

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 3 DECEMBER 2024

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)

Councillors: J Hunter, CA Kilgannon, D Nowell, G Rushby, S Rydzkowski, CS Wilcock

Apologies for absence: Councillors H Klein, L Sheridan, R Tynan

C95 Appointment of Chairman

Resolved,

That in the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Banner be appointed as Chairman of this meeting.

C96 Chairman's opening remarks

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

Jim and Mary Greenslade

The Council had been informed of the joint funeral service for Jim and Mary Greenslade to held at SS Peter and Michael RC Church on 19 December 2024, the church they had both attended from coming to live in Woolston. Both were elected as Chairman of the Council several times and as Chair of the Environment and Amenities Committee during their service as parish councillors until their retirement in May this year. They had both contributed to the work of local groups including the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group and the Friends of Woolston Park.

Jim was supportive of marking the role of Old Billy, the world's oldest horse, as part of the heritage of Woolston and had designed the plaque sited at Woolston Weir viewing area. The Old Billy trail along the length of the New Cut Canal opened this year during his final period of office as Chairman.

Mary was also remembered as a Borough Councillor for Poulton South Ward and was appointed by the Borough Council as an Honorary Alderman on retiring from office. In the aftermath of the Warrington bombings in 1993 Mary had played a significant role in the Warrington Project, building bridges with the local community, visiting Ireland to promote peace and education within local schools.

The Council recorded their appreciation of the service given by them both to the community in Woolston for over 40 years and members stood in silence in respect of their memory.

C97 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C98 Apologies for absence

The Council noted apologies for absence from Councillors Klein, Sheridan and Tynan.

C99 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2024 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C100 Co-option of members

Further to Minute C83(2) 2.- 15 October 2024 the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 29 November 2024. Consideration was given to the procedure for filling the vacancies including additional measures to publicise the vacancies:

Resolved,

That

1. the procedure adopted by the Council be continued and further consideration to measures to publicise the vacancies;
2. notice be given of the vacancies and applicants be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

C101 Election of Vice Chairman

The Council reviewed the making of an appointment of Vice Chairman for 2024-25 following the co-option of members:

Resolved,

That consideration be given at the next meeting.

C102 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

C103 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 November 2024. It was noted that incidents had again been recorded in recent reports of the speed limit being exceeded on Hillock Lane; this was a change to the surveys undertaken by the Borough Council:

Resolved,

That

1. the monthly report for November 2024 be noted;
2. Councillor Tynan be asked to bring the information to the attention of the Borough Council when making representations for a reduction in the speed limit.

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

C104 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

In the absence of the Borough Ward Councillors consideration be given at the next meeting.

Matters raised with the Borough Council

- Borough Council review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane – to

consider future action on the response from the Director of Transport and Environment. The Council noted that revised advice had been issued to local authorities on the introduction of 20mph zones on highways adjacent to schools. 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.

Following consideration of the response it was

Resolved,

That

1. the information be noted;
2. the scheme for a new pedestrian island be further considered at the next meeting to allow the views of the Borough Ward Councillors to be known.

C105 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. These had also been raised at the recent meeting of the Public Rights of Way Forum:

Path 31 (Woolston Weir to the Manchester Ship Canal) continued to be obstructed by vegetation. There were signs that Giant Hogweed was growing back on areas previously cleared. The Public Rights of Way Officer was to report this matter to officers in Environmental Maintenance.

Moss Brow – details of land ownership were to be sought by officers to allow consideration to be given to a diversion of the footpath.

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

Woolston Deposit Ground No.1 – status of development

Further to minute C88(1) – 15 October 2024 consideration was given to a response from the Borough Council's Major Applications Team Leader, Development Management to the concerns raised by the Council:

- The application 2021/39561 was considered by Development Management Committee on 5 May 2022, Committee resolved to grant planning permission subject to the signing of a Section 106 agreement.
- This application sought firstly to extend the life of the planning permission so that all tipping of DECW (inert waste material Demolition, Excavation and Construction Wastes) would be completed by 15 June 2024 and for the final restoration of the site to be completed by 15 June 2025. Previously the permitted dates for these actions were 15 June 2021 and 15 June 2022 respectively.
- The S106 agreement has been in negotiation in the period since the committee resolution in May 2022 with challenges around legal matters resulting in a delay to completing the agreement. Whilst these matters have now been resolved, it is recognised that the date (15 June 2024) for conclusion of tipping of DECW which is essential to the restoration process, originally applied for by the applicant has now passed.
- Recent discussions with the applicant on the best way to progress outstanding matters so that the restoration of the site can be completed have led to the applicant confirming they intend to submit amendments to the application. These amendments will seek a further extended period to complete restoration given that restoration works have been delayed by the discussions on the s106 agreement.
- The Council expects to receive this information shortly and will undertake a new consultation exercise with consultees and local residents, this will include consultation with local ward councillors and the parish council.

Resolved,

That

1. the response be noted;
2. details be requested on the expected timescale for the submission of the application;
3. the Borough Ward Councillors be requested to assist in obtaining information on the Section 106 agreement.

Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park

The Council noted that discussions were continuing with Borough Council officers on the repairs to the Ranger Cabin including the involvement of the Friends of Woolston Park group and other users. The FoWP group was aware of the contribution reserved by the Council for assistance to works if a request was made.

Provision and siting of Christmas tree 2024

Further to minute C88(1) – 15 October 2024 the Clerk reported that the Borough Council had proceeded with the installation of the Christmas tree on A57 Manchester Road. Councillor Wilcock offered to design a poster for the site with a Christmas message from the Council as provided by Councillor J Greenslade in previous years:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and the offer from Councillor Wilcock be gratefully accepted.

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

The Clerk reported on the response from the Battery Lane Allotment Association to finalise their part in the procedures for the track from the junction with Battery Lane to the allotment site entrance. The Association had supplied a copy of the current insurance policy to evidence that work outside the allotment site by their volunteers was included. The policy was to be renewed on 1 January 2025 with the same company and with the same conditions.

The work plan had also been supplied and both documents had been provided by the Council to the Borough Council having regard to their joint use of the track for access to the field alongside the river for the tenant of their land. No adverse comments had been received.

The Association had confirmed that a log was to be kept of each session of work, recording the start and end times, plus the persons on duty as supervisors, and those doing the work. It was the Association's intention to repair two of the potholes, close to the allotment gate to allow the Council to view, should it so wish, their procedures in action:

Resolved,

That approval be given for the maintenance works to proceed subject to no adverse comments from the Council's insurers.

Battery Lane - maintenance

The Clerk reported and the Council noted that the Borough Council had given approval, subject to conditions, to the request from the Battery Lane Allotment Association for their volunteers to undertake maintenance work to the public right of way. The Association was giving consideration to the response.

(2) Finance and General Committee

Development of the capital and revenue budget for 2025/26

The Council considered the development of the budget for 2025/26. The Borough Council had provided details of the tax base calculated for 2025/26 to be used when determining the precept:

Resolved,

That the budget for 2025/26 be prepared on a no growth basis.

Annual Service of Remembrance – review of arrangements made for 2024 and planning of event in 2025

The Council reviewed the organisation and arrangements for the service held on Sunday 10 November 2024. The Council had agreed to undertake the role of organiser for the service in consultation with the Woolston Church of the Ascension and the local Royal British Legion representative. The Council had also agreed to the continued use of the tiled surface for the event

provided through the Borough Council for the area used by the public adjacent to the memorial. This was the first service conducted by Reverend Tabitha Rao as Vicar of the Church of the Ascension. A review of this year's event was to be carried out with the Church and RBL representatives. Members reported positive comments from those attending the service including an improvement to the operation of the public address system provided by the church:

Resolved,

That

1. approval be given for the Council to undertake the role of organiser for the 2025 service in consultation with Church of the Ascension and the local RBL representative;
2. approval be given to the continued use of the tiled surface or similar for the event area used by the public adjacent to the memorial;
3. a report be given following the review of the 2024 event.

Role of the parish council in relation to local schools

Further to Minute C92 – 15 October 2024, the Clerk reported that Kings Leadership Academy had been approached on the proposal for liaison with schools and had expressed an interest in developing the initiative :

Resolved,

That the response be welcomed and discussions be held with the school on the way forward.

Applications for grant aid

Noted no applications to consider.

C106 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 – No meeting held. Information was published by the group on their website.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – no matters to report.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell reported on the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 14 November 2024 supplied by the Borough Council and on action being taken in respect of issues relating to the parish.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C107 Correspondence – consultation and information – PSPO Woolston Park and Paddington Meadows

The Council noted that details had been requested from the Borough Council of the effect of the recent introduction of the Public Space Protection Order on Woolston Park and Paddington Meadows.

– Woolston Church of the Ascension – carol singing event

The Council noted that details had been provided by the Church of the Carols around the Christmas Tree event to be on Friday 13 December at 7.00pm. A poster was to be displayed of events over the Christmas period open to the community.

C108 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		
2024/01339/FUL	Ninemeister, 12 Chesford Grange, WA1 4RE	Part removal of external wall cladding and replacement with new insulated cladding panels. Removal of asbestos pitched roof finish and replacement with new insulated composite panels
FULL PLANNING HOUSEHOLDER		
2024/00516/FULH	58 Hillock Lane WA1 4NF	First floor rear extension
2024/01245/FULH	125 Hillock Lane WA1 4PQ	Side extension to existing garage, replacing garage roof to flat roof and converting garage to a home office
2024/01416/FULH	50 Brickhurst Way WA1 4LG	Retrospective application for the installation of timber board fencing to the rear garden.
DISCHARGE OF CONDITION		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2024/01240/DISCON	Williams Tarr & Co Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Discharge of Condition nos.6 (CEMP),7 (Site Access), 14 (Contaminated land report), 15 (Remediation) and 21 (Drainage) attached to planning permission 2023/01560/FUL.
SECTION 191 CERTIFICATE		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2024/01392/CLDE	Juniper Farm, Manchester Road WA3 6DR	Use of the premises as a restaurant Within Class E Commercial, Business and Service.

NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT		
2024/01343/NMA	Unit 1, 18 Chesford Grange WA1 4RQ	Non-material amendment to allow changes to wording of condition nos. 11,12 and 15 and removal of condition no. 14 attached to planning permission 2023/01340/FULM

Resolved,

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

C109 Business raised by Council Members – Carbon Literacy

Councillor Nowell reported and it was noted that because of ill health the office involved the planned training would be delayed to the New Year.

C110 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not Recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4792	30/09/24	Employee 1	0.00	1244.66	M5 August/ M6 September 2024	
4793	15/10/24	Woolston Church of the Ascension	0.00	150.00	Grant – Christmas tree event 2024	Yes
4794	15/10/24	Royal British Legion (Clerk)	0.00	40.00	Wreath Remembrance Sunday 2024	
4795	15/10/24	Warrington BC (Clerk)	0.00	84.00	Room hire 28 May and 25 June 2024	
4796	17/10/24	Warrington BC	0.00	84.00	Room hire 9 July and 10 September 2024	
4797	31/10/24	Employee 1	0.00	462.23	M7 October 2024	
4798	25/11/24	Employee 1	0.00	462.23	M8 November 2024	
4799	3/12/24	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	426.60	PAYE M4 to 6	
4800	3/12/24	PKF Littlejohn LLP (Clerk)	0.00	252.00	Annual Governance and Accountability return 2023-24	
4801	3/12/24	Warrington BC	0.00	2193.00	Remembrance Day combined works –	

					shrubs/hire of mats and staff 10 November 2024	
4802	3/12/24	Dropbox plus(Clerk)	0.00	95.88	Cloud storage	

C111 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 21 January 2025.

APPENDIX.

**Woolston
November 2024 - Monthly Parish report**

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

Anti Social Behaviour

2 Youths (0), environmental (1), personal (1)
Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

1 Dwelling Car/key
3 Other Businesses

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Criminal Damage

3 1x vehicle; 2x business related

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle
3 Theft from vehicle Business vehicles

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OTHER

- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 05/10/24 – range 19 to 31mph
- Speed monitoring Gig Lane 10/10/24 – range 18 to 31mph
- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 20/10/24 – 23 to 33mph (2@ 31, 1 @32)
- Speed monitoring Gig Lane 20/10/24 – 17 to 25mph
- Speed monitoring Hillock Lane 04/11/24 – 14 to 37mph
- [Five men jailed for Warrington burglaries spree | 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>

WBC online reporting portal:-

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

St Martins Methodist Church – coffee morning attended
Woolston CP – Bonfire/Fireworks assembly
Foxwood School – Meet the Police; Bonfire/Fireworks inputs
St Peters School – Bonfire/firework assembly
Woolston CE Primary – Bonfire/Firework assembly
Woolston Remembrance Service attended

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments
Face to face drop-in surgeries – 20 Nov 1300 – 1400; 27 Nov 1800 – 1900; 5 Dec 1800 – 1900; 12 Dec 1300 - 1400
Mobile drop in surgeries are advertised on the Rixton & Woolston Police Facebook page

Chairman.....