

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON MISSION, WARREN LANE, WOOLSTON ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor R Tynan (Chairman)
Councillors: M Banner, H Klein, D Nowell, S Rydzkowski, L Sheridan
Apologies for absence: Councillors C Kilgannon, G Rushby, D Warren
C Wilcock

C55 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

C56 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C57 Apologies for absence

The Council noted apologies for absence from Councillors Kilgannon, Rushby, Warren and Wilcock.

C58 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2025 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C59 Co-option of members

Further to Minute C44 – 15 July 2025, the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 12 September 2025:

Resolved,
That notice be given of the two remaining vacancies and applicants be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

C60 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

C61 Policing of Woolston

PCSO Roberts attended the meeting and reported on the monthly reports for August and September 2025.

Members raised the following issues:

Action taken on incidents of anti-social behaviour – following a complaint from residents in August a report had been made to the Police regarding an organised football being played on Martinscroft Green that prevented its use for other recreational use. This was not identified in the report.

It was noted that report gave information on the categories of issues dealt with by the Police. The incident had been investigated and those concerned had been advised of nearby open spaces suitable for football including Woolston Park. The comments made on the information included in monthly reports would be considered:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and PCSO Roberts be thanked for her attendance.

(Please see appendix for a copy of the reports).

C62 Borough Council business

The Council received reports from Borough Councillors on matters under consideration by the Borough Council relating to the parish and on issues that they had acted on for residents since the last meeting and other issues relating to responsibilities of the Borough Council. (The Council noted that the reports related to the parish council area and not to the wider area of the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward unless there was an issue of interest to Woolston).

1 Reports from Borough Councillors

Councillor Sheridan – the Interim Chief Executive had visited Woolston Park in August and was made aware of current issues including the need for maintenance to the Ranger Cabin. Consideration was being given to the reintroduction of funding similar to the previous Community Fund for projects.

2 Matters raised with the Borough Council

- Borough Council review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane – no further information to report.
- A57 Manchester Road – construction of a new pedestrian island on Manchester Road just to the west of the junction with Weir Lane (Minute C137 – 25 February 2025). Councillor Sheridan reported that he had requested the officers to remove the tactile surface from the dropped crossings on A57 Manchester Road on the grounds of road safety. These indicated a crossing point for persons with disabilities and the proposed improvements had not been implemented. The introduction of a pedestrian island was under consideration by the officers.
- Woolston Neighbourhood Hub – temporary closure
Details of information to Borough Councillors on 16 September 2025 were reported providing an update on the actions taken following the positive detection of Legionella bacteria in the water system at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub earlier this month:

When traces of Legionella bacteria were detected in the water system at the Hub the leisure team immediately implemented an emergency response plan to address this situation and ensure public safety, in accordance with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance leading to the closure of the Hub.

Further pre-testing was carried out on all ports within the Hub's water system by specialist contractors to fully understand the extent of the contamination. The results of the pre-testing have reported positive Legionella bacteria in additional ports.

Following pre-testing, a full disinfection of the water system has been completed. This process has been undertaken in an attempt to eliminate the Legionella bacteria from the water supply and prevent any risk to health.

The Borough Council were conducting post-disinfection testing to confirm that the water system is free of Legionella. We are not expecting to receive the results of these tests for a few weeks.

During the closure, routine monitoring of the water system has continued in line with our Legionella Management Programme and the recommendations of the specialist contractors, who have advised the leisure team flush all ports twice a day.

The Council were committed to maintaining the highest standards of water safety and will continue to keep you informed of developments.

No further information had been provided on work to allow the re-opening of the swimming pools. Members reported that users were concerned about the lack of regular updates on the progress of investigative works and concerned that no projected date had been given of the facilities at the centre:

Resolved,

That

1. the reports be noted;
2. the Borough Council be requested to provide current information on the progress of works to Woolston Neighbourhood Hub.

C63 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

1. Parish Path Warden scheme – condition report

Councillor Nowell reported on inspections made of public footpaths including:

- Giant hogweed remained on the zig-zag section of path from Woolston Weir towards the Manchester Ship Canal. Some vegetation had been cut back along the path.
- Path from Thelwall Viaduct towards Rixton alongside the river – farmer had cut back some lengths but the designated path was not usable.
- Moss Brow path – no further information on proposed diversion of the path from the Borough Council.

Councillor Nowell requested that the provision of online access to information on the Peak and Northern Footpath Society (PNFS) be investigated:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted and the Borough Council be requested to provide a progress report on the proposed path diversion;
2. approval be given to a request being made to access PNFS information online.

2. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park

The Council noted that there was no further information to report on repairs to the Ranger Cabin.

3. Battery Lane Allotment Site – management matters

The Council noted that monthly inspections were being carried out with a representative of the Association.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Banking arrangements – online facilities

Further to Minute C 48 – 16 July 2025 the Clerk reported on revised banking facilities including online access with the existing account at National Westminster bank, and it was Resolved,

That approval be given these facilities being enabled.

2. Adoption of revised model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported on the need to authorise the amendment of the revised models to control online access to the Council's banking accounts:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the submission of revised models allowing online access for consideration by the Council.

3. Management Accounts 2025-26 – April to June 2025-26

The Council considered the Management Accounts for the period April to June 2025-26: Resolved,

That the accounts for April to June 2025-26 be accepted.

4. Applications for grant aid **- New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group**

Further to Minute C48(2)(2) – 15 July 2025, the Clerk reported the additional information requested from the Borough Council regarding the volunteer contribution by the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group (NCH&E) to vegetation management on public rights of way including the New Cut Canal.

The Public Rights of Way Section supported the contribution made by the NCH&E Trail Group impacting on the public right of way between Weir Lane and Paddington Bank. The group were proactively involved in conservation management within adjacent land at Paddington Meadows and the Ecology Park and were suitably experienced to deploy a range of hand tools and powered equipment including strimmers, long reach hedge cutters and pole saws safely. The group were recognised by the Borough Council's risk and resilience team and the Council's insurance provider covers public liability insurance for group volunteers' activities.

Following consideration of the response from the Borough Council it was Resolved,

That approval be given to a grant of £450 to the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group. *(Councillor Nowell requested that his vote against this decision be recorded).*

- applications for grant aid

Noted no new applications to consider.

5. Parish Council initiative – liaison with local schools

No further information to report.

C64 Reports from members appointed to local bodies

The Council received reports from members who were appointed by the Council or other organisations on local bodies including:

New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor Rydzkowski reported on the provision of two stalls by the group at the Community Fun Day organised by the Poulton with Fearnhead PC on 6 September 2025. Information was published by the group on their website.

Friends of Woolston Park group - Councillor Klein reported that the Group had been requested to provide a report on work undertaken and it was agreed that this be included with the published minutes. *(Please see Appendix for report received on activities)*.

Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell. No meeting held.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C65 Correspondence – communications to the Council

The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter from a resident making a complaint at the lack of a response to communications sent to the Council:

Resolved,

That the Clerk investigate this matter.

C66 Planning Applications and decisions

The Council considered the following planning applications submitted for comment by the Borough Council:

1. Planning Applications and Planning Appeals

FULL PLANNING (MAJOR)

Application No.2025/00952/FULM

Application Type: Full Planning (Major)

Location: Former University of Chester Padgate Campus Crab Lane, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Warrington, WA2 0DB

Proposal: Full Planning Application for the demolition of existing buildings and sports facilities and erection of a residential development of 410 dwellings, inclusive of 2 no. self build plots (Use Class C3) with vehicular access off Crab Lane and Fearnhead Lane, and associated landscaping, public open space, and infrastructure (including primary sub-station)

Borough Ward Poulton North

Parish Council Poulton with Fearnhead

The application included associated mitigation works in Woolston relating to sports facilities.

FULL PLANNING

Application No: 2025/01177/FUL

Application Type: Full Planning

Location: Units 1-4, 31 Chesford Grange WA1 4RQ

Proposal: Change of use of the Site to include Use Class B2 general industrial in addition to permitted Use Class B8 storage and distribution

Application No: 2025/00799/FUL

Application Type: Full Planning

Location: Vodafone, 2 Kingsland Grange, WA1 4RW

Proposal: Plant and security upgrade to existing data and telecommunications facility.

HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT

Application No. 2025/01098/FULH

Application Type: Full Planning - Householder (Householder Development)

Location: 18 Somerset Way, WA1 4LP

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage, erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension, including rendering

Application No. 2025/01117/FULH

Application Type: Full Planning - Householder (Householder Development)

Location: 3 Mancroft Close, WA1 4DH

Proposal: Proposed first floor flat extension

Application No: 2025/00997/FULH

Application Type: Full Planning - Householder (Householder Development)

Location: 2 Suffolk Close WA1 4DB

Proposal: Single storey flat roof rear extension

NOTIFICATION ONLY

Application No: 2025/00953/PA14J

Application Type: Part 14 (Class J) Prior Approval

Location: Britplas Commercial Windows, 18 Kingsland Grange, WA1 4RW

Proposal: Installation of a new Solar PV (Photovoltaics) system on the roof

Application No: 2025/01200/HPA

Application Type: Prior Approval (Householder Rear Extension) (Householder Development)

Location: 15 Hickory Close WA1 4EQ

Proposal: Single storey rear extension to extend beyond the rear wall by 5.65m, height of 2.80m and height of the eaves 2.80m.

Application No: 2025/01197/CLDP

Application Type: Certificate of Lawfulness (Proposed)

Location: 3 Edward Gardens, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QS

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

PLANNING APPEALS

None to report.

2. Planning Application 2025/00614/FUL – land south of Bridge Road – withdrawal of application

The Clerk reported further to Minute C51 – 15 July 2025 Planning Application No. 2025/00614/FUL 25, that the Borough Council had notified the Council that the application had been withdrawn by the Applicant following advice that objections had been received from a number of statutory consultees, including the Highways Authority and the Environment Agency. The consultees responses were all available to view on the Borough Council's website:

Resolved,

That

1. no representations be made in respect of the above applications submitted for consultation;
2. the withdrawal of Planning Application No. 2025/00614/FUL be noted.

C67 Business raised by Council Members – attendance at parish council liaison meetings

Councillor Nowell reported that in the event of the Chairman or other usual nominee being unable to attend, he would be willing to attend a liaison meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire or similar meeting:

Resolved,

That Councillor Nowell be thanked for his offer to be included as a nominee.

C68 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4849	5/8/25	JDH Business Services Ltd	0.00	210.40	Internal Audit fees 2024-25 vat element	
4850	5/8/25	Royal Mail Group Ltd	0.00	445.80	PO Box delivery annual fee	
4851	5/8/25	Employee 1	0.00	462.43	M5 August 2025	
4852	16/9/25	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	66.52	Printing toner 207A & C5 envelopes	
4853	16/9/25	HM Revenue & Customs (Clerk)	0.00	346.80	PAYE months 4 to 6 2025-26	
4854	16/9/25	Employee 1	0.00	462.43	M6 September 2025	

4855	16/9/25	Woolston Church of Ascension	0.00	50.00	Hire of Woolston Mission – meeting 16 September 2025	
4856	16/9/25	New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group	0.00	450.00	Grant for equipment	Yes

C69 Date of next meeting

The Council considered the day and time of the next meeting:

Resolved,

That the Clerk give notice of the date of the next meeting following consultation with all members.

APPENDIX

Woolston August 2025 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Ryan Cunliffe
Neighbourhood Officer PC David Reddington
PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti Social Behaviour

6 Youths (0), environmental (5), personal (1)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

0 Dwelling

0 Other

Criminal Damage

2 1x vehicle; 1x window

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle

7 Theft from vehicle 6x business vehicles, linked

OTHER

- Speed enforcement – Hillock Lane 14 Jul, range observed 16 to 38mph (1@ 38)
- Speed enforcement – Hillock Lane 25 Jul, range observed 16 to 28mph
-
- [Safer Internet Day 2025 Top Tips - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Residents urged to remain vigilant following courier frauds | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- [Over £10m lost to investment fraud in Cheshire in 2024 | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- www.cheshire.police.uk/news/cheshire/news/articles/2025/7/local-policing-newsletters-summer-2025/
-
- For further information and how to download the Hollie Guard App [Cheshire Constabulary](#) and The Hollie Gazzard Trust working together to keep people safe across Cheshire | [Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- To tackle nuisance off-road motorbikes we need the following information – detailed descriptions of the bikes and riders, where the bikes are kept (lock-ups, garage locations), names if possible. Please quote 'Operation Scrambler' when you call Cheshire Police on 101. We continue our patrols and appeal for anyone with information to help us identify these individuals to get in touch (Crimestoppers 0800 555 111)

- The new Warrington Youth Zone opened in Warrington town centre in July 2022, the website provides for further information about membership and sessions
Website: <https://warringtonyouthzone.org>
What's On - Warrington Youth Zone
- The Environment Agency have a 24hr hotline 0800 80 70 60 for members of the public to report matters such as flooding from rivers/streams, poaching/illegal fishing to them
- <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>
- 24/7 mental health crisis lines free to call

North West Boroughs Healthcare has upgraded its existing 24/7 mental health crisis lines to Freephone numbers. This means they are now free to call from both landlines and mobile phones.

The new dedicated phone numbers are:

- 0800 051 1508 for people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington
- 0800 051 3253 for people living in Wigan

The crisis lines provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week to people of all ages, including children and young people, who need urgent mental health support. You do not need to be known to our services to contact our crisis lines; they are available for patients and public.

Please be assured, anyone who dials the original local numbers will still reach our mental health crisis teams first time, without the need to be diverted

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Please advise people reporting an incident/crime to ring Cheshire Constabulary on 101 (999 in case of emergency) so it can be recorded correctly - not via facebook/email

Online Reporting portal is available via the Cheshire Constabulary website to report certain crimes, incidents, issues:-

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

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Useful Links offering advice and information:-

Online safety and advice

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/useful-contacts-for-fraud-cyber-crime-advice/>

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children/>

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Home/Business safety and security information

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/non-residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-from-a-vehicle/vehicle-safe-and-sound/>

Advice to help keep your bicycle safe

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

Whilst the majority of dog owners act responsibly, a few do not always pick up and bin their dog's mess. Residents can use the WBC online reports to provide them with information which could help to identify irresponsible dog owners

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/dog-fouling>

[Leave only pawprints | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/Leave-only-pawprints)

WBC online reporting portal:-

[Report and Apply | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/Report-and-Apply)

If you or someone you know needs advice and support regarding domestic abuse

<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/>

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Schools & other events

Emergency services open day at Birchwood Fire Station

Green Lane school – Class Input

Test purchasing checks conducted – stores across Warrington East

Dr Bike session on Woolston Park (bicycle safety & security)

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments

Face to face drop-in surgeries – 4 Sep 1800 – 1900; 11 Sep 1300 – 1400; 16 Sep 1800 - 1900

Mobile drop in surgeries are advertised on the Warrington East Police Facebook page

Woolston

September 2025 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Ryan Cunliffe

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Vehicle crime

- 3 Theft of vehicle
 - 3 Theft from vehicle 1x attempt
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OTHER

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FRIENDS OF WOOLSTON PARK GROUP

CABIN UPDATE

The Leader of Warrington Council visited the Cabin on the 18th August with Councillor Sheridan. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. Councillor Sheridan in a later discussion informed me that the Leader of The Council was keen to source funding for the cabin

The disabled toilet remains much in need of its roof internally and externally needed some repair as there must be a hole in the roof which is causing internal mildew and water damage

Some of the members have been doing some more small external repairs by refitting new wood after some top wood had been weather damaged over the preceding years. It has also been undercoated and top coated.

FOWP

Our numbers continue to grow having seen five new members join to meet on a Monday morning doing litter picking and cutting back bushes around the Park. Over the last month we have spent a lot of time lowering the Holly hedge and tidying up the Box hedge as well as both have grown steadily over the last few years and we need to now get more light into the garden. We are also doing some weeding on the footpath that surrounds the garden.

We have also planted wildflower seeds outside the cabin which have now produced a wonderful array of colour and smells and support birds, bees and butterflies.

Butterfly, Bat and Bird surveys have also been completed by the team.

On the 18th August we held a fundraiser by the bandstand selling cakes, teas, coffees, plants and bird feeders made by ourselves. We also had a tombola and arranged seating on the field. The weather was overcast but we raised £449.05, which was an incredible amount on the day. All those that supported us through their attendance, help or donations was and is very much appreciated.

A very successful Bat Walk was held on the 27th September in which 14 members of the public attended. Risk Assessment completed for this activity. All money raised was donated to Billinge Bat Rescue. Two more will be organised next year.

Twenty-one bird boxes have now been built by our members, some of which were painted by the Young Friends having received CAWOS funding of £500 recently (Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society). Six of these have now been put up with the rest to follow. Two of these will have endoscopes cameras in situ with there location kept confidential.

Eurofins Forensics staff were unable to be released for the planned sessions in August but the company are still hoping to arrange further volunteer days for their workers in the near future.

Number of hours worked on the Park up until 6th October 2025 = 2398.50 hours. This is the highest number of hours worked by our team in the eleven years that I have been a member of the Friends Group and we still have two months to go.

Due to our increase in numbers we now need to buy more polo shirts and fleece jackets so that all of our members feel important and part of our group. I will therefore be approaching the Parish Council for further financial support in the hope of your support to buy this clothing for our members.

Date of AGM is Monday 13th October at 2.30pm in the cabin. We will also have a meeting following the election of our officers.

YFOWP

Lancashire Wildlife Trust have completed a blog report on their site regarding the Young Friends who fundraised £100 in support of Red Squirrels. This has really promoted the work that the Young Friends are doing on the Park.

Numbers attending have grown to 13 members. and we have recently painted some of the bird boxes and carried out litter picks.

All those that volunteer to work on our park are thanked for their input, which is greatly appreciated. We also appreciate all of the support that the Parish Council also gives to us

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Jon
Chair
FOWP

Chairman.....