

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 26 APRIL 2023**

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

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors M Czekalski, S Rydzkowski,  
Borough Councillor P Eastty

### **C114 Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting and on behalf of the Council welcomed the announcement that Father Mark Drew had been appointed this month as the resident parish priest to St Peter's and St Michael's RC Church.

### **C115 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest** **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C116 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor M Czekalski, attending an event on climate change in London, S Rydzkowski, on holiday and Borough Councillor P Eastty, family illness.

### **C117 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C118 Matters of report from previous minutes**

#### **- Policing of Woolston (Minute C106)**

The Police had response to the requests for information at the last meeting:

1. Riding of scrambler bike  
Reports had been logged to Cheshire Police regarding scrambler bikes on Woolston Park. The off-road motorbike unit were aware of the location and they were operational across Warrington East during April.
2. Gathering of youths adjacent to the pond with music and an open fire  
No reports had been made to Cheshire Police but the incident may have been reported to the County Fire service. It was noted that the incident had been sited on the western side of the brook adjacent to the pond.

#### **- Committee matters (Minute C108) - Dam Lane Shopping precinct**

A report had been made to the Borough Council of damage to the knee rail fence in the highway verge on Dam Lane opposite the shopping precinct.

- **Business raised by Council Members (Minute C112) - complaints regarding litter at Aston Court and Greys Court**

A report had been made to the Borough Council regarding litter in the hedgerow of Woolston Park opposite Aston Court and Greys Court.

**C119 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report**

The Council considered the monthly report for April 2023. The Clerk reported that PCSO Roberts was unable to attend the meeting and any matters raised by the meeting would be reported to the Police:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be noted;
2. the Police be asked to be represented at the next meeting.

**C120 Borough Council business**

To receive reports from Borough Ward 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 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 made to the Borough Council were also reviewed.

1. Borough Councillor reports

Holiday Inn hotel, Manchester Road

The parish council were made aware of the proposed use by the Home Office of the hotel for housing asylum seekers through information in the local media on 24 April 2023.

Borough Councillor Eastty had contacted the Chief Executive and had been informed that a briefing for members was to be arranged. Borough Councillors Hill and Tynan reported that they had received similar information from the Chief Executive.

Councillor Hill reported that he had spoken to Charlotte Nicholls, MP for Warrington North who had confirmed that she had written to the Home Secretary making it clear that the hotel was not considered to be an appropriate facility.

Councillor Tynan had issued a media statement and reported that he was writing to the Home Secretary to ask that she reviews this decision.

The Council expressed their concern at not being informed or consulted and agreed to consider action following the briefing to be made to the Borough Ward Councillors.

- Councillor Hill

Reports had been made to Council officers on complaints regarding:

- potholes in the road. A request was made to fill the pothole at the entry of the path from Gordon Avenue to Margaret Avenue and on the A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the junction with Redwood Close.
- cleaning of the path from Monroe Close to Holes Lane.
- cutting back of the hedgerow on the path from Hall Road to Warren Lane.

## 2. Reports made to the Borough Council

1. Borough Council review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane – to review action on the response from the Director of Transport and Environment.  
The Council considered further action to be taken following the response made by the Borough Council (Minute C65 9 November 2022 – Borough Council business). It was noted that speed restrictions, such as 20MPH zones in areas where schools were located, were in force at areas across the Borough and there was considered to be a need for these in Woolston. Councillor Hill agreed to speak to Borough Council officers to express concern on the response received and seek further consideration of suggested restrictions to improve road safety.
2. Dam Lane – flooding to footpaths and gardens  
The Council noted that the Borough Council had provided information on works to Dam Lane as follows:  
Gully cleansing was undertaken which identified a number as slow running gully's. This resulted in the following additional investigations and works being undertaken:
  - a. outside no 2 New gully pot installed, partial blockage on system found to be an old football in the carrier main; this was removed and the gully runs freely.
  - b. outside no 25 New gully pot installed, main traced across the road into a combined United Utilities sewer line outside no 14a, found partial collapse on sewer line and passed to United Utilities to repair, gully now runs freely.
  - c. outside no 14a New gully pot installed, main traced into a combined United Utilities sewer line outside no 14a; found partial collapse on sewer line and passed to United Utilities to repair; gully now runs freely.
  - d. outside no 33 New gully pot installed; main traced across the road into the same combined United Utilities sewer that runs in the carriageway outside no 14a; the collapse on this had been repaired at the time of these works; gully now runs freely.
3. Surfacing of the path to Woolston Playing Fields – Councillor Tynan agreed to request a site meeting with officers.
4. Estate Agent boards in the highway verge, A57 Manchester Road  
A report had been made to the Borough Council following a complaint from a resident regarding two Estate boards being sited in the highway verge on the A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the entrance to Battery Lane. A response had been received from a Planning Enforcement Officer in the Public Protection Section that one sign had been removed and the relevant Estate Agent had undertaken to remove the remaining sign.
5. A57 Manchester Road – maintenance of trees  
No further information to report. (Minute C107 29 March 2023 – Borough Council business).

Resolved,

That the reports be noted and approval given to the action proposed.

## **C121 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 rights of way:

1. New Cut Canal towpath – reports of Giant Hogweed in the length to Weir Lane. Japanese Knotweed reported in the length alongside the premises of Omega Scaffolding.
2. The litter bin at the point near to the access path to Greymist Avenue had been returned to the towpath after being reported to be in the canal.

#### **2. Development of “Old Billy” scheme**

Further to the report to the Council (Minute C108(1) 2. – 29 March 2023) Culture Warrington had provided a digital copy of the artwork to the Borough Council. When the amendments had been completed the scheme could proceed to formal consultation:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

*(Councillor Banner declared a non-pecuniary interest by reason of being Chair of Culture Warrington)*

#### **3. Dam Lane Shopping Precinct**

Councillor J Greenslade reported on the need for additional cleaning to the paved areas to remove chewing gum deposits:

Resolved,

That a report be made to the landlord’s agent.

#### **4. Tree maintenance, Martinscroft Green – appointment of consultant**

Further to Minute C108 (1) 5. – 29 March 2023 the Clerk reported that the contractor had carried out the tree work identified on the survey from The Environment Partnership Ltd who had confirmed that the work been completed:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

#### **5. Woolston Playing Fields – management arrangements with the Borough Council for public use of the playing fields**

The Council considered the continuation of the management arrangements with the Borough Council for public use of the playing fields. The Clerk reported that responsibility for the management of the playing fields had been with the Borough Council from 1 September 2012 following the closure of the High School. Discussions with the Borough Council had been

delayed on the future use and management of the playing fields and the associated impact on the Hillock Lane amenity area because of the Covid-19 emergency and other matters:

Resolved,  
That

1. approval be given to the continuation of the current arrangements with Warrington BC for the management of public use of Woolston Playing Fields for 2023-24;
2. the Borough Council be requested to recommence discussions on the future use and management of the playing fields.

#### **6. Hillock Lane amenity area – entrance barrier to car park**

The Clerk reported on damage to the entrance barrier that had been provided by the contractor during construction of the Kings Leadership Academy. The need for this had been reduced following the installation of a height barrier to prevent commercial and other vehicles from entering the parking area:

Resolved,

That costs be obtained for (1) repairs to the barrier and (2) providing a gated barrier to the entrance similar to the design of the height barrier before proceeding with works.

#### **7. Battery Lane allotment site – management matters**

The Clerk reported that following the death of a tenant an application had been made by his son, who had acted as a working partner for many years to support his elderly father, to become tenant of the plot. The application did not meet the residence criteria.

The Battery Lane Allotment Association had requested the Council to approve the application in this instance only in view of the exceptional length of time the plot had been well maintained; this view was reported by the Association to be widely supported by other tenants:

Resolved,

That having regard to the circumstances and the support of the Battery Lane Allotment Association the application be approved.

#### **(2) Finance and General Committee**

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

The Clerk reported and the Council noted current Government guidance on the conduct of council business during the Coronavirus pandemic.

##### **2. Report on action under the scheme of delegation**

The Council noted that no decisions had been required under the scheme of delegation approved for undertaking business during the Covid 19 pandemic since the last meeting.

### **3. Review and publication of the Register of Members' interests**

Further to Minute C108 (2) 3. – 29 March 2023 the Council noted that each members declaration was to be published following the completion of the review of the current declaration by members. Any declarations that were changed would be supplied to the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer.

### **4. Applications for grant aid – to consider applications**

The Clerk reported that details had been supplied to a local organisation following a request for information on the submission an application for grant aid. The application related to current and proposed activities:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and consideration be given when an application is received.

### **5. Arrangements for planting in the Jubilee Garden in Woolston Park in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II**

Further to Minute C108 (2) 29 March 2023 the Council considered the recommendations of the Friends of Woolston Park Group on the planting of rose bushes in the Jubilee Garden. Details of any plaque to mark the planting would need further consultation with the Borough Council:

Resolved,

That approval be given to proceed with the planting in the Jubilee Garden as proposed.

### **C122 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 reported on the work of the group. No meeting had been held and it was noted that information was published by the group on their website. A report had been made of a fire on Paddington Meadows causing harm to wildlife and vegetation in the area.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce for March and April 2023 (please see appendix). Members recorded their thanks to Councillor Pearce. Councillor Tynan was congratulated on achieving a donation for the group from Warrington Lions.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.
- Annual Parish Meeting 26 April 2023 – no matters to consider.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

### **C123 Correspondence – consultation and information - preconsultation – proposed radio base station installation at WAR 25997 Holes Lane**

The Council considered details from CEP Telecoms Ltd acting on behalf of the mobile telecommunications operator CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd on the proposal to instal a

radio base station. The views of the Council were requested before any planning application was made:

Resolved,

That the Council strongly support the siting of the scheme on the industrial estate and away from residential areas, including the proposed location at Holes Lane. Similar installations had been sited on the industrial estate and it was disappointing that this option had not been considered by the company rather than public open space.

### **C124 Planning Applications and results of appeals**

#### **- planning applications**

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

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
<b>FULL PLANNING</b>		
2023/00207/FUL	21-23 Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Proposed two additional apartments on the ground floor and changes to the car park entrance REF:2021/39532
2023/00328/FUL	Williams Tarr Construction, Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Erection of nine dwellings, access, landscaping and associated works following site clearance.
<b>FULL PLANNING-HOUSEHOLDER (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)</b>		
2023/00267/FULH	5 Alder Road WA1 4EJ	Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
2023/00327	8 Berwick Close WA1 4DX	Garage conversion and extension, including alterations to front elevation and extension of porch. First floor extension over garage. Demolition of existing conservatory replace with single storey rear extension, also internal remedial works.
2022/41717	6 Edward Gardens WA1 4QT	Proposed single storey extension to rear of garage.
<b>HOUSEHOLDER PRIOR APPROVAL</b>		<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY</b>
2023/00400/HPA	10 Greymist Avenue WA1 4AR	Single storey flat roofed extension.

PART 16 (CLASS A) PRIOR APPROVAL		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2023/00521/PA16A	Land at Manchester Road, WA14DF	Installation of monopole and associated works
PLANNING APPEALS		
None to report.		

Further to Minute C108(1) 10. - 29 March 2023 the Council considered application 2023/00521/PA16A for land at Manchester Road from the Borough Council notified for information only. In response to the pre-consultation the company had been informed of the Councils request that the radio base installation be sited on the adjacent industrial estate and away from residential properties. No response had been received and there appeared to be no opportunity provided by the Borough Council to comment on the planning application:

Resolved,  
That

1. in respect of application 2023/00521/PA16A , and recent similar applications for radio masts, the Borough Ward Councillors be requested to obtain details of the process relating to applications of this type notified by the Borough Council for information only;
  2. no comments be submitted in respect of the applications listed subject to consideration of any matters raised.
- **Procedure for consultation on the discharge of conditions to planning applications**

Further to Minute C111 29 March 2023 the Borough Council had confirmed that the Council would receive notifications in respect of application 2021/39561 - Land at Deposit Ground No.1, south of the River Mersey regarding Discharge of Conditions should any be received by the Borough Council in the future:

Resolved,  
That the report be noted.

### **C125 Business raised by Council Members**

No matters to report.

### **C126 Accounts**

Resolved,  
That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4679	26/4/23	St Peters Lourdes Fund	0.00	350.00	Grant to assist organising pilgrimage 2023.	Yes



4680	26/4/23	Warrington BC	0.00	336.00	Christmas lights installation and removal 2022	
4681	26/4/23	LiveWire CIC	0.00	42.00	Room hire 29 March 2023	
4682	26/4/23	The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd	0.00	617.00	Martinscroft Tree works administration	
4683	26/4/23	Holly Oak Tree Services Ltd.	0.00	1500.00	Martinscroft Green tree works	
4684	26/4/23	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	0.00	1510.87	Annual fee 2023-24	
4685	26/4/23	Microsoft (Clerk)	0.00	79.99	Annual software licence 2023-24	

## APPENDIX

Woolston

April 2023 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam

Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor

PCSO Bethan Roberts

### **Anti Social Behaviour**

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

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

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### **Burglary**

0 Dwelling

2 Other Business/parts

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### **Criminal Damage**

1 1x vehicle

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### **Vehicle crime**

1 Theft of vehicle Attempt

0 Theft from vehicle

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### **OTHER**

- Drugs warrant executed in Woolston area 16/03; 1x arrest
- Operation Scrambler – across Warrington East 08/04/23
- Operation Stay Safe – safeguarding operation in progress across Warrington visiting parks and open spaces, areas of repeat anti social behaviour – officers patrolling areas in partnership with social care, health, outreach workers
- The new Warrington Youth Zone opened in Warrington town centre in July, 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>
- 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.

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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/twitter/email

Online Reporting 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 many 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/>

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**Schools & other events**

Schools – liaised with schools regarding talks/visits

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**Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES - APRIL 2023 - FOWP REPORT

### Monday 27 March - FOWP Work Day

A nice sunny morning and pleasant for working outdoors. Nine volunteers attended and two more arrived at lunchtime to work in the Jubilee Garden. Two of our new Friends managed to remove a supermarket trolley, a heavy cone and several footballs out of the pond via the bridge. Two others went off litter picking, one was preparing notices in the cabin for the Eggstravaganza event on 13 April. The same couple who rescued the supermarket trolley together with our handyman, planted two trees for the Queen. At that time we believed they were for the Queen and later found out those trees were donated to us by the Council. At the time I had hoped to be involved with planting of the trees but at the same time I was re-planting snow drops plus possibly a few bluebells accidentally, as they are so alike to snowdrops when not in flower. By the time I'd planted them the trees were already in place. There were two others who regularly do good work around the park.

### Saturday 1 April - YFOWP

While we waited for the Young Friends to arrive two of the children came with me to feed the birds and they tried so hard to get the Robin to eat from their hand, he got so close but didn't trust them enough. When we arrived back at the cabin there were just three young girls, three parents and four of the Friends. It was a nice day and we just did a simple straightforward litter picking.

### Monday 3 April - FOWP Work Day

Eight attended for this work day. It was mostly litter picking because there was an area in one of the woodlands with a large amount of rubbish, a wheelbarrow was stacked high with rubbish and plenty more of the Friends carrying large amounts too.

### Monday 19 April - Bank Holiday

The volunteers had a break this time.

### Thursday 13 April - Eggstravaganza

The Eggstravaganza was once again a big hit. A good turnout of FOWP getting everything organised. A nice sunny afternoon too. Lots of young children thoroughly enjoying themselves doing various crafts i.e., dressing up bonnets, painting items such as hard boiled eggs, cards, making cardboard baskets. All doing their own thing. There were children from local nurseries, parents, friends etc. Later we hid eggs in the woodland and the children went in there to find them. They gave the eggs to Jon and came over to me for chocolates as a reward. To end the occasion, we pulled out raffle numbers and they chose their own prizes. Yet again lots of smiles all around. The FOWP volunteers worked wonders.

### Friday 21 April- Ingevity Volunteered

Ingevity have once again offered their help. This time to celebrate the "World Earth Day" event. I understand nine people worked on the park. Some in the Jubilee Garden and some litter picking. Also, Ingevity were helping children from the C of E School to do litter picking. I've since been told there were 32 children plus teachers. I didn't attend the morning session but did join the group on the allotment in the afternoon. There were six Ingevity staff plus three FOWP including myself. It was all hard work digging part of the area that had not been touched before and the roots were strong and packed solid. Due to the warmer weather these weeds are thriving. We need to keep working those areas. Fortunately, the large raised beds have a good base to deter weeds and are now more or less weed free. There is another area with potatoes in and generally potato sown tend to clear the soil from many

weeds. Ingeivity have given the FOWP quite a lot of their time on several occasions and given donations too. The FOWP really do appreciate their generosity.

Monday 24 April - FOWP Work Day

Nine people attended, two of which were from the Auto Trader company and they came to offer their help by working in the park. They certainly worked well. One was clearing debris around the Jubilee Garden, it looks so much tidier now and the other was cutting back overgrown shrubs then clearing lots of weeds from the grassed area that were spreading out over the pathway. Again, very neat and tidy. Two others also worked in the Jubilee Garden and another five including myself litter picked. A lady who had been walking through the park, returned and left £50 as a donation to help the FOWP. That was such a lovely surprise at the end of the morning knowing there are such nice kind people appreciating what the FOWP do. I'm sure all the Friends will be most grateful and thank her thank her very much for her kindness.

Chairman.....