

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 11 OCTOBER 2023**

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

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors M Czekalski, AJ Hill

### **C47 Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting.

### **C48 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C49 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Hill because of work commitments; she hoped to be able to join the meeting later.

### **C50 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C51 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report**

The Council agreed to bring forward consideration of the agenda item to hear representations from residents. There was no Police representative in attendance.

Residents attended the meeting to raise their concerns at issues created by the decision of the Home Office to provide accommodation at the Holiday Inn located in Woolston for those seeking asylum.

Several of the residents had attended the Police drop-in session held at the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub the previous Saturday. The Police Community Service Officers had taken note of the concern of residents at individual issues raised and had provided them with advice and how to access Police for help, including the time to use the 101 or 999 services and other information to take away.

The residents were each invited to put their questions to the meeting.

The common point made was their frustration at the lack of public information from any source regarding the rights, responsibilities and controls, if any, on those housed at the Holiday Inn whilst waiting for their application for asylum to be processed.

The Council was requested to act as their voice to seek information and support from the relevant people and for action on their concerns.

Residents were advised to contact the Home Secretary, their Member of Parliament, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, Borough Ward Councillor, as appropriate, on their own experience or issue.

Matters relating to ongoing Police action were not discussed in detail at the meeting.

The Council then considered the monthly report for September 2023. A Police representative was unable to attend the meeting to present the report for operational reasons:

Resolved,

That

1. support be given to residents by seeking answers to the questions they have raised from the Home Secretary, the Borough Council, the Members of Parliament for Warrington North and Warrington South, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Borough Ward Councillors;
2. the monthly report for September 2023 be noted.  
*(Please see appendix for copy of the report)*

*(Councillor D Hill in attendance)*

#### **C52 Matters of report from previous minutes**

No matters to report.

#### **C53 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  
No matters to report.
2. Matters raised with the Borough Council
  - 2.1 Borough Council Review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane - Borough Ward Councillors were asked to raise again the request for 20mph restrictions on Hillock Lane, Dam Lane and roads adjacent to schools – no information to report.
  - 2.2 Surfacing of the path to Woolston Playing Fields – the path had been surfaced.
  - 2.5 Replacement of bus shelter on A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the junction with Laburnum Avenue – noted that following a review by the Borough Council of the number of passengers joining an outbound service at Laburnum Avenue, a decision had been made that a replacement shelter was not justified:

Resolved,  
That the report be noted, and the identified action approved.

## **C54 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:

- Thelwall Viaduct to Rixton – noted that the vegetation had been cut back.

Resolved,  
That the report be noted.

#### **2. Martinscroft Green – recreational use and maintenance of trees**

Further to Minute C41(1)2. – 6 September 2023, the Council considered the response from the arboricultural consultant on the management of all trees at the Green:

Resolved,  
That approval be given to a site meeting being held involving the Chairman of the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Clerk with the consultant.

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

Further to Minute C41(1) 3. – 6 September 2023, the Clerk reported on a meeting with the Environment Services Manager following the publication by Culture Warrington of the Old Billy book. The scheme had been revised to include illustrations from the book on the 5 signs to be sited along the length of the canal towpath from Weir Lane to Paddington Bank. A draft design had also been created for the information signs to be sited at each end of the towpath. The next stage was to work with Culture Warrington and their illustrator on the final designs for the signs.

Culture Warrington had reported the successful launch of the Old Billy book at the Children’s Literature Festival held at Warrington Library on Sunday 8 October 2023. There had been significant interest from primary schools for the teacher training session on Monday 16 October 2023 where teachers would receive a free copy of the book and a free session showing them how to use it in their local history classes.

Work was proceeding with the illustrator of the book in using images for the signs along the New Cut canal. This would involve further liaison with the Borough Council in approving the images for the signs to be sited along the canal towpath and at the Weir Lane viewing area that marked the start of the Old Billy trail and at Paddington Bank. The scheme could then proceed to approval by the Council for consultation with outside bodies to be partners to the

scheme. Poulton with Fearnhead parish council would be invited to be a supporter of the outreach scheme for the length from New Cut Lane to Paddington Bank:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

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

#### **4. Woolston Playing Fields – storage and entrance path works**

The Council considered an email from the Borough Council on works to surface the entrance path and changes to the storage provision on the playing fields . This related to action taken following the Council informing the Borough Council on 12 September 2023 of works being carried out by Woolston Rovers JFC to the storage area to create a secure compound for goal posts and to surface the path at their expense. The storage area was sited on an area of the playing fields in the ownership of the parish council.

Following investigation, the Borough Council had agreed that the works should proceed subject to the following action relating to the Council:

- Woolston Rovers seek formal permission, agreement with Warrington Borough Council/Woolston Parish Council as appropriate for the creation of the compound and storage containers noting that Warrington Borough Council oversee the hire use and management of all sports pitch resources within the playing fields, containers and goal storage is ancillary to formal sport at this location facilitating storage for grounds maintenance equipment and football equipment. A heads of terms document / licence agreement between the Borough Council and Woolston Rovers JFC will be required to confirm liabilities, permitted use, and future removal or relocation necessary as part of any future sports development initiatives.
- Woolston Parish Council provides consent for the occupation of the land, containers, and compound to support a formal planning application if deemed necessary. Application to be made by Woolston Rovers for the storage structure to be in place.

In considering the report the Council reviewed the present arrangements with the Borough Council for the management of public use of the playing fields after the closure of Woolston High School:

Resolved,

That

1. the action taken by the Borough Council be approved;
2. the present arrangements for the operation of the playing fields be extended to include all matters relating to their management, subject to consultation with this Council;
3. further representations be made to the Borough Council on reviewing the management arrangements for public use of the playing fields.

#### **5. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park – representations to the Borough Council**

Further to Minute C41(1)5. – 6 September 2023, the Clerk reported that the representations made to the Borough Council had been acknowledged by the Chief Executive on receipt and

referred by him to the Director of Environment and Transport for a response. A request had been made to the Director for a response:

Resolved,

That the report be noted, and further consideration be given at the next meeting.

## **6. Woolston Eyes Conservation area – access and facilities**

No further information received (Minute C41(1) 6. – 6 September 2023.

## **7. Battery Lane Allotment site – entrance gate and site security**

Further to Minute C41(1)7. – 6 September 2023, the Clerk reported on consultation with representatives of the Battery Lane Allotment Association. The Association had advised tenants to lock the gate on entrance/exit from the site. A chain lock had been provided at the gate for use in the event of the padlock failing.

The Borough Council had provided information on options for the provision of a new entrance gate and estimates of each type were being invited:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

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

### **1. Annual Service of Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2023**

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 like those for 2022. The periodic cleaning of the cenotaph had been completed. A conference call meeting had been held with officers of the Borough Council on the planning of the event:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

### **2. Register of Members' interests – publication of information**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had revised the form for the declaration of information and a copy would be supplied to members to consider if any changes were required to their current information:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

### **3. External Auditor Report and Certificate 2022/23**

The Clerk submitted the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2022/23:

Resolved,  
That the report be accepted.

#### **4. Conduct of council meetings and business during the Covid 19 pandemic**

The Clerk reported and the Council noted current Government guidance on the conduct of council business during the Coronavirus pandemic.

#### **5. Liaison with Woolston social media**

The Clerk reported on liaison arrangements with the administrator of the Woolston Facebook site regarding matters relating to Council business and the community:

Resolved,  
That the report be accepted.

#### **6. Provision of broadband and telephone services**

The Clerk reported the British Telecomm had informed the Council that the present services were to be upgraded as part of the improvement programme being implemented in Woolston and across the Borough:

Resolved,  
That the report be accepted.

#### **7. Applications for grant aid – provision of defibrillator**

Further to Minute C41(2)1. – 6 September 2023 the Council noted that information was being obtained on the location of and access to existing defibrillators in Woolston and the cost of providing, installing a defibrillator and training in its use. A further report would then be made on the request from the Woolston Church of the Ascension:

Resolved,  
That a further report be submitted when the information is complete.

#### **C55 Reports from members appointed to local bodies**

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

- New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor J Greenslade – no meeting held. Information was published by the group on their website.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Smith on activities by FoWP group since the last Council meeting and related information:  
Maintenance of the park environment
  - Regular Monday work days involving: litter picking; clearing of overgrown areas around

the car park approach road and adjacent pathways; clearing overgrown areas around the car park approach road; trimming of trees around the central pond; weeding and maintenance of flower beds, including the Jubilee Garden.

**Maintenance of Ranger Cabin and storage**

- The front door of the Ranger Cabin is in a seriously degraded state, mainly due to water damage. This issue has been reported to Borough Council officers and the FoWP are still awaiting a response. Discussions are being held with Bruche Athletic JFC regarding a repair; funds for materials will need to be secured in due course.
- A window to the changing rooms has been damaged, which presents a security risk. This issue has been reported to Borough Council officers but there has been no response yet. A temporary repair has been made and a longer term repair will be undertaken shortly by FoWP volunteers.

**Engagement with young people**

- A Young Friends event was held on 9 September 2023 at which 13 young people attended to decorate T-shirts and to litter pick.
- Three sixth form students from Fox Wood Special School attended the park on 9 October with two teachers to litter pick. This is following work done by FoWP to put the necessary procedures in place. It is planned that this will be a regular activity for young people from the school.

Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell – no meeting held.

Resolved,  
That the reports be noted.

**C56 Correspondence – consultation and information**

No matters to report.

**C57 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		
None		
LISTED BUILDING CONSENT		
2023/01031/LBC	3 Weir Lane	Construction of detached brick based shed and addition of brick based oak framed conservatory style side extension

FULL PLANNING-HOUSEHOLDER (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2023/01087/FULH	5 Wareham Close	Single storey rear extension, garage conversion and new raised pitched roof over garage to form an additional bedroom
PART16(CLASS A) PRIOR APPROVAL FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2023/01106/PA16A	Grass verge at Holes Lane WA1 4NE	Proposed telecommunications and associated works
SECTION 191 CERTIFICATE FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2023/01158/CLDP	46 Berkshire Drive	Proposed single storey side extension
PLANNING DECISIONS		
None to report		
PLANNING APPEALS		
None to report		

Resolved,

That no comments be made in respect of the applications listed subject to any further comments received from members.

**C58 Business raised by Council Members – (1) cenotaph;(2) Weir Lane speeding**

Councillor M Greenslade reported that several tribute stones had been laid on the cenotaph as a mark of remembrance. The Council noted that this had become an annual event, and the stones were removed at the same time as the wreaths from Remembrance Sunday. Councillor M Greenslade also reported on the speed of vehicles on Weir Lane that appeared to be above the 20 MPH limit. It was noted that the Borough Council had not accepted the request for additional signage and had advised that this was a police enforcement issue:

Resolved,

That

1. the action taken regarding the cenotaph be continued;
2. a report be made to the police regarding the concern at the speed of vehicle on Weir Lane.



## C59 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Date expenditure incurred</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>VAT not recoverable</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>S137</b>
4703	6/09/23	New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group	0.00	520.00	Grant for training expenses	Yes
4704	15/09/23	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M6 September 2023	
4705	15/09/23	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	310.20	PAYE Months 4-6	
4706	11/10/23	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	44.99	Printing toner	
4707	11/10/23	Great Schools Trust Warrington (Kings Leadership Academy)	0.00	84.23	Reimbursement of cost of materials for security posts and speed bump fixings	
4708	11/10/23	D&N Shotblasting and painting Services Ltd	0.00	1344.00	War Memorial – cleaning of memorial and flagged area	
4709	11/10/23	PKF Littlejohn LLP	0.00	252.00	Limited assurance review for AGAR 2022/23	

**APPENDIX**

**Woolston  
September 2023 - Monthly Parish report**

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam  
Neighbourhood Officer PC Anthony Murphy  
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

**Anti Social Behaviour**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Burglary**

1 Dwelling  
1 Other

.....  
**Criminal Damage**

0

\*\*\*\*\*

**Vehicle crime**

1 Theft of vehicle                      Business premises  
1 Theft from vehicle

\*\*\*\*\*

**OTHER**

- Press release relating to recent vehicle crime across the area and reminder for residents to be vigilant locking doors to homes, vehicles, outbuildings
- [Man arrested in connection to Warrington burglary series | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- Speed enforcement Hillock Lane – 8 Sept – no activations
- Emergency Services Open Day held at Birchwood Fire Station 9 Sep
- 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

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

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

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

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

Online safety and advice

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

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

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Home/Business safety and security information

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

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

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

Advice to help keep your bicycle safe

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

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

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

If you or someone you know needs advice and support regarding domestic abuse

<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/>



**Schools & other events**

Schools – School fayre St Peters Primary; Summer safety input Woolston CE Primary

\*\*\*\*\*

**Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

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

Chairman.....