park (After dark usage) & (No Dogs Allowed) now completed. Cllr R Longstaff will put up at both parks.
- Notice Board – suggested move from Widdrington community centre to replace one at Stobswood – this will be done before the end of March.
- Eon Next solar panel paperwork completed – new reading sent in 2.3.26 – funds will be added to account from time not claimed at end of March.

7. Actions:

- N/A

8. Reports from outside bodies:

- Infinis Sisters Windfarm Fund Update. Ongoing. Cllr Juszczuk to complete paperwork to join panel.
- Community Centre User Group Meeting Update. Discussed that they would rather the parish council remain with all duties running the centre re: bookings/payments etc and continue with service user meeting once every 3 months unless issues arise sooner then they can attend the PC meetings to discuss.

9. Correspondence Received:

- Traffic Calming Measures – Mile Road. No objections.
- Grass Cutting donation for the churches in the area. Email sent to church to see if we can assist with the cutting of the grass at a cheaper rate.
- Rockery within Stobswood Play Park: Email from L Robinson, resident regarding request to remove rockery due to constant youth destruction. Approval granted – Caretaker to complete prior to next meeting.

10. Planning Applications:

- Land across from Fernybeds: plan for self build bungalow.

11. Financial:

Current balance £33,982.76 as of 2.3.26.

Out = £4573.25, In = £0, To Pay = £267 – see below.

Payments completed or for Approval:

- Wages: Bonnie £2006.33 / Phil £702.08 – Paid (this includes overtime and backdated pay)
- Cleaning company £360 – Paid
- M Tulley accountant £130 – Paid
- Amazon – Doorbell - £35.57 Paid
- Outstanding ADT Bill - £1232.22 – Paid

- HMRC - £467.05 – Paid
- Perspex for bus shelter £267 – To pay

12. Any Other Business:

- Constitution for the community centre created. Cllr T Jerdan to review.
- Request for purchases – PA system, screen and projector from service user meeting. Discussion with regards to this – prices to be gained in readiness for next meeting.
- Police Engagement @ Widdrington Community Centre happened Saturday 7th March @ 4pm. Shared via Facebook. Due to the late arrival only 3 people arrived and discussed Speeding and youth activity in the village.
- Morpeth Bathrooms – called no answer, sent text no response and still no response from various emails sent. Invoice sent with a 30 day cut off alongside an email stating that we will be moving forward with legal advice if no response given.
- FILCA – Financial introduction training follow on from ILCA (now complete) prelude to CILCA - £140 + VAT – Agreed to fund this. Clerk to pay and complete training.
- CILCA – meeting all other councils to see about splitting cost over all 3 – this is £350 + VAT. Agreed to part funding alongside other PC's clerk works for.
- Widdrington Community Centre vandalism. CCTV – footage available, now remote access available via Clerk. Discussed getting quote for upgrading CCTV adding new cameras with sound outside and also cameras with sound inside the centre also. Clerk to arrange.
- Training for inspection of play parks – Bonnie & Phil (caretaker) willing to do the course. This does not replace ROSPA so decided not to move forward with this.
- IT and Assertion 10 policy completed – sign off and sign up required – Agreed.
- Civility and Respect Pledge – information sent prior to the meeting and agreed – Policy created to run alongside this. This was signed up online.
- Path from Gleeson car park to be completed by end of March 2026 as originally discussed. Discussed further and to discuss to have from car park to path next to bus shelter rather than having access at the rear of the centre.
- Asset Register. Caretaker starting to compile in readiness for 26/27 AGAR.

13. Next Meeting: 13th April 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.'

14. Closed Session: N/A

Parish Clerk – Bonnie Watson
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