

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 21 JANUARY 2025

Present: Councillor R Tynan (Chairman)

Councillors: M Banner, H Klein, D Nowell, G Rushby, S Rydzkowski, L Sheridan, CS Wilcock

Apologies for absence: Councillors J Hunter, CA Kilgannon

C112 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and made the following announcement:

Tony and Pat McCarthy

The Council had been informed of the joint funeral service for Tony and Pat McCarthy to held at SS Peter and Michael RC Church on 23 January 2025.

Tony was elected as Chairman of the Council several times and as Chairman of the Finance and General Committee during his 35 years' service as a Parish Councillor until his retirement in May last year. For a time, Pat also served as a Parish Councillor, both working together for our community.

Tony will also be remembered by many for his service as a Borough Ward Councillor for Rixton and Woolston. He served as Chairman of the Development Management Committee, a demanding role in dealing with planning issues. On retiring from office he was appointed by the Borough Council as an Honorary Alderman.

The Council recorded their appreciation of the service given by them both to the community in Woolston and members stood in silence in respect of their memory.

C113 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C114 Apologies for absence

The Chairman reported the apologies for absence from Councillors Hunter and Kilgannon on grounds of ill health:

Resolved,

That the best wishes of the Council be sent to Councillors Hunter and Kilgannon.

C115 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2024 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C116 Co-option of members

Further to Minute C100 – 3 December 2024 the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 17 January 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;

2. notice be given of the vacancies and applicants be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

C117 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.

C118 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

C119 Budget and Parish Precept 2025/26

The Council considered a report of the Clerk on the Budget and Parish Precept for 2025/26. The report gave a summary of the estimated net expenditure for 2025/26 together with other financial provision to be made. The Council had agreed that the budget be prepared on a no growth basis (Minute C105(2) – 3 December 2024). The Council also received the Management Accounts for the quarterly periods 1 April to 31 December 2024. Information provided by the Borough Council on the Tax Base for 2025/26 was noted.

In determining the precept the Council had regard to additional financial pressures on the community in common with other areas to be met in the coming year:

Resolved,

That

1. approval be given to a precept of £26,221 for 2025/26 maintaining the estimated amount for a Band D property;
2. the draft budget recommendations be approved, subject to a total funding of £1500 for the Friends of Woolston Park Group having regard to the condition of the Ranger Cabin;
3. a report be made on any adjustments required in the next financial year.

C120 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 reports provided by the Police for December 2024 and January 2025:

Resolved,

That

1. the monthly reports for December 2024 and January 2025 be noted;
2. an update be requested on an incident on the Grange Employment Area.
(Please see appendix for a copy of the reports).

C121 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

- action had been taken with officers regarding incidents of flooding to the rear of properties on the western side of Poulton Crescent and on blocked main drains on Cliftonville Road.

Councillor Sheridan

- Community Initiative Funding – the decision to remove funding was being reviewed.
- Caravan, Bridge Road – land being landscaped.
- Highways England – motorway slip road.

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 – notice of structural maintenance works
The Borough Council had provided information on structural maintenance works to be carried out on the A57 Manchester Road from east of Redwood Close to east of Riversdale (Minute C72(1) – 10 September 2024. The information plan had been sent to nearby residents and businesses and published on the Council's website. The scheme was to include the reconstruction of the existing pedestrian island on Weir Lane and constructing a new pedestrian island on Manchester Road just to the west of the junction with Weir Lane. Residents had made representations to the Council at the new pedestrian island not being constructed.
This matter had been raised with officers and a response had been made that what may have been seen marked up on site was a possible crossing point with a pedestrian/cycle island in relation to a proposed 'wider' scheme of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in the local area by the Transport Planning Team, and was set out to explore whether or not the proposals would fit in the highway and what the issues might be, but has not gone ahead as part of the ongoing resurfacing scheme.
This response had been raised with the Transport Planning Team who had responded that the island on the western side of the Weir Lane junction was originally proposed to provide improved pedestrian and cycle access into Woolston Industrial Estate via the footpath link to Chesford Grange. Whilst this aspiration remains, implementation of the scheme had been deferred whilst further work was undertaken to investigate the interaction between the planned crossing point and the right turn lane for vehicles turning into Weir Lane. Unfortunately, there was insufficient width available in this location to provide an acceptable pedestrian island which could provide capacity for both pedestrians and cyclists. The aspiration to increase pedestrian and cycling accessibility in this location remained, but further work would need to be completed before a revised scheme on Manchester Road was proposed. The timescales associated with this were unknown at present. In the meantime, the signalised crossing facility was available for use further west along Manchester Road, between the Weir Lane and Redwood Close junctions.
- Holes Lane/Green Lane – installation of speed monitors – a proposal had been made for the Borough Council and parish councils to collaborate in the introduction of speed monitors on this route.

Resolved,
That

1. Borough Ward Councillors be asked to give their support to the scheme for a new pedestrian island on A57 Manchester Road;
2. Councillor Tynan be requested to contact the Borough Council regarding the proposal for speed monitors on Holes Lane/Green Lane.

C122 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 Trail – request made for grit bins on the towpath to improve safety in icy weather conditions.

Moss Brow – the vegetation had been cut back but action was required to the path. The Borough Council had stated that consideration was being given to divert the path.

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted;
2. the Borough Council be requested to provide information on the timescale for the path diversion procedure.

Woolston Deposit Ground No.1 – status of development

Further to Minute C105(1) – 3 December 2024 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 C105(1) – 3 December 2024 the Council noted that no further information had been received on repairs to the Ranger Cabin.

Battery Lane Allotment site

– maintenance of access track to the site

Further to Minute C105(1) – 3 December 2024 the Clerk reported that the Battery Lane Allotment Association (BLAA) were to carry out a trial of the method to be used to repair pot holes on an area within the allotments site before undertaking works outside the site. The Council had agreed to refund the purchase materials up to a cost of £200 for surface repairs. The BLAA had offered to make a contribution of half the net cost of materials to assist in the ongoing maintenance work:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be noted;
2. approval be given to the proposed cost sharing in the purchase of materials subject to a maximum of £200 in each financial year commencing 2024/25.

- annual rent for the allotment year 2025/26

The Council considered setting of the annual rent of a plot for 2025/26:

Resolved,

That the rent for an allotment for plot for 2025/26 be set at £25 (£12.50 for senior citizens and persons in receipt of Job Seekers allowance) and the required notice be given to tenants.

(2) Finance and General Committee

Parish council – liaison with local schools

Further to Minute C105(2) – 3 December 2024, the Clerk reported on further liaison with Kings Leadership Academy on the proposal for liaison with schools. Details were to be supplied of the relevant contact with the school:

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 was continuing.

Applications for grant aid

Noted no applications to consider.

C123 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 details of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 27 January 2025.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – no matters to report. Councillor Wilcock reported that Warrington Lions had given a grant of £250 to the group.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C124 Correspondence – consultation and information

No items to report.

C125 Planning Applications and decisions

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

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
FULL PLANNING		
2024/01586/FUL	Units 4,5,5a and 7, Bridge Lane WA1 4BA	Demolition of existing industrial units and construction of 2 no. industrial units.
FULL PLANNING HOUSEHOLDER		
2024/01554/FULH	4 Maple Road WA1 4DP	Proposed two storey side and rear extension to an existing property.
2024/01534/FULH	14 Greymist Avenue WA1 4AR	Retrospective fencing installation.
DISCHARGE OF CONDITION		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2024/00585/DISCON	Land to the rear of 48-58 Cliftonville Road	1. Condition 5 (Landscaping scheme) is Not Discharged for the following reasons. The proposed planting species(thuja plicata)would result in a biodiversity net loss. The location of the proposed fencing on the submitted site plan would not accord with the permission under ref.2022/41289 (Change of use for self storage containers).
SECTION 192 CERTIFICATE		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2024/01535/CLDP	48 Riversdale, WA1 4PZ	Proposed single storey rear extension.
PLANNING DECISIONS		
PLANNING APPEAL		
2023/01438/FUL	Sainsbury's Local, 11 Manchester Road WA1 4AE	Retrospective application for external lighting.

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

C126 Business raised by Council Members

No items raised.

C127 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4803	30/12/24	Employee 1	0.00	142.23	M9 December 2024	
4804	30/12/24	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	266.80	PAYE M7 to 9 2024-25	
4805	16/01/25	Warrington BC	0.00	197.86	Election recharge 2024	
4806	16/01/25	Warrington BC	0.00	570.00	Planting A57 Manchester Road summer 2024	
4807	18/01/25	John Lewis and Partners (Clerk)	0.00	145.15	HP printer £109.99 & Toner £35.16	
4808	21/01/25	Warrington BC	0.00	554.66	Christmas lights 2024	
4809	21/01/25	Employee 1	0.00	462.23	M10 January 2025	
4810	21/01/25	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	54.50	HP207A toner	
4811	21/01/25	Battery Lane Allotment Association	0.00	121.21	Reimbursement of Public Liability premium 2025	

C128 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 February 2025.

APPENDIX

Woolston

December 2024 - 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

1 Dwelling Attempt

0 Other

Criminal Damage

2 1x vehicle; 1x business related

Vehicle crime

2 Theft of vehicle Business vehicles

2 Theft from vehicle Business vehicles

OTHER

- Operation Sceptre patrols
- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 04/11/24 – 14 to 37mph
- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 16/11/24 – 17 to 25mph
- Speed monitoring Gig Lane 07/12/24 – 16 to 22mph
- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 13/12/24 – 19 to 33mph (1 @ 31, 1 @ 33)
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- Over 250 knives recovered as part of county-wide crackdown | Cheshire Constabulary
- Warrington officers work with local partner organisations for youth safety operation | Cheshire Constabulary
- Annual operation launched to support delivery drivers and couriers across festive period | Cheshire Constabulary
- Cheshire Police urge the public to think before they act over the festive period | Cheshire Constabulary
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- 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>

WBC online reporting portal:-

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

St Peters Primary – Foundation Class – Meet the Police

St Peters Primary – School Fayre

Woolston CP – Crucial Crew input for Yr 6

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments

Face to face drop-in surgeries – 23 Dec 1100 - 1200; 2 Jan 1300 – 1400; 7 Jan 1800 - 1900

Mobile drop in surgeries are advertised on the Rixton & Woolston Police Facebook page

Woolston
January 2025 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Ryan Cunliffe

Neighbourhood Officer PC David Reddington

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0 Dwelling

1 Other Business

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Criminal Damage

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Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle Business vehicle - parts

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- Speed monitoring Gig Lane 02/01/24 – 16 to 28mph
- 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
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Chairman.....