

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

Present: Councillor R Tynan (Chairman)

Councillors: H Klein, D Nowell, G Rushby, S Rydzkowski, L Sheridan, C Wilcock

Apologies for absence: Councillor M Banner

C145 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

C146 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C147 Apologies for absence

The Clerk reported an apology for absence from Councillor Banner because of her attendance as Chair at a meeting of Culture Warrington.

C148 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2025 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C149 Co-option of members

Further to Minute C133 – 25 February 2025 the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 21 March 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.

C150 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.

C151 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

C152 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. Members reported an item on social media regarding a recent incident in

Woolston Park:

Resolved,

That

1. the monthly report for March 2025 be noted;
2. information be requested from the Police on the incident in Woolston Park.
(Please see appendix for a copy of the report).

C153 Borough Council business

The Council received reports from Borough Councillors Sheridan and Tynan 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 the 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 Sheridan reported on a meeting involving Woolston Rovers, Sports England and Warrington Wolves regarding funding to improve sports facilities at Monks Club. The major investment proposed would be subject to the landowner's approval to meet the condition for a minimum of 20 years' security for use of the improved facilities.

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. Councillor Tynan reported that he had raised this matter with the Chief Executive.
- 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). No further information to report.
- Woolston Neighbourhood Hub – condition of accommodation for Woolston Surgery
The Borough Council had reported that work was proceeding on investigating where the roof leaks were originating from. The large, old flat roof had resulted in a delay in undertaking remedial work and a further report would be made.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C154 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:

Path 31 Woolston Weir to the Manchester Ship Canal – major incident attended by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to control a fire alongside the path. Giant Hogweed on the length of the path from the weir to the embankment had been reported to the Borough Council.

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

New Cut Canal towpath – the Public Rights of Way Officer had responded that a site

inspection would be carried out as soon as possible and the outcome reported to the Council:
Resolved,
That the report be noted.

Woolston Deposit Ground No.1 – status of development

Further to Minute C138(1) – 25 February 2025 the Clerk reported that the Borough Council had responded that information had been received from the applicant seeking to amend the planning application. This information would be formally consulted on by the Borough Council and the Council would be notified:

Resolved,
That the response from the Borough Council be noted.

Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park

No information to report on repairs being carried out to the Ranger Cabin.

Carbon Literacy training

The Council considered information from the Borough Council's climate emergency team on their partnership with sustainability charity, Pure Leapfrog, to offer free climate change training to parish/town councils and small businesses based in Warrington, fully funded by Innovate UK.

The training was accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project and covered a broad range of topics, from climate science to local action, and how individuals and organisations can play their part in responding to the crisis. It was intended to equip individuals with the knowledge and motivation to help mitigate against climate change and prepare for the impacts expected to be faced within our communities.

The training was to be held over several dates until June 2025, with the first date for parish/town councils scheduled to take place in person in Warrington town centre on Wednesday 2 April from 8:30-17:00.

Councillor Nowell reported that he had raised some concerns regarding the organisation of the event including the length of the day and use of internet facilities:

Resolved,

That

1. details of the event that is open to all members be noted;
2. the attendance of Councillor Nowell at the event be supported subject to a satisfactory response being received to the concerns raised.

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

Further to Minute C138(1) – 25 February 2025 the Clerk reported that following consultation with the Borough Council the Battery Lane Allotment Association were to commence works from 5 April 2025 to repair potholes on the track between its junction with Battery Lane and the site entrance. Notice was to be given about the closure of the track to traffic during the 3-hour periods that work was undertaken:

Resolved,

That the report be approved.

(2) Finance and General Committee

Parish council – liaison with local schools

Further to Minute C138(2) – 25 February 2025, the Clerk reported on discussions with the Kings Leadership Academy on the proposal for liaison with schools. The feasibility of attending a

session of the school parliament was to be considered:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be noted and approval be given to discussions with the school on attending a session of the school parliament;
2. approval be given to the Chair of the Finance and General Committee, Councillor Banner and Councillor Rushby, as promoter of the initiative, being involved in arrangements for the event and a further report be made to the Council.

Banking arrangements – authorised signatories

Further to Minute C138(2) – 25 February 2025, the Clerk reported on the need to include additional signatories for the Council's bank accounts:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the addition of Councillor Wilcock as a signatory.

Applications for grant aid

No applications to consider.

Annual Review of procedures and documents

The Clerk reported on the review of the following procedures and documents and to recommend any changes to the Council. A copy of the revised Financial Regulations model template produced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had been provided. This was to be adapted as necessary to meet the previous arrangements agreed by the Council. The Clerk reported on the amendment of Standing Orders to allow the use of email, as necessary, for the delivery of the summons and agenda for meetings:

Resolved,

That

1. the following procedures and documents be approved subject to the amendments identified:
 - 1.1 Financial Regulations.
 - 1.2 Standing Orders.
 - 1.3 Risk assessment.
 - 1.4 Review of the adequacy of insurance arrangements.
 - 1.5 Fixed asset register.
 - 1.6 Complaints procedure.
 - 1.7 Procedure for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the General Data Protection Regulations.
2. approval be given to the use of the NALC model template applying the current arrangements for consideration at the next meeting of the Council;
3. the amendment of Standing Orders to allow the use of email for the delivery to members of the summons and agenda for council and committee meetings be approved.

C155 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 recent events including a litter pick by volunteers. Details of future events were published on the internet.
- Friends of Woolston Park Group – Councillor Klein reported on activities by the Group including the collection of supermarket trolleys left in the park. The Group had an arrangement for the collection of these trolleys by supermarkets. The annual Easter Eggstravaganza was to be held on 17 April. Two students from the Kings Leadership Academy had been involved with the group as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Bat walks were planned for 9 May and 27

September. A park Bird Walk was to be held on 12 May. The Young FoWP had an event at the Woolston Eyes on 12 May. No further information had been received by the Group from the Borough Council on repairs to the Ranger Cabin.

- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.

Resolved,

That

1. the reports be noted;
2. it be noted that Councillor Tynan is to request a progress report from the Borough Council on repairs to the Ranger Cabin.

C156 Correspondence – consultation and information - Devolution consultation

The Council considered information from the Borough Council on the statutory consultation being carried out by the Government in relation to devolution for Cheshire and Warrington. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) was hosting an in-person event in Crewe on 26 March 2025 to deliver a presentation outlining the details of consultation. A request to the MHCLG for a consultation event to be held in each council area had not been taken forward. Consultation via the Government's website was to close on 13 April 2025:

Resolved,

That details of the consultation be noted.

C157 Planning Applications and decisions

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

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
FULL PLANNING		
2024/00717/FUL	16 Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Rebuilding of existing warehouse gable, roof modifications. additional and replacement windows, doors and roller shutters, new wall and roof cladding, additional car parking spaces and additional office space created at first floor level. Change of use to Flexible B2/B8 use class.
FULL PLANNING HOUSEHOLDER		
2025/00158FULH	47 Somerset Way WA1 4LP	Demolition of existing garage, erection of a 2-storey side extension
2025/00187/FULH	60 Berkshire Drive WA1 4HD	Single storey side extension and conversion of rear conservatory
2025/00287/FULH	12 Ivy Road WA1 4DS	Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extension, with new single storey extension to the front.

The Council considered representations and objections from a resident of Bridge Road in respect of application 2024/00717/FUL – 16 Bridge Road:

Resolved,
That

1. in respect of application 2024/00717/FUL
 - 1.1.the objection to the application submitted to the Borough Council be reaffirmed and the objections and representations made by Mrs Thomas be supported;
 - 1.2 the request that the application be determined by the Development Management Committee also be reaffirmed;
2. no objections or representations be submitted in respect of the other applications.

C158 Business raised by Council Members - Hillock Lane – traffic conditions

Councillor Klein reported concern at the effect on road safety of vehicles exiting from the Kings Leadership Academy through the volume of traffic on Hillock Lane at the end of the school day:

Resolved,

That the Police be requested to review road safety at this location.

C159 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not Recoverable	Amount £	Purpose	S137
4815	25/03/25	St Peters Lourdes Fund	0.00	350.00	Grant approved 25/2/25	Y
4816		VOID				
4817	25/03/25	Warrington BC	0.00	722.81	Election instalment May 2021	
4818	25/03/25	Warrington BC	0.00	1061.30	By-election instalment 2022	
4819	25/03/25	Warrington BC	0.00	126.00	Room hire for meetings 15.10.24. 21.1.25. 25.2.25	
4820	25/03/25	Zurich Municipal	0.00	1735.93	Annual premium 2025/26	
4821	25/03/25	Costco Wholesale UK Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	53.49	Postage stamps	
4822	25/03/25	Society of Local Council Clerks (Clerk)	0.00	154.00	Membership fee 2024/25	
DD	25/03/25	Water Plus Ltd	0.00	95.79	Monthly payment allotment site meter charge	
DD	25/03/25	British Telecom Group plc		483.34	Quarterly payment phone and internet service	

C160 Date of next meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved,

That the next meeting of the Council be held at 7.15pm on Tuesday 29 April 2025, or at the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7.00pm, whichever is the later.

APPENDIX

Woolston

March 2025 - Monthly Parish report

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

Anti Social Behaviour

3 Youths (0), environmental (2), personal (1)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

0 Dwelling

1 Other Business

..... Criminal Damage

0

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Parking patrols schools 24 Feb, 27 Feb, 7 Mar
- Woolston Youth Club attended
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- <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/cheshire/local-policing-newsletters/winter-2024-25/warrington-east-newsletter-winter-24-25.pdf>
- [Safer Internet Day 2025 Top Tips - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Refreshed advice given to residents following courier frauds across Cheshire | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- 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/>

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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](#)

WBC online reporting portal:-
[Report and Apply | 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 6th Form – Met the police in the community

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments
Face to face drop-in surgeries – 25 Mar 1100 – 1200; 2 Apr 1800 – 1900; 11 Apr 1800 - 1900
Mobile drop in surgeries are advertised on the Rixton & Woolston Police Facebook page

Chairman.....