

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2021

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020, Section 78

Present: Councillor J Greenslade (Chairman)
Councillors: M Banner, MH Greenslade, D Hill, A McCarthy, D Nowell,
M Pearce, P Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillor A Hill, S Rydzkowski

C66 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C67 Apologies for absence

The Council noted apologies for absence from Councillor A Hill because of work commitments and from Councillor Rydzkowski because of attendance at another meeting.

C68 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2020 be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record. The minutes, as approved, to be signed by the Chairman at the next physical meeting.

C69 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting PCSO Bethan Roberts. The Council considered the report provided by the Police for the previous 30 days to 18 January 2021.

Councillor Nowell reported an incident of a person fishing in the River Mersey adjacent to Weir Lane and PCSO Roberts drew attention to the sign adjacent to Woolston Weir on the control of fishing that gave a telephone contact number to report incidents.

PCSO Roberts gave an update on the proposal by the Beat Sergeant, Sgt Gibbard to all parish councils in the Warrington East Division for a bid to be made to the new fund launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a Tru Cam speed enforcement device to be located at the new police office at Birchwood Fire Station. The response to the bid had been that a speed enforcement device did not meet the criteria set for the fund.

In view of this PCSO Roberts had submitted a bid for a contribution from the fund to support the parish council in purchasing a speed warning sign to be sited on the highway. It was noted that various types of sign had been provided by parish councils in the Borough with advice from the Borough Council. The bid had been made in the knowledge of previous consideration of this matter by the Council and the need to meet the closing date for bids:

Resolved,
That

1. the report for the period to 18 January 2021 be noted;
2. consideration be given to support the purchase of a speed warning sign.
(Please see appendix for report).

C70 Matters of report from the previous meeting – recognition of service by churches in our community

The Council noted letters of thanks from the Church of the Ascension and SS Peter and Michael RC Church for the grants made (Minute C59(2) – 9 December 2020).

C71 Budget and Parish Precept 2021/22

The Council considered a report of the Clerk on the Budget and Parish Precept for 2021/22. The report gave a summary of the estimated net expenditure for 2021/22 together with other financial provision to be made. In determining the precept, the Council had regard to additional pressures that may fall to be met in the coming year:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the draft budget recommendations and a precept of £26000 be agreed for 2021/22.

C72 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors McCarthy and Wright reported on matters under consideration by the Borough Council relating to the parish and on issues that the Borough Ward members had acted on for residents including:

- The repainting of road markings in Hillock Lane had been completed.
- The response from the Borough Council regarding determination of the request from Woolston Rovers JFC to site a new storage area on Woolston Playing Fields was noted. It was agreed that further representations be made to progress the scheme.
- Representations had been made to the Borough Council following complaints from residents of Langton Green at the parking of vehicles on the grass verge and at the highway being obstructed.
- A progress report had been requested on the scheme to change the parking area fronting shop units on Parkway to chevron parking.
- Officers had been requested to provide a progress report on the resurfacing of the pedestrian route alongside Kings Leadership Academy to Woolston Playing Fields.
- Representations had been made for the introduction of 20mph speed restriction on roads to improve road safety. It was noted that provision was included in the budget for 2021/22 to assist with the implementation of road safety schemes, should this be needed. This followed on from meetings with officers and schools to introduce measures to improve road safety on routes serving the three primary schools and secondary school.
- Pot holes on Longbarn Lane and Gig Lane had been reported to the Borough Council.
- Flooding to the rear gardens of houses adjacent to Woolston Playing Fields had been reported to the Borough Council.

- Representations had been made at the condition of a property in Longbarn Lane. It was noted that the property was to be sold at auction.
- An elderly resident with no access to the internet had asked for assistance in providing an alternative method for joining the Borough Council's Green Bin scheme. It was agreed that support be given for the option of a dedicated phone number to make payment for the annual service:

Resolved,
That

1. the reports be noted;
2. action be taken as recorded above.

C73 Committee matters

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

(a) Woolston Playing Fields and Hillock Lane Amenity area – application for siting of storage equipment

Further to minute C59(1)(a) – 9 December 2020, Councillor McCarthy reported a letter from the Environment Services Manager on the request from Woolston Rovers FC for the siting of a new storage facility on the playing fields. The need for the Club to contact the Planning Department as part of the preparations to locate a storage facility on the site was advised. It was not considered to be possible to proceed with works until the ground conditions improved after recent heavy rainfall:

Resolved,
That

1. the letter be noted;
2. approval be given in principle to site the storage facility on land in the Council's ownership at the playing fields;
3. the Borough Council be asked to arrange for the completion of their standard agreement between the parties for this use;
4. the Club be required to meet any costs arising from the siting of the storage facility.

(b) Hydropol scheme, Weir Lane – update

The Council noted further information provided by the Project Coordinator for Hydropol to the Council and the administrator for the local Facebook site on the scheme. The Chairman reported on information from the administrator drawing the Council's attention to concerns regarding cracks appearing on the surfacing at Woolston Lock viewing area. This had also been discussed with the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group:

Resolved,
That

1. the thanks of the Council be recorded to:
 - Hydropol for the company's continuous communication with residents and the council on the scheme and for amending their activities on site to avoid any disruption at funeral services when held at St Peter's RC Church;

- The administrator of the Woolston with Martinscroft Facebook social media site, Mr Jim Hunter, for his assistance with informing residents on issues related to the scheme;
 - Fr Gildea of St Peter's RC Church, for suggesting, early in the process, that the car park could be used by Hydropol staff and contractors to keep parked cars off the road during deliveries and cleaning;
2. the Chairman be asked to inform Hydropol and the Borough Council of the matters raised regarding the surface of the viewing area to allow an investigation to be made.

- (2) Finance and General Amenities Committee

(a) conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Coronavirus pandemic

No matters to report.

(b) Management Accounts 2020/21 – October to December 2020

The Clerk submitted the Management Accounts for the quarterly period ending December 2020:

Recommended,

That the Management Accounts for the quarterly period ending December 2020 be accepted.

(c) Applications for grant aid – provision of speed monitoring camera

Further to minute C59 (2) (g) – 9 December 2020, the Clerk reported a letter from Sgt Gibbard, Warrington East Beat Team. After making enquiries with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office it appeared that the proposed pooling of funding to purchase a speed monitoring camera was unlikely to be accepted. Therefore, the Police Community Support Officer and Beat Manager for each area had been asked to look at separate community projects for each of the Borough Wards.

However, the Local Policing Unit were hopeful of purchasing another camera soon; although it would not be exclusive the Warrington East area, it would allow the team improved access to the LPU Tru cams, and improve speed enforcement activity on the area:

Resolved,

That the information be noted.

C74 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 – Members noted the receipt of (1) the Group Annual Report for 2019-20; (2) the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2019; (3) the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31 October 2020. Although no meetings and annual events had been held in 2020 because of the Covid 19 pandemic, work had continued in the background

to keep the group active in the hope of resuming all activities sometime in 2021. 14 February 2021 would mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the New Cut Canal and it was hoped to attend a commemorative event later in the year.

- Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade reported:
 - Car recently dumped in Park and set alight. Thanks to person who contacted fire brigade, and their quick response. Thanks also to FOWP for tidying up the debris. The vehicle had been collected by the Borough Council.
 - Work has continued on Jubilee garden, both Friends and Young Friends.
 - January Young Friends meeting cancelled due to lockdown.
 - Work has been ongoing on Community Garden until lockdown.
 - Residents continue to use the Park for their exercise time and many photos have been posted on FOWP Facebook page ...including the elusive kingfisher!
 - Litterpicking continues when possible, especially around the Longbarn Lane entrance.
 - Increased number of potholes in car park area reported to the Borough Council.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell reported that no meeting had been held.
 - The Public Rights of Way Officer had been informed that a section of safety fence wire had been cut alongside a pool of water on Path 31 (Woolston Weir to Thelwall Lane). Path users were walking unprotected along the top of the embankment. Contractors had been asked by the Borough Council to provide temporary fencing. The owners, Peel Holdings, had been informed and had agreed to replace the fencing and repair the path's surface.
 - Moss Brow Cottages had been demolished; no interruption to access to path.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C75 Correspondence – consultation and information – Police and Crime Commissioner – Cheshire residents' priorities for policing and community safety

The Council noted the online consultation being held by the Police and Crime Commissioner until 24 January 2021.

C76 Planning Applications, appeals and decisions

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

Applications for consideration at meeting

Application reference: 2021/38437

Location: 162, CLIFTONVILLE ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4BJ

Description of development: Householder - Proposed Single storey rear, side, and front extension.

Application reference: 2020/38397

Location: WILLIAMS TARR CONSTRUCTION LIMITED, BRIDGE ROAD, WOOLSTON,

WA1 4AU

Description of development: Class O Prior Approval - Proposed Change of use from Offices to 20 Apartments

Application reference: 2020/38386

Location: 92, HILLOCK LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4PF

Description of development: Householder - Proposed Garage Conversion Application reference: 2020/38331

Application reference: 2020/38331

Location: 1, WAREHAM CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4LL

Description of development: Householder - Proposed render of extension and existing house, front elevation to have new cladding (Two storey side extension already approved under 2020/37037)

Application reference: 2020/38313

Location: 7, KINGSLAND GRANGE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4SR

Description of development: Full Planning - Proposed demolition of an external door and the installation of a new means of escape door on the same elevation

Application reference: 2020/38273

Location: 16, LONGBARN LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QJ

Description of development: Householder - Proposed two storey side and single storey front extension

Application reference: 2020/38259

Location: 2, CROFTSIDE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4RN

Description of development: Householder - Proposed single storey rear orangery, single storey side extension to rear of garage and new pitched roof above existing garage.

Applications to approve action taken

None to report.

Resolved,

That

1. the above applications be noted, subject to any further comments received from members;
2. information be requested in respect of Application 2020/38397 relating to Class O approval.

C77 Business raised by Council members **- The Carbon Landscape project – walks leaflet for Woolston**

Councillor Nowell reported that the Carbon Landscape project had contacted him about the parish council being associated with leaflets of walks in Woolston that were currently being prepared. The project had invited the Council to include a logo or similar to identify support for the walks. A draft of each leaflet would be supplied:

Resolved,

That support be given to the proposal and Councillor Nowell be nominated as the Council's contact with the project to progress this matter.

– Road safety – 20mph speed restrictions

Councillor McCarthy reported on representations to the Borough Council on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed restriction on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane, Dam Lane, and Gig Lane to improve road safety. This followed on from meetings of Borough Ward Councillors with officers and schools to introduce measures that would improve road safety on routes serving the three primary schools and secondary school. It was noted that the budget for 2021/22 included provision to assist with the implementation of road safety schemes in partnership with the Borough Council as highway authority, if this was needed:

Resolved,

That support be given to the approach made to the Borough Council and this initiative be progressed in partnership with the Borough Ward Councillors.

C78 Date of next meeting

Resolved,

That the date of the February 2021 meeting of the Council be notified by the Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman, when information has been obtained from the Borough Council on the dates of committee meetings.

C79 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4520	15/12/20	PKF Littlejohn LLP	0.00	240.00	Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019-20	
4521	15/12/20	Warrington BC	0.00	194.40	Hedge cutting Weir Lane/ Martinscroft Green	
DD	15/12/20	Water Plus Ltd	0.00	96.72	Allotment site 9/8/20-28/11/20	
4522	15/12/20	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M9 December 2020	
4523	15/12/20	Woolston Church of the Ascension	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes

4524	15/12/20	St Martins Methodist Church	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4525	15/12/20	SS Peter and Michael RC Church	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4526	15/12/20	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	304.80	PAYE months 7-9	
4527	VOID					
4528	VOID					
4529	15/01/21	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M10 January 2021	
4530	18/01/21	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	96.43	Stationery and printing toner	

- 23 Dec Knife Saver Bleed Control Kit was delivered to and accepted by Coop Holes Lane, thanks to funding from Torus Foundation. Like defibrillators it could save a life, we hope to never need it but it is better to have such a kit out in our community
- 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.

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: -

<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/>

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

Keeping in contact with our schools – whilst observing social distancing measures

Schools – Primary schools have resumed While You Are At Home communications which are emailed out each week - include safety messages (e.g., roads, stranger, online)

Patrols when other commitments permit in vicinity of schools start/dispersal times

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face surgeries cancelled until further notice, in meantime host virtual surgery

Chairman.....