

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 28 JUNE 2023

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors D Hill, S Rydzkowski

C20 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

C21 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C22 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors D Hill through ill-health and S Rydzkowski because of attendance at a meeting.

C23 Minutes of the previous meetings

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C24 Matters of report from previous minutes

No matters to report.

C25 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council considered the monthly report for June 2023. PCSO Roberts was unable to attend the meeting to present the report.

The Council considered the issue of under-age use of vapes following recent publicity in the media and the role of various agencies in the control of sales. This use had been noted in Woolston Park.

The Council again noted the lack of a police representative at the meeting:

Resolved,

That

1. the monthly report be noted;
2. Borough Ward Councillors be requested to raise this matter with Environment officers to be informed of the current policy of the Council on enforcement and the police be asked to advise on monitoring for under-age use.
3. the issue of attendance by Police representatives at Council meetings be raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

(Please see appendix for a copy of the report).

C26 Borough Council business

To receive 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).

1. Reports from Borough Councillors

1.1 Councillor Tynan

A survey was being carried out to provide evidence on the opinions of residents in the parish of issues relating to migrants.

2. Matters raised with the Borough Council

2.1 Borough Council Review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane - Councillor Easty had reported that officers had carried out a survey on Gig Lane to help gain an understanding of the traffic speeds on this road and to help determine if any traffic management measures can be considered. No report had been made on the findings of the survey. Borough Ward Councillors were asked to raise again the request for 20mph restrictions on Hillock Lane, Dam Lane and in the roads adjacent to schools.

2.2 Surfacing of the path to Woolston Playing Fields – Councillor Tynan agreed to request a site meeting with officers.

2.3 A57 Manchester Road – maintenance of trees – no further information to report.

2.4 Dam Lane, repairs to knee rail fence opposite the shopping precinct – the Borough Council had inspected the damage to the fence and reported that no action was required to the slight damage.

2.5 The Director of Transport and Environment had been contacted regarding the replacement of the bus shelter on the A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the junction with Laburnum Avenue. It was requested that information be requested on the replacement of the bus shelter at Holes Lane.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted, and the identified action approved.

C27 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

1. Parish Path Warden scheme – report

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

- Battery Lane – maintenance of overgrown length.

Consideration was given to the maintenance of the path from Woolston Weir to the Manchester Ship Canal also leading to the entrance bridge to the Woolston Eyes Conservation area. Councillor Nowell reported that periodically Peel Holdings had

undertaken weed spraying to control vegetation; responsibility for the maintenance of the path surface was not known. It was noted that the length of path leading up the embankment was in poor condition and currently overgrown. Councillor J Greenslade referred to the Definitive Map and it was noted that the length at Thelwall Lane was not included:

Resolved,

That

1. the report and action taken be noted;
2. the Borough Council be requested to inspect the path at Woolston Weir and inform the Council of the body responsible for its maintenance;
3. the status of the path for its entire length as a public right of way be supported.

4. Development of “Old Billy” scheme

Further to the report to the Council (Minute C11 – 24 May 2023) the Clerk reported that Culture Warrington had provided examples of initial designs for the story book being produced relating to Old Billy and the illustrator was working to complete the designs to be displayed on the New Cut canal. Culture Warrington were to provide the illustrations to the Borough Council to allow a draft to be produced of each sign:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

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

5. Hillock Lane amenity area – barrier and landscaping at site entrance

The Clerk reported on a meeting with staff from the Kings Leadership Academy regarding repairs to the entrance barrier to the car park. The school had been permitted use of the car park at the beginning and end of the school day to reduce congestion and improve road safety on the adjacent roads. The school also assisted in monitoring the site entrance through their CCTV system.

The school had confirmed that they supported the retention of the barrier in addition to the height barrier and that they would continue operating the barrier. They had also offered to maintain the area at the entrance and fencing subject to the Council reimbursing the cost of any materials.

It was noted that parents from adjacent primary schools also made use of the car park:

Resolved,

That

1. the report on the use of the car park at school times be noted;
2. the offer from Kings Leadership Academy to assist in the maintenance of the area at the entrance to the car park be accepted with the thanks of the Council;
3. the repair works to the entrance barrier be authorised.

4. Woolston Eyes Conservation area – access and facilities

Further to Minute C13 – 24 May 2023 the Council considered a note of the items provided by Councillor Nowell for referral to the Woolston Eyes Conservation Group. It was noted that the

matters raised followed comments to members by residents and others visiting the conservation area:

Resolved,

That the Woolston Eyes Conservation Group be asked to provide information relating to the area included in Bed 4 and of assessments made relating to access for persons with a mobility or disability condition.

5. Battery Lane Allotment site – management matters

The Clerk reported that the Battery Lane Allotment Association were planning works to maintain the communal paths and were seeking the approval of the Borough Council to fill pot holes in the access route from Battery Lane to the site:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and approval be given to the supply of materials up to a cost of £200.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Audit of Accounts 2022-23

The Council considered:

(a) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2022-23.

(b) the Annual Internal Audit report 2022-23 and (1) the Annual Governance Statements for 2022-23 and (2) the Accounting Statements for 2022-23:

Resolved,

That

1. the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2022-23 be accepted, including the statement of accounts;
2. the Annual Internal Audit Report 2022-23 be accepted;
3. approval be given to (a) the Annual Governance Statements and (b) the Accounting Statements for 2022-23.

2. Applications for grant aid

No applications to report.

3. Remembrance Sunday 2023 – cleaning of cenotaph

The Clerk reported on the periodic cleaning of the cenotaph to be carried before the annual service of remembrance:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the invitation of a quote for these works from a specialist contractor.

C28 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 – no meeting held. Information was published by the group on their website including detail of recent works at Paddington Meadows.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Smith on activities by FoWP group since the Council meeting on 24 May 2023 including:
 - Maintenance of the park environment.
 - Maintenance of the Ranger Cabin and storage.
 - Engagement with young people.
 - Facilitation of volunteers from local companies.
 - Support to other local groups.
 - Anti-social behaviour.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – next scheduled meeting October 2023.

Resolved,
That

1. the reports be noted;
2. representations be made to the Borough Council in consultation with Councillor Smith, in support of the Friends of Woolston Park Group to secure the long term provision of the facilities provided by the Ranger Cabin.

C29 Correspondence – consultation and information – Waste crime

The Council considered a letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner on an initiative in association with local authorities and the Environment Agency to target illegally dumped waste. A publicity campaign would request residents to assist in this campaign:

Resolved,
That the letter be noted.

C30 Planning Applications and decisions

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

Applications for consideration at the meeting:

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
FULL PLANNING		
2023/00656/FUL	20 Marshall Road	Single storey side extension
2023/00594/FULH	5 Monroe Close	Proposed single storey front and rear extensions and demolition of existing garage and conservatory
FULL PLANNING-HOUSEHOLDER (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
None to report		

PLANNING DECISIONS		
FULL PLANNING		
None to report		
PLANNING APPEALS		
None to report.		

Consideration was given to the procedure followed by the Borough Council in determining recent planning applications for the installation of radio masts to support the mobile network where the Council had no opportunity to make comments:

Resolved,
That

1. no comments be made in respect of the applications listed subject to any further comments received from members;
2. Councillor Tynan be asked to obtain information from the Borough Council on the pre-application procedure followed by officers when determining planning applications for radio masts.

C31 Business raised by Council Members

No matters raised.

C32 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.

C33 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4691	15/06/23	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M3 June 2023	
4692	28/06/23	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	310.20	PAYE M1 to M3	

4693	28/06/23	Amazon (Clerk)	0.00	44.99	Toner (3928)	
4694	28/06/23	JDH Businesses Ltd	0.00	1197.00	Internal Audit fees 2022/23	

APPENDIX

**Woolston
June 2023 - Monthly Parish report**

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam
Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

Anti Social Behaviour

5 Youths (2), environmental (3), personal (0)
Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

1 Dwelling
0 Other

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Criminal Damage

6 4x reports from County Fire; 2x vehicle/property

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle
0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Operation Scrambler – Off Road Motorbike team active patrols across Warrington East during May/June
- Working with County Fire and local schools in relation to deliberate fire call outs on Woolston Park. Contact been made with high schools, arrangements made for joint input with County Fire about the consequences and dangers of fires. We have followed up information passed by members of the public, two youths have been identified and dealt with by out of course disposals and given educational inputs with County Fire in company of parents
- 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>
- 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).
- 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/twitter/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>

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

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

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

Chairman.....