

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, WARREN LANE, WOOLSTON ON 9 DECEMBER 2025**

**Present:** Councillor R Tynan (Chairman)

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

**C85 Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

**C86 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest**

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**C87 Apologies for absence**

All members were present.

**C88 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2025 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**C89 Co-option of members**

Further to Minute C74 – 28 October 2025, the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 5 December 2025:

Resolved,

That notice be given of the two remaining vacancies and applicants be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

**C90 Matters of report from previous minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**C91 Policing of Woolston**

PCSO Roberts attended the meeting and reported on the monthly report for November 2025:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and PCSO Roberts be thanked for her attendance.  
(Please see appendix for a copy of the report).

**C92 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).

## 1 Reports from Borough Councillors

There were no items to report on individual matters raised.

## 2 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 – construction of a new pedestrian island on Manchester Road just to the west of the junction with Weir Lane and request to remove the tactile surface from the dropped crossings on A57 Manchester Road on the grounds of road safety. These indicated a crossing point for persons with disabilities and the proposed improvements had not been implemented. The introduction of a pedestrian island was under consideration by the officers – no further information to report.

- Woolston Neighbourhood Hub – temporary closure

The Council considered the consultation launched by the Borough Council online on 10 November 2025 on the future of the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub. Further to previous representations on the lack of information the Borough Council had sent a copy of the letter sent at that time to all Borough Councillors on the consultation process.

The Council noted that the centre had long been the place for meetings of the parish council. The then Council recognised the importance of the centre in providing a location used by all members of the community. This was lost when the centre staff informed the Council of the temporary closure of the building. That period had extended for many months and now with the threat of a permanent closure of the whole building with no suitable alternative in the parish for both the Council's needs and the public for all the facilities valued by so many of all ages.

Since the closure the Council had been informed by Borough Ward Councillors Sheridan and Tynan through them sharing letters issued by officers to all other Borough Councillors as more results of issues were identified. No information had been sent direct to the parish council, and no briefings had been offered to allow members to make an informed response to those in the community seeking information. There had still not been any offer of a presentation on the future of the most important public facility in Woolston.

Borough Councillor Tynan reported on the unanimous approval by Full Council on 1 December 2025 of the following motion:

*Motion 2 – Woolston Neighbourhood Hub Agenda Item 10 Proposed by Councillor Tynan, Seconded by Councillor Mann*

*Woolston Neighbourhood Hub has long been a central part of local life, providing access to a swimming pool, library, gym, squash courts and community spaces. Situated alongside the local GP practice, it plays an important role in supporting health, wellbeing, learning and social connection. Since its closure in September 2025 due to water-safety and structural concerns, residents have been left without access to many valued services. The ongoing uncertainty has understandably caused frustration and concern about the future of the site. It is widely recognised that the challenges facing community facilities are complex and that difficult decisions may be required. However, any decisions about Woolston's future must be shaped openly and with meaningful involvement from local*

*people. Woolston is a growing community with evolving needs, and long-term planning should reflect that.*

*This Council resolves to:*

- 1. Acknowledge the full community value of the Woolston Hub, including its contribution to health, leisure, learning and social wellbeing.*
- 2. Commit to a clear and transparent consultation on the future of the site, ensuring that Woolston residents can participate fully.*
- 3. Explore and publish all realistic options for repairing, reusing or replacing the facility, supported by clear and accessible costings.*
- 4. Ensure continued access to local library services, fitness facilities and community meeting space, either within the existing site or nearby.*
- 5. Work collaboratively with local GP services to understand how any future proposals may affect patient access and primary care provision.*
- 6. Provide a detailed update to Full Council within three months, setting out progress, findings and proposed next steps.*

Councillor Tynan submitted the response from officers to his request for a basic breakdown of the £3M estimate. This provided a summary of known works and estimated costs. Discussions were continuing on the need for all the works listed and the estimated costs.

The overwhelming support from the community and across the Borough for Woolston Neighbourhood Hub since the announcement in November of consultation been given in many ways including:

- The public demonstration outside the closed building achieving both local and regional media interest.
- The creation of a dedicated support group - [Savewoolstonhub.uk](http://Savewoolstonhub.uk)
- The public demonstration before the Full Council meeting on 1 December
- Questions by the public to the Cabinet meeting on 8 December
- Requests for help in providing a means for a paper copy of the consultation questionnaire to allow those without access to online facilities to respond. This was achieved through the support from officers.
- The support of both Members of Parliament, Warrington North and Warrington South, and the commitment of Charlotte Nichols MP to seek funding from the Government and other sources.

The Council considered action to achieve a partial re-opening of the Hub on a phased basis to demonstrate the commitment of the Borough Council to a community facility for Woolston. This would include the meeting rooms, library, fitness room, squash courts and studio. It was also important to prioritise the reinstatement of the GP surgery with urgent action to the long-needed roof repairs that the parish council made representations about in support of the Padgate Medical Practice that lease the rooms in that area. Given that the police hold surgeries and other activities at the Hub there may be a route to seeing if the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire can provide funding.

The Council had received a presentation in July 2025 from the Planning Director, Barratt & David Wilson Homes North West on the sports package proposed for Woolston following liaison with Borough Council officers, as part of a Sports Mitigation Strategy. This related to the proposed housing redevelopment at the former Padgate Campus site.

For Woolston this was to provide the replacement of capacity lost on grass playing fields at Padgate Campus through provision of new full sized Rugby Football League and Football

Foundation compliant artificial grass pitches (AGP) at Woolston Playing Fields. The parking requirements of 50 spaces for the new AGP had been assessed and agreed with the relevant Borough Council officers and the sports bodies. The Council had agreed in principle to the request to the use of adjacent land noting the intention to provide the monies via a Section 106 agreement to deliver the parking works:

Resolved,

That

1. the unanimous approval by the Borough Council of the motion proposed by Councillor Tynan be welcomed and support be given to the action approved;
2. the Borough Council be requested to engage in discussions with Borough Ward Councillors and the Council to achieve an early reopening of the facilities;
3. to demonstrate its commitment to the urgent need to re-open access to facilities, while surveys and other work continue by the Borough Council, the possibility of a Public Works Loan Board loan be explored to help towards repairs, provided the Borough Council agrees to Woolston Neighbourhood Hub being kept open in some form;
4. given the current situation with Woolston Neighbourhood Hub, the Council considers that:
  1. the existing grass pitches at Woolston Playing Fields should be retained and the additional parking spaces created to accommodate the current use of the pitches currently managed by the Borough Council. This will reduce the overspill for parking on adjacent highways;
  2. the new AGP's should be sited alongside Woolston Neighbourhood Hub to promote the use of the centre and create additional income from their use.

### **C93 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 inspections made of public footpaths including:

- The Borough Council had carried out maintenance on the path beneath the Bailey bridge adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct.
- Information had not been received on the completion of the S106 agreement relating to the Woolston Deposit Ground No.1

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted;
2. the Borough Council be requested to provide information on the progress in completing the S106 agreement.

##### **2. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park**

The Council noted that there was no further information to report on repairs to the Ranger Cabin.

### **3. Provision of Christmas tree 2025**

The Clerk reported further to Minute C78 (3) – 28 October 2025, that the Christmas tree had been sited in the highway verge alongside Manchester Road adjacent to the junction with Weir Lane. The dressing of the lights on the tree had been carried out by the Street Lighting Section at the Council:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

### **4. Woolston Playing Fields – proposed improvement scheme**

The Clerk reported further to Minute C78 (4) 28 October 2025 that the agent appointed by Barratt & David Wilson Homes and the University of Chester had given notification to the Council, as landowner, to submit an application for full planning permission at Woolston Playing Fields. The development was described as “Full planning application for the erection of an Artificial Grass Pitch, Extension to the Existing Car Park, and Associated infrastructure”:

Resolved,

That the notification be noted.

### **5. Battery Lane Allotment Site – management matters**

The Council noted that monthly inspections were being carried out with a representative of the Association.

#### **(2) Finance and General Committee**

##### **1. Banking arrangements – operation of online facilities**

Further to Minute C78 (2) 1. – 28 October 2025 the Clerk reported on the operation of the proposed revised banking facilities including authorisation of transactions. National Westminster Bank had confirmed that online access could be provided to the Council’s existing accounts that included the required security measures for payments, and it was

Resolved,

That approval be given to online facilities being introduced.

##### **2. Adoption of revised model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

The Clerk reported that following approval to introduce online facilities amendment of the revised models to control online access to the Council’s banking accounts would be provided for consideration by the Council:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the submission of revised models allowing online access to the Council’s accounts.

##### **3. Review of the provision of the Council’s website**

Further to Minute C78(2) 3. – 28 October 2025, the Clerk submitted a quotation from Parish Council Websites for the new provision of a new website. The site would provide key

additional features and meet the necessary Transparency Code and GDPR requirements and security measures. The company were authorised registrars of .gov.uk domains, The company provided similar websites to other parish councils in the Borough:

Resolved,

That the quotation of Parish Council Websites of £749 plus VAT be accepted for the design, build and content migration and subsequent hosting and support of £25 per month plus VAT billed annually.

#### **4. Management Accounts 2025 -26 - July to September 2025-26**

The Council considered the Management Accounts for the period July to September 2025-26:

Resolved,

That the accounts for July to September 2025-26 be accepted.

#### **5. Review of the annual services of remembrance 2025**

The Council reviewed the organisation and arrangements for the service held on Sunday 9 November 2025. 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. Members reported positive comments from those attending the service including 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 2026 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.

#### **6. Applications for grant aid**

Noted no new applications to consider.

#### **7. Parish Council initiative – liaison with local schools**

No further information to report.

#### **C94 Reports from members appointed to local bodies**

The Council received reports from members who were appointed by the Council or other organisations on local bodies including:

New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor Rydzkowski reported on monthly surveys carried out by the Group. Information was published by the group on their website. Friends of Woolston Park group – Councillor Klein. No report to be submitted. Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell. No meeting held.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

## **C95 Correspondence**

### **– Improvement and Recovery Briefing to Parish Councils**

The Council noted a letter from the Chief Executive to all parish councils on the Borough Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan. Detailed information on the contents of the Plan was available on the Council's website – [warrington.gov.uk/improvement-and-recovery](http://warrington.gov.uk/improvement-and-recovery).

## **C96 Planning Applications and decisions**

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

Application No. 2025/01654/PA31

Application Type: Part 3 (Class T) Prior Approval

Location: Wind In The Willows Childcare, Wind In The Willows  
Childcare Gordon Avenue, WA1 3UJ

Proposal: Change of use (with no building operations) of an existing building from  
Children's Day Nursery (class E(f)) to a Social, Emotional and Mental  
Health School (SMEH)(class F1(a))

Application No: 2025/01281/FULM

Application Type: Full Planning (Major)

Location: RCI Warrington, WA1 8RS

Proposal: Erection of two new storage buildings, anchored to existing concrete  
bases.

Application No. 2025/01564/DEM

Application Type: Prior Approval (Demolition)

Location: Iceland, Iceland Hardwick Grange, WA1 4RJ

Proposal: Proposed demolition of buildings and restoration of site

THIS NOTIFICATION IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Application No: 2025/01469/FULH,

Application Type: Full Planning (Householder) (Householder Development)

Location: 39 Hertford Close, WA1 4EZ

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory; and proposed single storey rear  
extension and proposed first floor side extension above existing garage.

Application No: 2025/01468/NMA

Application Type: Non-Material Amendment

Location: Unit 4, Kingsland Grange, WA1 4RW

Proposal: Non-material amendment of planning permission 2022/42228 to allow  
for change of position of substation.

THIS NOTIFICATION IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

## NOTICE OF PLANNING APPEAL

Application Number: 2025/00797/FUL

Site Address: 11 Hickory Close, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4EQ

Proposal: Retrospective change of use from garden outbuilding to barbers.

Appeal Reference: APP/M0655/W/25/3376215

Appeal Start Date: 2 December 2025

Resolved,

That no representations be made in respect of the above applications submitted for consultation.

## **C97 Business raised by Council Members** **– proposed new school, Bruche**

The Council noted a report from Councillor Rydzkowski on a planning application to be considered by the Development Management Committee on 11 December 2025 for the development of the existing Bruche Primary school to provide for all ages from 0 to 16 years. It was noted that this development was outside the parish but included in the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward.

### **– bus fare subsidies**

The Council noted a report from Councillor Nowell on changes to the capping of bus fares to come into effect in January 2026.

## **C98 Accounts**

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4865	15/11/25	Employee 1	0.00	462.43	M8 November 2025	
4866	9/12/25	Rainford's Farm Ltd	0.00	1401.60	Provision of Christmas tree	
4867	9/12/25	Warrington BC	0.00	1061.30	By-election 7/4/2022 instalment	
4868	9/12/25	Warrington BC	0.00	2458.32	Remembrance Day service works 9/11/2025	

## **C99 Date and venue of next meeting**

The Council considered the date and venue of the next meeting:

Resolved,

That the next meeting be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20 January 2026 and the Church of the Ascension be the preferred venue in the absence of availability of the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub.

## APPENDIX

### Woolston November 2025 - Monthly Parish report

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

#### Anti Social Behaviour

**5** Youths (1), environmental (3), personal (1)  
Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

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#### Burglary

**1** Dwelling  
**1** Other Business location

#### Criminal Damage

**4** 3x vehicle; 1x property (no damage)

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#### Vehicle crime

**2** Theft of vehicle  
**1** Theft from vehicle

#### OTHER

- Speed enforcement – Gig Lane 17 Oct, range observed 14 to 27mph
- Speed monitoring – Gig Lane 13 Nov, range observed 20 to 35mph (1@ 35)
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- [Safer Internet Day 2025 Top Tips - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Operation Lawmaker rolls into Warrington and sees further arrests and illegal bikes seized | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- [Constabulary intensifying efforts regarding the sale of knives during week-long operation | 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>  
What's On - Warrington Youth Zone
- The Environment Agency have a 24hr hotline 0800 80 70 60 for members of the public to report matters such as flooding from rivers/streams, poaching/illegal fishing to them
- <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>
- 24/7 mental health crisis lines free to call

North West Boroughs Healthcare has upgraded its existing 24/7 mental health crisis lines to Freephone numbers. This means they are now free to call from both landlines and mobile phones. The new dedicated phone numbers are:

- 0800 051 1508 for people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington
- 0800 051 3253 for people living in Wigan

The crisis lines provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week to people of all ages, including children and young people, who need urgent mental health support. You do not need to be known to our services to contact our crisis lines; they are available for patients and public.

Please be assured, anyone who dials the original local numbers will still reach our mental health crisis teams first time, without the need to be diverted

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Please advise people reporting an incident/crime to ring Cheshire Constabulary on 101 (999 in case of emergency) so it can be recorded correctly - not via Facebook/email.

Online Reporting portal is available via the Cheshire Constabulary website to report certain crimes, incidents, issues:-

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

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#### **Useful Links offering advice and information:-**

Online safety and advice

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/useful-contacts-for-fraud-cyber-crime-advice/>

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children/>

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK  
<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Home/Business safety and security information

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/non-residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-from-a-vehicle/vehicle-safe-and-sound/>

Advice to help keep your bicycle safe

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

Whilst the majority of dog owners act responsibly, a few do not always pick up and bin their dog's mess. Residents can use the WBC online reports to provide them with information which could help to identify irresponsible dog owners

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/dog-fouling>

[Leave only pawprints | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/Leave-only-pawprints)

WBC online reporting portal:-

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

Woolston CP – Reception / Owlets – Meet the Police; Yr 5 /6 Bonfire / firework safety input

Woolston CE – Yr 5/6 Bonfire Fire safety input, Yr 6 World of Work, Reception Meet the Police

Kings – Liaising with staff

Friends of Woolston Park – Young Friends groups and other volunteers met

Church Ascension / St Martins Methodist – visited

WBC – liaise with Youth Services, Highways, Environmental, Trading Standards Depts

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### **Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub (car park)

Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments

Face to face drop-in surgeries – 18 Nov 1800 – 1900; 10 Dec 1800 – 1900

At Rixton with Glazebrook Community Hall 10:30 – 11:30 24 Nov

Mobile drop in surgeries are advertised on the Warrington East Police Facebook page

Chairman.....