

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

ON MONDAY 13th November 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.

In attendance were Councillors Mrs S Willoughby (Chair), K Batson, S Horton.

S Sainthouse (Parish Clerk).

Eight 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.

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

Upkeep of the Mile Road/footpath – The footpath along the Mile Road is in a poor condition and the hedges are completely overgrown. Public have to walk onto the road to pass in places.

Speed Bumps were mentioned and MW suggested that the Emergency Services did not like them. Who is responsible?
MW – County Council is responsible for the public highway/footpaths on the Mile Road to the small bridge just after the houses on the left. After this it is the responsibility of Ellington Parish

PC- Fix My Street. Explains website on County Council website and how to report an incident

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th May for approval and adoption

Cllr Batson proposed to approve and adopt the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr S Horton and carried.

5. Matters arising on the Minutes

None.

6. Reports from Outside Bodies.

MW – Reads out report from PSO Sutcliffe stating that there have been no reports of disorder or ASB

MW – Explains that the nearest policing team are at Alnwick. Only patrols in the area. PSO Sutcliffe suggested calling

101 or 999 in emergency in report?

Fireworks – Postponed due to wet weather and field conditions being too dangerous underfoot to deal with fireworks

This will be reorganised in due course by K Batson

Coast & Castle – Bins - This is not something that the Parish will deal with. It is an issue between Coast & Castle and their

Residents. C Council attended and there is NO obstruction. It is private land

7. Correspondance Received

Resignation – Councillor Aaron Carrier has resigned from his position – Cllr S Horton to commence website

Panto – Treasure Island. The pantomime is taking place at 7pm on 16th December 2023 at the Community Centre.
Due to

This year there will be a 50p entry fee to cover the cost of the panto.

Tree – The Xmas tree is to be delivered and dressed on 24th November 2023.

Precept – 2023/24 KB – Explains that there is to be a 6% increase this year which is to be discussed and agreed-closed

8. Planning Applications

none

9. Co-option applications

MW – Explains that all Parish Councils are having issues getting applications for County Councillors

MW Acknowledges co-option application from candidates. Explains “Declaration of Interests”

Advising that if “Widdy Welcomes or other groups were in discussion on relevant subjects (ie funding). Then

Persons involved would be expected to leave the room. That there were no financial benefits and would the

two

Candidates still like to serve. “Reply – YES”

MW – Invites Mrs W Childs & Mrs T Jordan onto the County Council and asks them to sign and read out Co

Option

Declaration to the meeting.

MW – Discusses the importance of Councillors working as a team
MW – Addresses the letter placed on FB by Gareth Tate in relation to the co-option application, previous resignation and a statement that **GT** is said to have demanded be placed on the noticeboard.
GT – Responds by suggesting that it was best for transparency should be minuted. **GT** states that it was not correct to Discuss this any further when he had made a formal complaint to the **Monitoring Officer**.
Will go higher if Chair is not sacked by **MO**.
MW & GT – Continue to discuss the complaint to Monitoring Officer and **GT** states that what he had said was the truth.
Parish Chair had not followed correct procedures. **MW & GT** discuss reports of previous incidents of ASB, fires
That **GT** states he reported to **MW**. This is disputed and said to be second hand information. **GT** disputes this.
MW – Returns to letter sent to **GT** about Co option and that it had been rescinded.
GT – Explains how the letter had affected him. Comments on tone of letter.
PC – Intervenes and advises that it was in fact her error that the letter had been sent out with all councillor’s signatures
Before it had been approved by all.
GT – Advises that he does not agree that **PC** is at fault.
MW & GT – Continue. **MW** mentions message from Cllr A Carrier and his concerns about the letter being made public.
GT – Responded that he had made it public but removed two of the Cllr names not involved.
GT - Comments that he has received no apology. Suggest Chair should resign.
MW – Chair states that she will not resign. **MW** – You should be careful what you wish for as if I resigned the Parish would be returned to County Council who would take over the running of the Parish. No Community Centre for
User Groups. Staff would be out of a job
GT – Good. It is better then being a dictatorship. You do not like to be challenged and will not apologise
MW & GT – Continue to discuss their disagreement. **MW** – States that **GT** comments show his personal distaste And hate for her. **GT** – Responds that he does not hate the Chair. Compliments Chair on her work.
Suggests
That the Chair is abrasive, condescending and forceful.
GT – Points out that it is clear he is not going to be co opted onto the Council and asks that the Chair “get on” with the
Co option of the two other candidates. **End**

12.Finance

i) Parish Clerk’s financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account. **NOT YET RECEIVED** as at reconciled
with Bank Account Statement. **TO FOLLOW**

DEBITS

Jospeh Noblett (Xmas Tree) Including delivery £2040.00
Wage £910.81 Wage £537.54
Wage £326.89 Wage £450.20
Wage £299.20 MMRC 434.56
Kings Catering (Elderberries – Ban Marie) £192.00
Elderberries Entertainment (Singer) £160.00
Elderberries Provision for meals £500.00 (all received)

13. 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.

14. To be held in closed session

Councillors resolved that members of the public and press are excluded from the remainder of the meeting which is to be held in closed session due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

S Sainthouse Parish Clerk – email pcclerkwiddstob1@outlook.com

