

Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council



Meeting Minutes

Draft until signed

Monday 13th April 2026

Started at 6pm

In Attendance: Cllr J Bexfield (Chair), Cllr Trudy Jerdan (Vice Chair), Cllr R Longstaff, Cllr S Bexfield, Cllr J Juszczuk, Cllr Tina Wills-Porter + 5 MOP

Parishioners Input:

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

- Query as to why the bin was removed from turning circle – resolved - bin to be moved back to turning circle and new bin to be ordered/found for the bottom of the mile road.
- Park update requested – Maple Drive Estate. – See in later meeting notes.
- Community Police in attendance – update given regarding their presence and the new turnaround program that is being implemented. Full details of any incentives like this can be found on the Northumbria Police website.

Formal Parish Council Meeting:

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

1. **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Wendy Childs, Cllr Ed Dungait
2. **To receive Declarations of Interest:** Grange Garage
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 16th March 2026 for approval and adoption:**
4. **Matters Arising on the Minutes:**
5. **Amendments to standing orders:**
 - Spending limit authority: Any spending over £400 will require 2 quotes for the work to gain the best price and must not be authorised outside a meeting without a vote.
6. **Standing Agenda Items:**
 - AGAR 2025/26 plans – Time has formally started for the information requests for the auditor – see list attached of what is to be required during this time.*
 - Policy updates* Sent to all prior to meeting – Code of conduct, Data Accuracy inc Assertion 10 & Standing Orders. All policies named here and given at prior meeting passed and will be available on the new website.
 - Christmas Lights – gained size requirements – pre owned available – street view of all posts on Grangemoor Road given and 21 posts identified for lights – quote from NCC to be gained for cost of adding electric boxes. Update at next meeting.
 - Website update – Website now live:
www.widdringtonandstobswoodparishcouncil.gov.uk – Clerk now has full autonomy and will be updating personally. Review and contact clerk if any changes are to be made.

Signed _____

Dated _____

- Email address – awaiting update.
- Facebook – Currently at 118 members.
- Bus shelter updating (painting / rendering etc.) – Awaiting start date.
- Bus shelter roof damage – It was initially deemed that both shelters are to be knocked down within the meeting but due to the damage not being as bad as initially thought the roof will be repaired and see how this goes until next months meeting.
- Play Park Updates: Maple Drive Estate, Land registry shows ownership as Grangemoor Farm – PC to follow up with Cllr Dungait.
- Stobswood Allotment – new gate discussion. It was proposed that a fund of £500 be allotted to the cost of the gate by the PC. Proposed by Chair, Seconded by Cllr Longstaff
- Fireworks 2026 – will do due diligence prior to booking the fireworks with the animal owners around the field. Cllr Wills-Porter and Cllr Juszczuk to visit owners.
- Christmas Tree 2026 – A tree is still to be gained for the village but with the installation of the lights it has been deemed that a shorter tree is only required – max 25ft.
- Notice Board – Removed from Widdrington community centre but not yet put at Stobswood – clerk to contact regarding this to see when this will be completed.

7. Actions:

- N/A

8. Reports from outside bodies:

- Infinis Sisters Windfarm Fund Update: Cllr JJ application now sent. Clerk to contact Peter Barratt to find out when contact will be made.

9. Correspondence Received:

- Email/Letter received from Cllr Dungait regarding correspondence that was sent over to the parish council last year from a young girl within the parish wishing to see the lights back up in the village. A letter is to be sent back to the young parishioner stating the parish councils intent in doing this at Christmas time.

10. Planning Applications:

- 6 Monmouth Court – 7th April expiry sent prior to meeting for comments.
- 18 Mary – Sent with agenda to review application – this is now granted.

11. Financial:

- Widdrington Community Centre Account Balance: £13,790.66 Includes £10,748.35 solar panel return – to discuss moving money for Widdrington Community Centre insurance back to WSSPC current account (£1545.33).
- WSPCC Current Account Balance £30,404.76 as of 06.04.26. (£41,295 26/27 1st half of precept has been confirmed and will be added imminently)*
Out = £3158.41, In = £0, To Pay = £2794.8 – see below for approvals

Payments completed or for Approval:

- Wages: Clerk £1435.40, Caretaker/Handyman £493.35 – Paid (these amounts include any overtime owed)
- Cleaning company £360 – Paid
- Northern Tubs £189.60 – Paid
- NCC invoice: Tree Lights £904.80
- Spotty Dog Signs £168
- M Tulley final invoice £130
- Foresters Grass Cutting £424
- Muga Lighting Repairs – Grange Garage £1168
- 2024/2025 AGAR bill – Forvis Mazzars - £474

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12. Any Other Business:

- CCTV new quote including internal cameras and sound – fully monitored by WSSPC. Will move forward with this install using funds from Community Centre account/solar panel refund once installation date is available.
- Request for purchases – PA system, screen and projector from service user meeting. Prices attached – confirm all agreed to purchase as not confirmed in last meeting.
- Police Engagement Next Session – awaiting dates.
- Morpeth Bathrooms update. No contact at all. Registered signed for letter to be sent out stating payment required within 7 days if no response to start legal proceedings.
- FILCA – Financial introduction training completed by clerk. CILCA starting later in the year.
- Citron/PHS Group – awaiting date for review to see about installation etc. Update to follow.
- Asset Register. Caretaker still working through this.
- Family Hub no longer using Community centre for their meetings – final payment made.
- Age UK contacted regarding regular coffee morning (Mondays) – they are awaiting funding. Update to follow once this has been received.
- Flag – this was deferred from late last year until April meeting – decided to move forward with Widdrington double sided flag, union jack and St Georges cross flag for flag poles in the park. Proposed Cllr Jerdan, Seconded Cllr Longstaff.
- Church Grass Cutting Update – any contact from church? Email forwarded to both Chair, vice chair and Cllr Longstaff 24.03.26. No update.
- New bin purchase for the bus stop. Discussed earlier with parishioners – move bin back from mile road and purchase new for there.
- Duties and wage discussion for Caretaker/Handyman. It has been decided that the cleaning will be taken over in-house by the caretaker alongside his duties of caretaker/handyman with a wage increase of £15ph starting next month. Notice to be given to the current cleaning company. Training to be given to the caretaker and clerk – Health and Safety, Control of Hazardous Substances First Aid, Fire Training, Buffer Training, Ride on Mower Training

13. Next Meeting: 11th May 2026 – including yearly parish meeting with Chairs report.

‘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:

Parish Clerk – Bonnie Watson
Email: Pcclerkwiddstob1@outlook.com

Signed _____ Dated _____