

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 9 NOVEMBER 2022**

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

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors M Czekalski, R Tynan

### **C58 Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting and made the following announcements:

#### **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**

Following the sad death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, on 8 September 2022, a message of condolence had been published recording the thanks of the Council for her extraordinary life and 70 years of dedication and service as our longest-reigning British monarch.

Those assembled stood in silence in respect of her memory.

The Council welcomed the proclamation of King Charles III on 10 September 2022.

#### **Father John Gildea**

Father Gildea, Parish Priest at Saints Peter and Michael's, since 1998 had sadly passed away on 17 October 2022. The Council recorded their thanks for his many years of service. The Chairman reported that a donation was being made to a charity in his memory.

#### **Resignation of Councillor Dixon as Borough and Parish Councillor**

The Council noted the resignations and recorded their thanks to Mr Dixon for his service to the community.

### **C59 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest**

#### **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C60 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Borough Councillor Eastty and Councillors M Czekalski, on business and R Tynan. Councillors Eastty and Tynan were attending a public meeting regarding Warburton Bridge.

### **C61 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C62 Filling of Borough and Parish Council vacancies**

The Council noted that following the resignation of Councillor Dixon an election was to be held on 24 November 2022 to elect a Councillor for the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward.

Notice had been given of the vacancy for the East Ward and the Borough Council had informed the Council that no election was called. The vacancy was to be filled by co-option under a procedure to be determined by the Council:

Resolved,

That

1. the report of the by-election to be held on 24 November 2022 be noted;
2. when the outcome of the Borough Council by-election is known:
  - a. the successful candidate be invited to fill the vacancy in the East Ward;
  - b. in the event that Councillor Tynan is successful (i.e., already a parish councillor) or the candidate who is elected does not accept the invitation to become a member, the Clerk be authorised to give public notice of the vacancy to invite applications for co-option to the Council.

### **C63 Matters of report from previous minutes – Action list – draft summary of ongoing actions**

The Council noted further to Minute C52 – 7 September 2022 information provided by the Director of Transport and Environment since the publication of the agenda on matters raised by Borough Ward Councillors. This provided a response to the issues raised and could be used with the related agenda item.

### **C64 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report**

The Council considered monthly reports for September, October and November 2022. PCSO Roberts was unable to attend the meeting and any matters raised by the meeting would be reported to the Police:

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

*(Please see appendix for reports).*

### **C65 Borough Council business**

Borough Councillor Hill reported on matters under consideration by the Borough Council relating to the parish and on issues that he had acted on for residents since the last meeting. (The Council noted that the report 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).

- Bowfell Grove – assistance to a resident with the updating of the Environment Agency records to correct the information provided to insurers.
- Offensive graffiti at a bus stop. Urgent action taken by the Borough Council to remove the graffiti.
- Pot holes in the highway reported to the Borough Council following representations by residents.

A resident reported on issues raised with the Council at the meeting held on 29 June 2022 (Minute C23):

- Blocked drains in the highway resulting in flooding to gardens. Further work had been carried out by the Borough Council to the drainage in Dam Lane but this had not

stopped the flooding to house properties particularly in times of heavy rainfall. A report was also made of sewage entering a property in Dam Lane and on action taken by United Utilities plc. The problem was ongoing.

- Use of the road by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and speeding by vehicles – concern had been raised with the police at HGVs using Dam Lane to attempt to access the Grange Employment area and parking on the road adjacent to the shops. Reports had also been made relating to the spillage from overladen HGVs onto the highway resulting in potential hazard to pedestrians and other road users.  
The suggested introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Dam Lane was not considered to be a solution because of the lack of enforcement and there was a need to ban HGVs to improve road safety and to prevent the damage laden vehicles parked adjacent to the shops were considered to cause to highway drainage.

It was noted that a comprehensive response had been received from the Director of Transport and Environment following a review of road safety on Holes Lane, Dam Lane and Gig Lane. Councillor Hill agreed to again raise with the Borough Council and other agencies problems with the highway drainage in Dam Lane:

Resolved,  
That

1. Councillor Hill be thanked for undertaking to pursue the issues raised relating to Dam Lane;
2. the response from the Director of Transport and Environment relating to road safety issues be considered with the Borough Ward Councillors at the next meeting.

### **C66 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:

- Path 27, towards Rixton. Reduced to a narrow strip next to the eroded edge of the riverbank by farming activity. Clarification needed as to whether this is grass reseeding or cultivation. No cycling signs erected at a previously damaged stile and at the entrance to a private farm road on the same path.
- Path 12, Nicol Avenue. Path still blocked by an earthwork and vegetation.
- Paths 25/26, (New Cut towpath/Statham Lane track). Vegetation cut back by Warrington BC.
- Path 17, Brook Lane. Resurfaced with Tarmac along its full length.
- Path 31, Private road section of Weir Lane. Potholes beginning to form.
- Path 19, New Cut Lane. Frequently obstructed by parked vehicles from nearby businesses.

Resolved,  
That the report and action taken be noted.

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

Further to the report to the Council (Minute C52(1) 2. – 7 September 2022) the Clerk reported that the Borough Council had approved the positions for the information boards at the Weir Lane viewing area and Paddington Bank. Sites had also been identified along the towpath from Weir Lane to Paddington Bank for the 5 round information signs, mostly using Borough Council posts. Estimated costs had been requested from the contractors used by the Borough Council for the fabrication and graphic works. Culture Warrington had agreed to make amendments to the artwork to meet the standards agreed by the Borough Council for a sign in public spaces. To expedite the production of the artwork the Council was asked to approve the use of the graphics contractor if required.

A draft consultation note on the scheme had been sent to the Borough Council and Culture Warrington for their comments. The bodies to be formally consulted were Poulton with Fearnhead PC and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group who were both to be asked to contribute to the scheme:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted;
2. approval be given to the graphics contractor identified by the Borough Council making amendments to the artwork to the required standard if required.

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

## **3. Facilities for young people – assistance with access to the Youth Zone**

Further to Minute C50 – 7 September 2022 the Council considered helping teenagers from Woolston to access the Youth Zone in Warrington town centre if they did not have an adult to transport them to/from the location. The police had suggested that parish councils might want to consider/discuss whether they could support a youth zone bus service – limited stops (perhaps using the school bus locations?), where the teenagers pay say 50p/£1 each way to get them to/from the youth zone for areas like Warrington East. The Council was asked to consider if this was a feasible idea, to be operated with other parish councils by holding discussions between them and/or bus operators in Warrington.

It was noted that no approach had been received from other councils about this type of scheme and that there no plans at present for the Borough Council to promote a borough wide facility:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

## **4. Dam Lane shopping precinct**

The Chairman reported on a request for assistance from a unit holder about incidents of anti-social behaviour and their concern at the lack of effective action to incidents reported to the police, landowner and the Borough Council. The Chairman had convened a meeting involving the unit holder, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and the Clerk to allow their concerns to be made known and consideration to be given to action by the parish council. It was noted that the then Police and Crime Commissioner and Member of Parliament had responded to a similar request in 2020 and that the police and Borough Council were also involved at that

time. The Council was to be informed of any future incidents and of action taken by the unit holder to ensure that the relevant public bodies and the Council were aware of issues:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted and a further report be made on any future incidents.

#### **5. Tree maintenance, Martinscroft Green**

The Council considered representations from a resident of Martinscroft Green about the height and volume of trees lining the Green. The household refuse collection vehicles had been seen to hit overhanging branches causing them to fall and obstruct the road. The Council was requested to prune/cut back and reduce the size of the trees:

Resolved,

That the Clerk be authorised to contact the tree surgeon for advice on the matters raised.

#### **6. 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.

##### **– site maintenance**

The Clerk reported on assistance provided by the Battery Lane Allotment Association including the maintenance of the toilet facility. The Council were requested to approve the reimbursement of the costs of supplies:

Resolved,

That 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 current Government guidance on the conduct of council business during the Coronavirus pandemic.

##### **2. Annual Service of Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2022**

The Council noted that work was proceeding with the Borough Council and the Woolston Church of the Ascension on arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday service at Martinscroft Green. The arrangements were similar to those for 2021. No comments had been made on the event plan submitted to the Borough Council:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

### **3. External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22**

The Clerk submitted the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2021/22:

Resolved,  
That the report be accepted.

### **4. Report on action taken 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.

### **5. Applications for grant aid**

No applications to be considered.

### **C67 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 further information on the next quarterly meeting. Information was published by the group on their website.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce for September, October and November. A copy of the Chairman’s report to the group’s Annual General Meeting was also submitted (please see appendix). Members recorded their thanks to Councillor Pearce. The pallets reported to be adjacent to the car park to the amenity area could be checked by the group.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.

Resolved,  
That the reports be noted.

### **C68 Correspondence – consultation and information**

No items to report.

### **C69 Planning Applications and decisions**

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

FULL PLANNING	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2022/42228	Unit 4 Kingsland Grange WA1 4SR	To construct an electrical sub-station
2022/41849	United Commercial Trading UK, 28	Construction of storage silo next to existing processing plant

	Kingsland Grange WA1 4RW	
2022/42038	JTF. 1 Chesford Grange WA1 4RQ	Demolition of existing building and the construction of a single building for employment purposes class E(g)(iii) B2 and B8 with associated infrastructure to include service yard, boundary treatments, car parking and hard and soft landscaping
2022/41886	Moss Side Farm, Juniper Lane, WA3 6DP	Conversion of an existing building to a residential dwelling
2022/41417	Heathercroft Care Home, Longbarn Lane WA1 4QB	Alterations of elevations of an existing care home, provision of new cycle store and smoking shelter, boundary treatments, introduction of a new gate access to the side of the main entrance, addition of a small ground floor extension to the existing lounge area to the rear of the main building
FULL PLANNING (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2022/42296	33 Lawson Close WA1 4EG	Single storey rear extension, conversion of integral garage into living accommodation, alterations to existing porch to increase glazing, and minor alterations to windows
2022/42333	42 Dam Lane WA1 4ER	Demolish garage, build two storey extension to side and rear of house and single storey extension to rear of house
2022/42397	131 Berkshire Drive WA1 4HB	Removal of existing flat roof and replaced with new tiled pitch roof. Existing garage converted into bedroom and shower room. Existing timber cladding (white) partially removed and replaced with UPVC cladding (white)
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER		
2022/41940	6 Bowfell Grove WA1 4FT	Removal of trees x 2

ADVERTISEMENT CONSENT		
2022/42227	Site of bus shelter opposite 83 Manchester Road	Installation of double-sided digital advertising panel
2022/42229	Site of bus shelter opposite 320 Manchester Road	Installation of double-sided digital advertising panel
2022/42230	Site of bus shelter to front of 200 Manchester Road	Installation of double-sided digital advertising panel
SECTION 191 CERTIFICATE		
2022/42180	Block 26/27 and Block 33/43 Melford Court, WA1 4RZ	Existing boundary gates and fences and alterations to the hardstanding
NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT		
2022/42188	6 Durham Close WA1 4DZ	Front elevation to proposed two storey side extension to be brought flush with existing front elevation.
INFORMATION ONLY		
DISCHARGE OF CONDITION	Sandycroft Brook Lane	Discharge of Condition 4 (Environment Report) on previous application 2021/38630
APPEALS		None to report

Resolved,

That no comments be submitted in respect of the matters listed subject to consideration of any matters raised.

### **C70 Business raised by Council Members**

#### 1. Councillor McCarthy

Manchester Road, opposite junction with Grey Mist Avenue – bus shelter not yet replaced by the Borough Council.



2. Councillor D Hill

Hillock Lane – issues relating to parking, speed of vehicles, school traffic raised by a resident.

3. Councillor M Greenslade

Planting of tree in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II – suggested location A57 Manchester Road.

Resolved,

That the above matters be reported to the Borough Council.

### **C71 Accounts**

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4638	15/09/22	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M6 September 2022	
4639	VOID					
4640	15/09/22	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	337.40	PAYE Months 4 to 6	
4641	17/10/22	Employee 1	0.00	413.56	M7 October 2022	
4642	17/10/22	PKF Littlejohn LLP (Clerk)	0.00	240.00	Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-22	
4643	9/11/22	Costco Wholesale UK Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	51.33	Stationery	
4644	9/11/22	Amazon.co.UK (Clerk)	0.00	56.13	Printer imaging unit	
4645	9/11/22	Councillor D Hill	0.00	500.00	Chairman's Allowance 2022-23	
4646	9/11/22	David Webster & Sons Ltd	0.00	720.00	Weir Lane trip rail repairs	
4647	9/11/22	Battery Lane Allotment Association	0.00	319.49	Reimbursement of works to community facilities at allotment site	

## APPENDIX

### Woolston September 2022 - Monthly Parish report

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

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

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

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

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#### **Burglary**

1 Dwelling

1 Other

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#### **Criminal Damage 2**

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#### **Vehicle crime**

1 Theft of vehicle

4 Theft from vehicle 3x Parts; 1x No known victim details

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#### **OTHER**

- 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>
- Operation Scrambler Team were out in the area 3 Sep, an e-scooter seized Woolston Park
- Vehicle seized Manchester Rd Woolston, being driven without valid insurance – ensure your vehicle documentation/policies are up to date and valid before you get behind the wheel
- Speed enforcement conducted Gig Lane 3/9, no activations
- 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: -

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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/>

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<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 – will be liaising 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 as follows:-

21 Sep 16:00 – 17:00; 30 Sep 17:00 – 18:00; 6 Oct 11:00 – 12:00; 11 Oct 18:00 – 19:00

## **Woolston**

### **October 2022 - Monthly Parish report**

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam**

**Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor**

**PCSO Bethan Roberts**

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

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

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

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### **Burglary**

2 Dwelling

2 Other Businesses

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### **Criminal Damage**

7 6x Linked incidents, damage to staff vehicles from same premises

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### **Vehicle crime**

1 Theft of vehicle

3 Theft from vehicle All on Industrial Estates, business vehicles – goods, parts

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### **OTHER**

- 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
- Arrangements made with schools for seasonal safety talks. Visits to business premises about seasonal sale of goods
- 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>
- Speed enforcement conducted Gig Lane 29/9, no activations
- 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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**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 as follows (subject to change):-

27 Oct 11:00 – 12:00; 1 Nov 18:00 – 19:00; 10 Nov 18:00 – 19:00; 16 Nov 16:00 – 17:00

**Woolston**  
**November 2022 - Monthly Parish report**

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam**

**Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor**

**PCSO Bethan Roberts**

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

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

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

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**Burglary**

0 Dwelling

2 Other            Businesses

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**Criminal Damage**

5            3x vehicle damage, not linked (1x person arrested)

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**Vehicle crime**

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle    Business vehicles – parts, no LOE

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**OTHER**

- 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
- Visits to business premises about seasonal sale of goods
- Woolston CE Primary – Halloween, bonfire, firework input; Social Media input
- Woolston CP – Provided presentations, bonfire/firework safety
- Remembrance Service Martinscroft Green attended
- Cannabis Farm Woolston dismantled, person arrested, investigation ongoing
- Theft of property from business premises, person arrested
- 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>

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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

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**Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates as follows (subject to change):-

21 Nov 18:00 – 19:00; 2 Dec 18:00 – 19:00; 9 Dec 11:00 – 12:00; 13 Dec 18:00 – 19:00



## FOWP NOTES – FOR PARISH COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2022

### 10 September – YFOWP Work Day

5 children plus 2 parents and 3 Friends attended. On this day the Chairman had some lovely wooden plates cut from a tree trunk approx. 20 cm diameter by 2 cm deep. I don't know what the original purpose was for these plates but for the Young Friends they were used to stamp patterns onto card making an imprint on the card called "card stamping". We wandered around the park collecting oddments of nicely shaped leaves, petals, flowers, grasses, lots of small natural items which were then placed on half of the card into shapes or designs, then the card was folded with all the oddments from nature gently stamped over the area which then imprinted the design onto the cards.

### Monday 12 September – FOWP Work Day

The lady and her son who have regularly been on the park working as park of his D of E Award came to thank the FOWP and brought a lovely card and some gifts to share around. The card said "Thank you so much for supporting William through his volunteering part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. He really enjoyed his time on the park and giving back to the community. Keep up the fabulous work. Mandy and Will". I think it should have been us thanking them.

7 Friends attended this work day, 4 worked in the Jubilee Garden and it was good to see that the Crab Apple tree donated by the Parish Council earlier this year has lots of young apples on it. So, in the short time it's been in the garden it's had beautiful flowers and now is showing the lovely newly formed fruit. Also for the Jubilee Garden is the Sundial from when we visited Ingevity earlier this year. They donated the money from the sales of homemade cakes for their staff. The money was used for that purpose. The sundial needs securely fixing before it is left outside. Ingevity staff are returning to the park in October. Another of the Friends went litter picking and the other 2 of us worked on and around the new raised bed planting bulbs and preparing the soil below ready for planting daffodils at the next work day. A lot was achieved this workday.

### Monday 19 September

It should have been the FOWP workday but was cancelled. The day became a Bank Holiday for the Queens funeral.

### Monday 26 September – FOWP Work Day

Early morning was wet and cold but changed into ideal outdoor working weather just as the Friends met so was a comfortable morning weatherwise.

It seems to have become the norm for lack of volunteers. Just 5 of us today, two regular litter pickers were out there bright and early, another working in the Jubilee Garden. One tidying up in and around the cabin and I worked in front of the cabin planning daffodil bulbs in the ground below and around the new raised bed, I then put a fine layer of wood chippings over the ground to protect the bulbs. The wood chippings are what the Borough Council left earlier this year when they chopped down some trees.

### Monday 3 October – FOWP Work Day

I had planned to work on the allotment but called at the cabin first for a quick chat with the Friends regarding a couple of matters on the allotment site. While I was at the cabin 9 people had arrived, 4 of them were litter picking and one went in the Jubilee Garden. Unfortunately, I didn't know what the others plans were for the morning. I then went over to the allotments. Already such a lot of hard work has been achieved by the

Friends. There is a wooden shed that will be a great help but it is definitely in need of repair, the floor and the roof need replacing. Work on the shed will begin tomorrow (4 Oct). Everything in the shed was taken to the tip as it was all wet through and rotten or completely rusted up.

#### FOWP Allotment Group – September

Work is steadily ongoing on the allotment. Already a lot has been achieved throughout September. The allotment was badly overgrown and unkept so will take quite a long time to get to how the FOWP would like it to be. Well done to them, they've certainly made a good start.

#### Wednesday 5 October- Allotment

Some of the Friends were working during the morning. I couldn't go until lunchtime and when I arrived the others had already gone home because of the rain so I went home too.

#### Monday 10 October – Work Day & AGM

The work was limited because of the AGM due to start at 11 am. The usual litter picking volunteers went on their way, others worked in the Jubilee Garden and I did a bit of weeding in the two troughs. The AGM was quite straightforward and the election of the Chair and of the Treasurer and Secretary remain the same for the coming year. Finances and other matters were agreed upon. \*The Chairman has given a nice first annual report which I will copy and paste for the Parish Councillors to read\*.

#### Wednesday 12 October – Allotment

Several of the Friends went to work on the allotment from 10 am and I took the FOWP Secretary along with me at lunchtime. During the morning the shed had been placed in a new position and some of the woodwork renewed. The shed was placed on a new strong foundation and It's all looking better each time we visit.

#### Thursday 13 October - Allotment

I went back on the allotment alone to do some painting on the shed, just for 2 hours. It still needs more layers as it hasn't been painted for a long time.

In my first few visits I've found the other allotment residents to be nice and friendly. It's a nice peaceful place to potter about in.

#### Friday 14 October – Ingreivity Visit

I didn't attend this time so have no details other than this Company had come to work in the Jubilee Garden. They put the new base of the sun dial in situ and the top will be secured shortly. Ingreivity donated funds raised by selling cakes that the FOWP made on the visit earlier this year and the sundial was purchased with those funds. In the afternoon I'd arranged to meet the FOWP Chairman to come along for some mature plants which one of my neighbours had donated for the park.

#### Saturday 15 October – YFOWP Work Day

Another successful work day for the Young Friends. They made bird feeders out of wood previously cut last year into manageable lengths and dried out. Depending on the height of the wood 2 or 3 largish holes were drilled through the wood and filled with a mixture of lard and mixed bird seeds then rolled into little balls that were then pushed into the holes. They made some last year that didn't have anything for the birds to stand on while they eat the food so this year, they were upgraded with some extra holes for the cane pieces to be

inserted underneath the feeding hole. A metal hook was fixed into the top with string to hang on branches. They took their own finished feeder's home for their garden birds and one was placed in woodland in the park. Hopefully in due course more of these feeders will go into the park.

#### Monday 17 October – Work Day

Not much to report, just 5 volunteers. 2 litter picking, 1 doing some maintenance around the Jubilee Garden, 2 planting some donated plants from one of my neighbours in both Jubilee and the small triangle in front of the Cabin plus a bit of pruning.

#### Monday 24 October – Work Day

We had 3 litter pickers that I know of this morning, 2 others clearing the ground around the small garden in front of the cabin then putting wood chippings on the top to help the stop weeds. The wood chippings are what the Council left from cutting back some trees earlier in the year. 2 others went working in the park and I finally got around to planting some plants that were donated some time ago.

#### Monday 31 October – Work Day

I took 2 Hosta plants for the park donated by one of my neighbours and put them in the garden by the cabin. Began feeding the birds again. Someone reported to us that 2 bikes had been dumped in the park so a couple of us went to remove them. Then we were told by several people that a duck had some plastic around its neck. It was reported to the RSPCA who were not available to come out but offered to lend us a net to catch the duck. By the time we got the net the ducks had been so well fed by several visitors and had gone away into the reeds as did the poor little duck who had struggled to eat. One lady worked at a Vets and had some knowledge and she offered to return later with someone else to free it. As yet I don't know the outcome.

Afterwards 3 of us went off to the allotment because the weather was good and we wanted to cover the roof of the shed with roofing felt. It got well covered and sealed, nailed into place and the next job will be putting a trim around the edges. Each time we go there are improvements.

#### Monday 7 November – Work Day and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Students

This morning we had 4 volunteers litter picking and they all thought there was more litter than usual. Perhaps because it was after the bonfire night. 2 regulars were working in the Jubilee Garden, myself weeding in the small garden by the cabin and one cleaning and tidying inside the cabin.

The Chairman brought us up to date regarding the little duck that they tried to rescue last week. The lady from the vets had gone back later that day and again the following day but could not find it. No one appears to have seen it since. We hope someone else may have rescued it.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form Students attended in the afternoon together with some parents and teachers. It has been a long time since their last visit. It was a lovely afternoon they planted some Spring bulbs and cleared away lots of leaves using a leaf blower, brushes and rakes to remove the many fallen leaves into wheelbarrows. There was lots of fun and laughter. At the end the Chairman asked them how many points they would give him out of 10 and they said 2. So, he then told them he would give them 1 out of 10 and they replied they deserved 10 out of 10. Weather permitting, they will come again on 2 occasions before Christmas. We are planning to have a Santa Dash for Foxwood school before Christmas. There hasn't been a Santa Dash since before Covid.

### Note - Allotment in general

It is difficult to give credit to all the regular FOWP helpers comings and goings on the allotment site especially when you don't know who, when or what they did. I do know they are all doing a great job and come and go regularly as it fits in with their own routines. Therefore, I think it's best for me to just keep the Cllrs aware of the progress made in my future reports. Hope that's OK.

AGM Chairman's Report 2021/22                      10.10.2022

I want to today thank you all for attending this year's AGM and offer my thanks to all of our members for all their vitally important work that they have completed during this last year on the park.

We all adore Woolston Park and should be proud of our achievements and I would like to also thank all those others that also put their input into the Park. These are organisations such as WBC, Woolston Parish Council, Ingevity, Duke of Edinburgh participants, Scouts from the local area, Woolston Learning Village, Fungal Punk Dave and of course the members of our Young Friends Group (Thank you Alex, Chris and Marian) and guest speakers who have continued to spend time in the Park, learning about nature but also helping with the various tasks that need doing. The support of all our Park users who help with keeping the Park tidy is also greatly appreciated.

We have organised a Nature Walk, Bird Walks (thanks Derek) and a hugely successful Teddy Bear Picnic as well as an Easter Eggstravaganza and have supported this year's 10km local run. These have all been enjoyed by the local community.

Despite Covid and sometimes the weather, the Friends managed in 2021 a total of 1233.75 hours and our Monday morning meetings continue to be popular with the group. This year's figures of 1642 hours has already passed last year's total, which proves the popularity of our group.

Tasks completed include litter picking, gardening, revarnishing the benches in the Jubilee Garden (thank you Ian) carrying out repairs to the cabin (thank you Tom), nest box surveys and their cleaning, removing the dangerous boardwalk near the top pond and reusing the wood. Hedge cutting and planting bulbs and trees. We complete so many jobs that we would welcome any new members that would like to join us. This year the Parish Council purchased a Crab Apple tree to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and this will be recognised when we receive a plaque for the tree. Ingevity staff have worked on the garden, ran a fundraising cake stall and donated us the money, which was raised and is being used to purchase a sundial for the centre of the Jubilee Garden.

Whilst we have done so much, we must not forget that we have also received some private donations as well as grants from the Parish Council for tools and equipment and the Cheshire Community Foundation Fund which paid for our Nature Activity Trail. For all of this support we thank you

We have also re written our Groups Constitution and Aims and Objectives and Alex has completed his Food Hygiene Certificate. We have also an Easy Fundraising fundraiser in

place when purchasing shopping items on the web and I would urge members to use this site to help us raise additional funds.

Finally, as we continue into this year, we have been successful with an Allotment application and we have also a small group of dedicated volunteers who are now working hard on improving and preparing Plot 5b in readiness for this next year, which includes two more new members.

My thanks also to Alex for his help and advice over my first year as Chair and to Maureen and Lynn who also support me in my role

It always an interesting time on the Park and it is a place that I come to enjoy. Thank you for accepting me as Chair and I look forward to the coming year

Jon

Chairman.....