

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 25 FEBRUARY 2025

Present: Councillor R Tynan (Chairman)

Councillors: J Hunter, CA Kilgannon, H Klein, D Nowell, G Rushby, S Rydzkowski, L Sheridan

Apologies for absence: Councillors M Banner, CS Wilcock

C129 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

C130 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C131 Apologies for absence

The Chairman reported an apology for absence from Councillor Banner because of family illness.

C132 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2025 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C133 Co-option of members

Further to Minute C116 – 31 January 2025 the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 21 February 2025. The Council reviewed the procedure for filling the vacancies including additional measures to publicise the vacancies:

Resolved,

That

1. the procedure adopted by the Council be continued including the use of additional information on the website;
2. notice be given of the vacancies and applicants be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

C134 Election of Vice Chairman

The Council considered the making of an appointment of Vice Chairman for 2024-25:

Resolved,

That consideration be given at the next meeting.

C135 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

C136 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Clerk reported that a Police representative was unable to attend the meeting for operational reasons. The Council considered the monthly report provided by the Police for March 2025:

Resolved,
That the monthly report for March 2025 be noted.
(Please see appendix for a copy of the report).

C137 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).

Reports from Borough Councillors

Councillor Tynan reported on his attendance at attended a consultation event held by Warrington Primary Academy Trust on changing the Bruche Primary Academy School on Seymour Drive into an All Through School for ages 2 to 16 years from September 2026. This would create a new two form entry secondary school. He had also attended in his role as Chairman of the Council as a nearby parish council consultee. Councillor Sheridan reported on the proposed half mile limit for the school catchment area and on action to improve to road safety.

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 C121 – 21 January 2025). No further information to report.

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.

C138 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

Parish Path Warden scheme – condition report

Councillor Nowell reported on matters relating to public footpaths and on issues that had been reported to the Borough Council:

New Cut Canal towpath – deterioration of the edge of the tarmac path alongside the canal particularly on a lengthy section near Weir Lane. Similar repair works were needed in November 2020 along lengths of the path. Concern had been posted on local social media at the poor state of the path. Photographs were available for the Clerk for reference purposes.

Moss Brow – path diversion by the Borough Council – no further information to report.

Resolved,
That

1. the Borough Council be requested to carry out an urgent inspection of the towpath and the issue be formally raised at the Public Rights of Way Forum;
2. the Borough Council be asked to report on action proposed for the diversion of the path at Moss Brow.

Woolston Deposit Ground No.1 – status of development

Further to Minute C122(1) – 21 January 2025 the Clerk reported that no further information had been received from the Borough Council:

Resolved,

That the Borough Council be requested to provide an update on this matter.

Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park

Further to Minute C122(1) – 21 January 2025 the Council noted that no further information had been received on repairs to the Ranger Cabin. Fund raising was continuing by groups towards the cost of repair work.

Battery Lane Allotment site – maintenance of access track to the site

Further to Minute C122(1) – 21 January 2025 the Clerk reported that the Battery Lane Allotment Association (BLAA) had completed had a trial of the work methods to be used to repair potholes on the communal path within the allotment site. A work plan was to be prepared by BLAA for repairs to the track:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

(2) Finance and General Committee

Parish council – liaison with local schools

Further to Minute C122(2) – 21 January 2025, the Clerk reported that details had been supplied of the contact to discuss liaison with Kings Leadership Academy on the proposal for liaison with schools:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and approval be given to discussions with the school on the way forward.

Banking arrangements – authorised signatories

The Council noted that the process of updating the Council's account to update signatories had been completed:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be noted;
2. a review of the number signatories for the Council's bank accounts be approved.

Applications for grant aid – pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Council considered an application from St Peter's and St Michael's Church for a contribution to the fund for the pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2025:

Resolved,

That approval be given to a grant of £350.

C139 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 his attendance at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 January 2025. A slide presentation had been given on

Paddington Meadows through the past year. Details of future events were published on the internet. Members raised concerns at the riding of scrambler bikes and electric bikes along the towpath and through Paddington Meadows. It was noted that incidents could be reported to the Police as part of their Operation Scrambler initiative.

- Friends of Woolston Park group – Councillor Klein - no matters to report. Councillor Kilgannon reported that Warrington Sea Cadets had been made aware of the group.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C140 Correspondence – consultation and information

Wildflower planting scheme 2025

The Clerk reported details from the Borough Council on the invitation to parish councils to support the planting of flower meadows. The scheme had been supported in 2024 in the grassed area adjacent old Manchester Road. Provision had been made in the budget for 2025-26:

Resolved,

That approval be given to support the scheme in the sum of £500 as agreed for the year 2024 for planting in the grassed area adjacent to old Manchester Road.

Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature recovery strategy and Carbon Literacy training

The Council noted details of the Local Nature strategy and on Carbon Literacy training that included parish councils:

Resolved,

That information on training be provided to members.

C141 Planning Applications and decisions

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

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
FULL PLANNING		
2024/01318/FUL	Woolston CP school, Barnfield Road	Installation of new and relocation of existing perimeter fencing
FULL PLANNING HOUSEHOLDER		
2024/00167/FULH	5 Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Single storey front and side extension

Resolved,

That no objections or representations be submitted in respect of the above applications.

C142 Business raised by Council Members

Woolston Neighbourhood Hub – Woolston Surgery

Councillor Rydzkowski reported concern on the condition of the rooms used by the Padgate Medical Centre for the Woolston Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub. The Practice Manager had contacted Warrington Borough Council, as landlord, identifying the issues requiring urgent action including:

- Leaks to the roof leading to concern in providing Primary Care Services to patients having regard to infection control and health and safety risks.
- Recent periods of heavy rainfall had caused one of the three consulting rooms and one of the reception desks to be taken out of use.
- Risks posed to patients who have open wounds, those with respiratory conditions and those who are immunosuppressed.
- Concern for the safety of patients and staff when floors are wet and slippery.

The assistance given by the LiveWire staff where possible had been acknowledged.

Resolved,

That the Chief Executive be requested to review the action being taken by officers to ensure that the Woolston Surgery can continue to deliver medical services to the community.

C143 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not Recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4812	25/02/25	Employee 1	0.00	462.23	M11 February 2025	
4813	25/02/25	Warrington BC	0.00	1874.82	Christmas tree 2024 supply, install and remove	
4814	25/02/25	Councillor R Tynan	0.00	500.00	Chairman's allowance 2024/25	

C144 Date of next meeting

The Council considered the date of the next meeting:

Resolved,

That the next meeting be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 25 March 2025.

APPENDIX

Woolston February 2025 - Monthly Parish report

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

Anti Social Behaviour

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

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

0 Dwelling

0 Other

Criminal Damage

0

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

2 Theft from vehicle Business vehicle - parts

OTHER

- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 23/01/25 – 16 to 25mph
- Speed monitoring Gig Lane 08/02/25 – 15 to 32mph (1 @ 32mph)
- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 13/02/25 – 18 to 31mph (1 @ 31)
- Bike marking sessions – 17 Jan, 23 Jan
- Warrington officers work with local partner organisations for youth safety operation | Cheshire Constabulary
- More than 1,750 people arrested in Cheshire throughout Christmas period | Cheshire Constabulary
- <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/cheshire/local-policing-newsletters/winter-2024-25/warrington-east-newsletter-winter-24-25.pdf>
- 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>
- 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/>

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>

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

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
Woolston CE Primary – Internet Safety input
St Peters Primary – Internet Safety
Woolston CP – Internet Safety

Surgery
Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments
Face to face drop-in surgeries – 18 Feb 1800 – 1900; 27 Feb 1800 – 1900; 7 Mar 1100 – 1200; 12 Mar 1800 - 1900
Mobile drop in surgeries are advertised on the Rixton & Woolston Police Facebook page

Chairman.....