

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 13 JULY 2022

Present: Councillor D Hill (Chairman)
Councillors: M Banner, AJ Hill, J Greenslade, MH Greenslade, A McCarthy,
D Nowell, M Pearce, R Tynan

Apologies for absence: Councillor M Czekalski, J Dixon, S Rydzkowski

C33 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C34 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence from Councillors Czekalski, through ill health, Councillor Dixon on business, and from Councillor Rydzkowski on Borough Council business were noted.

C35 Minutes of the previous meetings

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C36 Matters of report from previous minutes - Borough Council business

Further to Minute C26 – 29 June 2022, Councillor McCarthy requested that consideration be given to the introduction of an Action List for members to track matters reported to the Borough Council and other matters. This would allow the issues reported by the Borough Ward Councillors and had not been resolved or responded to be monitored:

Resolved,

That the Clerk be asked to produce a format for an Action List in consultation with the Borough Ward Councillors.

C37 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

PC J Brennan attended the meeting to present a report on the policing of Woolston for July 2022. PCSO had responded to concern raised by the Council and Borough Ward Councillors relating to speeding on Gig Lane. The speed of vehicles on Gig Lane had been monitored but no excessive speeds had been observed; the result of future observations would be reported. The Borough Council was responsible for traffic monitoring ribbons:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and PC Brennan be thanked for his attendance and the report on action taken regarding Gig Lane be noted and kept under review.

(Please see appendix for report).

C38 Borough Council business

Borough Councillor Hill reported 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. Borough Councillors Dixon and Eastty had provided reports of matters they had acted on since the last meeting. (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).

Report from Councillor Dixon

The trimming of the hedge and the cleaning of the slit grids on Manchester Rd, as requested by Cllr McCarthy last meeting, has been asked for. Several residents have raised issues about hedges across Woolston and these have been actioned.

The situation with Abingdon Avenue has been escalated as per my email to the Clerk. I will be meeting or calling with Dave Vasey an officer connected to this.

The Woolston Park 10km was an excellent event and I myself took part. There were around 250 entrants and Warrington Runners, who ran the event, deserve full praise and thanks for their excellent organisation and spirit, as they are all volunteers. Thanks to the Borough Council for allowing the event to go ahead.

The drainage issue on Dam Lane has been confirmed – the works were indeed carried out, but I have asked them to review the grids themselves in any case.

There is a full Council meeting coming up and then there will be a break for August. On the whole, there has not been too much activity since the last meeting due to the proximity of the parish council meetings.

Report sent to Police on the speed and volume of vehicles on Gig Lane causing hazard to road safety.

Please do contact me if you would like anything actioning and accept my apologies this evening due to a long-standing commitment in London.

Poulton Crescent former play area – the Chief Executive has been asked to investigate the complaint regarding the former play area. (It has been requested 3 times already from the department involved).

Report from Councillor Eastty

Action taken on reports of speeding on Gig Lane.

Nothing further to add to issues contained in Councillor Dixon's report.

Councillor Hill

- Baron Close – issues with drainage reported to the Borough Council and United Utilities plc appear to have been resolved.
- Dam Lane – reports of flooding to properties made by residents to the Borough Council under investigation.
- Request made to cut hedgerow back along footpath from Warren Lane to Hall Road.
- Woolston Park - request made to Borough Council to cut back overgrown trees following report from residents. Councillor McCarthy reported that previously, Torus had maintained the length of path on the west side and the Borough Council the east side.

Councillor Hill was asked to report the following to the Borough Council:

- Trees overgrown adjacent to outbound bus stop adjacent to Woolston Social Club, Manchester Road.

- Grassed area at junction of Grey Mist Avenue with Manchester Road – area overgrown and litter.

Resolved,
That the reports and action taken be noted.

C39 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 matters relating to public footpaths and on issues that had been reported to the Borough Council:

- Giant Hogweed on the path leading to Woolston Eyes. Noted that this was the responsibility of Pell Holdings plc to maintain. It was noted that the Borough Council had stated several years ago that a policy was to be developed on action regarding Giant Hogweed; the Borough Ward Councillors were asked to request details of the current position on this matter.
- New Cut Trail – vegetation cut back to provide cladding. Noted that the vegetation was continuing to be cut back rather than allowing it to grow back as was previously understood would be allowed to happen.

Resolved,
That the report be noted and the Borough Ward Councillors be requested to follow up on the matters relating to the Borough Council.

2. Development of “Old Billy” scheme

Further to the report to the Council (Minute C27(1) 2. - 29 June 2022) the Clerk reported that following consultation with Culture Warrington on work to finalise the scheme direct contact had been made by the Council with the proposed supplier of the signage for the scheme. Details of costings had been requested for the designs provided by Culture Warrington. This would then allow consultation to proceed with Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group who were to be invited to participate in the project. No further details had been received from the Borough Council on the submission of their bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund:

Resolved,
That the report of the Clerk on progress with the “Old Billy” scheme be noted.
(Councillor Banner declared a non-pecuniary interest by reason of being Chair of Culture Warrington)

3. Facilities for young people – progress report

Further to Minute C27(2) 3. – 29 June 2022 the Clerk reported that details had been provided to the Kings Leadership Academy on the responses received from the Borough Council’s

Outreach Team and the Police relating to initiatives to remedy anti-social behaviour (ASB) by young people:

Resolved,

That further consideration be given to the action to be taken when a response is received from the Kings Leadership Academy.

4. Battery Lane allotment site – management matters

The Council noted that monthly inspections of all plots at the site were being held with the Battery Lane Allotment Association and action taken as required on issues identified.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Coronavirus pandemic

The Clerk reported on current Government guidance on the conduct of council business during the Coronavirus pandemic:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the delegation of action to the Clerk to the Council, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the chairs of the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee or their nominees, with the authority to deal with any urgent matters arising before the next meeting of the Council.

2. Remembrance Sunday 2022 – event planning

The Council noted that work was proceeding on the production of the Event Management Plan (Minute C27(2) 4. – 29 June 2022.

3. Register of Members' interests – periodic review

Members were asked to review the current details and to update details as appropriate.

4. Applications for grant aid

No applications to be considered.

C40 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 J Greenslade – the quarterly meeting scheduled for July had not been held. Information was published by the group on their website and details were reported highlighting current topics including the bat walk on 28 August 2022.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce (please see appendix). Members thanked Councillor Pearce for her detailed report.

- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) liaison meeting with parish councils at the Town Hall, 31 May 2022 – Further to Minute C28 – 29 June 2022 Councillor J Greenslade reported further details on the meeting that he had attended the meeting on behalf of the Chairman.

The full copy for 2021 - 2024 of the Crime Plan is available on: [police-and-crime-plan-2021-24.pdf \(cheshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://cheshire-pcc.gov.uk). A hard copy can be acquired by emailing pcc@cheshire.police.uk and the plan also has an audio version.

Some reference was made at the meeting to page 11 of the report and this page highlights the priorities for policing and crime.

Some facts that were included on the night were:

101 telephone system not good for purpose causing people to dial 999 in frustration, as waiting time has been about 6 minutes at times;
999 calls answered within 6 seconds;

Twitter accounts have been set up for Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers, with Facebook and Instagram used as secondary media.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C41 Correspondence – consultation and information – Peel Port Bridge Reference Group

The Clerk reported that Peel Ports were planning to undertake refurbishment works to the Stockton Heath swing bridge with work to begin in April 2023. Parish councils were asked to indicate if they wished to be considered for appointment of a representative to the group:

Resolved,

That no nomination be made.

– Proposed dog control public spaces protection order

The Council gave consideration to the submission of comments as part of the public consultation in respect of the draft public space protection order. Councillor Nowell reported on action taken by the police relating to the control of dogs on the Woolston Eyes SSSI site regarding the control of dogs; action could be taken against dog owners on the land during the breeding season for birds:

Resolved,

That no submission be made.

C42 Planning Applications and decisions

The Council considered the following planning applications and details of appeals submitted for comment by the Borough Council:

Applications for consideration at the meeting:

Application reference:2022/41649

Application Type: Householder Prior Approval

Location: 2 Wentworth Avenue, Woolston, Warrington
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Notification for information only

Notice of planning appeals:

Application reference: 2022/39166
Location: ARMADILLO SELF STORAGE, 73 MANCHESTER ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AE
Proposal: Full Planning – Proposed replacement 2.44m gate and fence
Appellant Name: C/o Agent Clara Rands
Appeal Reference: APP/MO655/W/22/3295135
Appeal start date: 30 June 2022
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

Resolved,
That the report be noted.

C43 Recess Committee

Resolved,
That approval be given to the appointment of a Recess Committee with a membership of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and the chairs of the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee, or their nominees, with the authority to deal with any urgent business arising before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

C44 Business raised by Council Members **– matters referred to the Borough Council**

Councillor McCarthy reported on issues reported to the Borough Council by Borough Councillor Dixon where no action had been taken eg:

1. Surfacing of the path to the Woolston Playing Fields. It was important that the work was completed before the winter period further to the site meeting held with officers.
2. Access to the Grange Employment Area from Gig Lane – the Borough Council had reported that the route was to be improved for access by pedestrians but the scheme had not been implemented.
3. Review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane, Dam Lane and Gig Lane – consultation had taken place with the Borough Ward Councillors but no further action had been taken. The Borough Ward Councillors were asked to request the officers to provide a progress report.

Resolved,
That Councillor Dixon be asked to contact the Borough Council again regarding these issues.

– condition of tree at Runnymede

Councillor M Greenslade reported on the poor condition of the tree planted by the former MP for Warrington North and suggested that it be removed:

Resolved,
That this matter be reported to the Borough Council.

– Operation of the ferry from Woolston to Thelwall

Councillor Nowell reported that the new ferry boat operation had not been commenced across the Manchester Ship Canal following the reported change to a motor boat service:

Resolved,
That Peel Holdings plc be requested to provide details regarding the operation of this public service.

– Warrington Worldwide article – report on planning objection

Councillor Nowell reported on a recent article published on Warrington Worldwide on the determination of planning application reference:2021/39561, land at Woolston Deposit Ground No 1, south of the River Mersey. The article had been amended from that appearing in the Warrington Guardian on the same topic relating to the objections made by the council to this application:

Resolved,
That the information be noted.

C45 Accounts

Resolved,
That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4614	30/05/22	John Lewis Partnership (Clerk)	0.00	489.00	Apple iPhone 11 (replace cheque 4613 £629.00)	
4615	30/05/22	Costco (Clerk)	0.00	359.98	HP Colour Laser Jet printer Pro MFP	
4625	13/07/22	27 th Warrington (Woolston) Scout Group	0.00	50.00	Grant – 2023 World Scout Jamboree, South Korea	Yes
4626	13/07/22	Live Wire CIC	0.00	33.60	Woolston Hub room hire 18 May 2022	
4627	13/07/22	Friends of Woolston Park	0.00	500.00	Grant for equipment and supplies	Yes

4628	13/07/22	Post Office Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	6.85	PKF Littlejohn return 2021- 22	
4629	13/07/22	Costco Wholesale UK Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	25.78	HP Premium paper	
4630	13/07/22	Employee 1	0.00	109.04	National salary award 2021-22 back pay to June 2022	

APPENDIX

Woolston

July 2022 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam

Neighbourhood Officer PC Jack Brennan

PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti Social Behaviour

4 Youths (3), environmental (0), personal (1)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic, Covid issues

Burglary

1 Dwelling Car/key - Burglary Team investigating

1 Other Business premise

Criminal Damage

1

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

Burglary team are investigating a spate of car/key burglaries across Warrington and working with other forces

Patrols continue covering various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car park, Woolston Eyes & New

Cut Canal Path

Operation Stay Safe – safeguarding operation planned across Warrington visiting parks and open

spaces – officers patrolling areas in partnership with social care, health, outreach workers

Bicycle marking session at Woolston Hub took place 3 Jul (future dates to be arranged)

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>

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).

Coronavirus Pandemic – Up to date guidance/advice on social distancing and social interactions

is available on the Government website:- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

24/7 mental health crisis lines now 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 3253 for people living in Wigan

☐ 0800 051 1508 for people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington
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. However, calls made to the original numbers will be charged.

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/twitter/email
Online Reporting 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>

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

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

Schools & other events

Where commitments/shifts permit high vis patrols during start or dispersal periods around the

various schools on our beat

Emergency Services Open Day at Birchwood Fire Station 17 July

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates to be confirmed

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES FOR FOWP – JULY 2022

Monday 4 July – FOWP Work Day

There was a shortage of volunteers today. Just 6 volunteers plus the lady and son who do a 1 hour a week as part of the boys D of E education. One working in and around the cabin, another litter picking, I did a short litter pick too along the road to the park then helped the handyman and another lady to continue putting the wood lattes around the base of the little garden. Weather permitting it will be finished at the next work day. I was taught how to use an electric drill properly too and am sure it will come in very useful for me.

Saturday 9 July – YFOWP

It wasn't a work day for the young Friends, it was a special occasion as a thank you to them for all they have achieved throughout the year. We'd arranged a visit to Walton Hall and Gardens to walk the Alpaca. There were 5 adults and 7 children and even the weather was perfect. It was a wonderful experience and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit. The Zoo Ranger was so very knowledgeable about the Alpaca and knew just about everything to do with the Hall, gardens, staff etc from beginning to end. The walk was split into 3 sections, all the children got to walk an Alpaca successfully. The 3 youngest got the first section of the walk, followed by the next 3 and the eldest plus 2 adults, one being me got the last section of the walk. The walk alone was lovely but the Alpaca were just amazing wonderful animals. After we had taken the Alpaca back to their day area the children were able to look at some of the other animals/birds and some went in the play areas. Definitely a day to remember. There will be some photos on the Friends website shortly.

Chairman.....