

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 24 APRIL 2024

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)

Councillors: A McCarthy, P Smith, D Nowell, M Pearce, S Rydzkowski, R Tynan

Apologies for absence: Councillors J Greenslade, MH Greenslade, D Hill

C102 Appointment of Chairman

Resolved,

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

C103 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of Cheshire Police to the meeting. Councillor McCarthy reported that he was attending to give his apologies for absence from recent meetings through ill-health and to give thanks to the members who like himself would soon no longer be serving as a member. In his period of office he had served as Chairman of the Council and the Finance and General Committee and as Borough Councillor for the Rixton and Woolston Ward. Others too had been members for over 40 years including the current Chairman, Councillor Jim Greenslade and Mary Greenslade, his wife who had served as a Borough Councillor and both had been Chairman of the Council and the Environment and Amenities Committee. Councillor Banner had given many years service both as Borough Ward Councillor for Rixton and Woolston and as Chairman of the Council and of the Finance and General Committee; her public service extended to Rixton with Glazebrook parish council, where Councillor Banner was the current Chairman. Over the years the Council had seen many changes to Woolston as the community had grown and he wished the new Council every success.

The Chairman thanked Councillor McCarthy for his remarks and gave her thanks to him for his service to the Council, as Borough and Ward Councillor, which included being Chairman of the Council's Development Management Committee, as a School Governor, and for his passion in matters relating to both Woolston and Rixton with Glazebrook parish council matters.

Members gave their best wishes to Councillor McCarthy for a return to good health.

(Councillor McCarthy left the meeting).

C104 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C105 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Greenslade, MH Greenslade, through illness and D Hill because of her employment.

C106 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C107 Matters of report from previous minutes

No matters to report.

C108 Policing of Woolston

– Warrington Working Together event 2 November 2023

No matters to report.

– community liaison report

The Council considered the monthly report for April 2024 presented by PCSO Roberts. Details were given in the report of speed enforcement monitoring of Hillock Lane and Gig Lane during March and April. The Council were requested to consider the use of speed monitors on the highway to advise road users of the speed of their vehicle to improve road safety. Members reported on the representations made for the introduction of 20mph zones on roads serving local schools and others such as Dam Lane and Gig Lane, so far without support from the Borough Council:

Resolved,

That

1. PCSO Roberts be thanked for her service to Woolston during the period of the current Council and before;
2. the monthly report for April 2024 be noted;
(Please see appendix for a copy of the report).

C109 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
Councillor Tynan – no matters to report.

2. Matters raised with the Borough Council

2.1 Lincoln Close – issues raised with the Borough Council relating to the operation of a care home .

Councillor Tynan reported that the response from the Borough Council to the representations made had been reported to the residents and action was ongoing with Borough Council officers and other bodies.

2.2 Bridge Road planning and traffic issues raised by residents – Councillor Tynan reported that representations had been made to the Borough Council relating to the issues raised and action was ongoing with officers and the Traffic Commissioners.

2.3 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.

Resolved,

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

C110 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 Public Rights of Way Officer at the Borough Council:

- Trees removed on path 31 on the approach to the entrance of Bed no.3 Woolston Eyes.
- Giant Hogweed on path 31 from Woolston Weir towards the Woolston Eyes Bed no.3 entrance.
- Damaged board on the Woolston Weir footbridge had been replaced.
- Unauthorised access being used by off-road motorcycles to access Woolston Eyes Bed no 2. creating a threat to the safety of path users.
- Small Giant Hogweed plants are growing along the New Cut Trail and Japanese Knotweed is growing in front of the damaged section of palisade boundary fencing near Bridge Lane.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

2. Completion of the “Old Billy” scheme

Further to Minute C96(1) 3. – 27 March 2024, the Clerk reported that the Information Board at Woolston Weir viewing area and at Paddington Bank had been sited by the Borough Council and the 5 information signs along the towpath had been sited by volunteers from the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group in time for the beginning of the Easter public holidays. Consideration had been given to options to mark the completion of the scheme:

Resolved,
That

1. the report be welcomed on the completion scheme and the thanks of the Council be recorded to the contributions made by Culture Warrington, the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group, Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council and Warrington Borough Council;
2. approval be given to an event being held to celebrate the completion of the scheme at the Woolston Weir viewing area to thank those who have supported the scheme.

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

3. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park – representations to the Borough Council

Further to Minute C96(1)3. – 27 March 2024, the Clerk reported that no further response had been received to the representations made to the Borough Council on the provision of a replacement facility.

4. Battery Lane Allotment site – maintenance of Battery Lane and access track to the site

The Clerk reported that the Battery Lane Allotment Association had made representations to Warrington BC on the need for maintenance to the access route to the site and had offered assistance through their members. Both routes were under the control of the Borough Council. The Council had agreed to contribute materials to the maintenance of the access track:

Resolved,
That the report be noted.

– management matters

No items to report.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Covid 19 pandemic

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

2. Report on action under the scheme of delegation

No matters to report.

3. Management Accounts 2023/24 – (1) January to March 2024; (2) April 2023 to March 2024

The Clerk submitted the Management Accounts for the quarterly period ending March 2024 and for the financial year 2023/24:

Resolved,

That the Management Accounts for the quarterly period ending March 2024 and for the financial year 2023-24 be accepted.

4. Repayment of investments

The Clerk reported that the temporary investments with the Borough Council had been repaid at the end of the financial year and consideration was given to the investment of the sums received:

Resolved,

That approval be given to opening a Deposit Account with National Westminster Bank for the capital fund relating to the charity.

5. Amendments to bank mandates

The Clerk reported on the need to authorise additional signatories for the Council's bank accounts because of the change in membership of the Council from May 2024.

The Returning Officer had issued notice of uncontested elections for both the East Ward and West Ward; three of the four elected were existing members:

Resolved,

That Councillors Rydzkowski, Smith and Tynan be added to the list of authorised signatories for the Council's bank accounts;

6. Arrangements for the approval of action before the next Council meeting

The Council considered arrangements until the annual meeting to be held in May 2024:

Resolved,

That the following action be approved until the annual meeting:

1. Councillor Banner, Chair of the Finance and General Committee, together with one of the members elected to the Council be authorised to approve payments;
2. the Clerk be authorised to be a second signatory in exceptional circumstances during this period subject to the approval of the four members elected;
3. the Clerk in consultation with the four members of the new Council be authorised to give notice of the date and time of the annual meeting to ensure that the meeting is quorate.

7. Applications for grant aid – pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Council considered an application from St Peter's and St Michael's Church for a contribution to the fund for the pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2024:

Resolved,
That approval be given to a grant of £350.

- other applications

No further applications to consider.

C111 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 – 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, weeding and maintenance of flower beds
 - Damaged/missing rails on a bridge over the brook have been replaced by the Borough Council.
 - A number of significant potholes in the car park are yet to be repaired by the Borough Council.Maintenance of Ranger Cabin
 - On 8 April FoWP received a donation of £500 from Warrington Lions towards repair of the Ranger Cabin. This donation was facilitated by Councillor Tynan,
 - The Borough Council has not yet responded to proposals by FoWP and Bruche Athletic JFC to repair the Ranger Cabin. Therefore work is yet to commence.Engagement with young people
 - On 28 March the FoWP visited Fox Wood Special School to replant their memorial garden. Some 30 children helped to plant flowers and small shrubs throughout the day in small groups accompanied by their carers and teachers.
 - The annual Easter Eggstravaganza was held on 4 April. Some 100 local children attended the event to decorate bonnets, hard boiled eggs, cards and baskets. The FoWP raised £170.
 - On 17 April Woolston Cub Pack visited the park for a litter pick.
 - On 20 April the Young Friends visited the Woolston Eyes Nature Reserve.Facilitation of volunteers from local companies and groups
 - On 22 April the group hosted staff from Woolston Neighbourhood Hub and members of the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group to mark Earth Day. Eight bags of rubbish were recovered from the park.Support to other local groups
 - The group facilitated a meeting of Mental Health Mates on 6 April.

Anti-social behaviour

- A number of fly-tipped items have been recovered from the park, including a wheelie bin, car tyre and a chair.

Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell – no meeting held. No progress to report on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Annual Parish Meeting 24 April 2024 – no matters to consider.

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.

C112 Correspondence – consultation and information

- Unauthorised encampments

The Council noted information from the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team on action taken regarding unauthorised encampments.

C113 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		
2023/01560/FUL	Williams Tarr & Co., Williams Tarr Construction, Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Redevelopment of builders yard including demolition of buildings (Sui Generis) and erection of 3no. units (Class E) and ancillary infrastructure.
FULL PLANNING-HOUSEHOLDER (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2024/00415/FULH	Weir Lodge, Weir Lane WA1 4QH	First floor rear extension
2024/00328/FULH	16 Hill Top Road WA1 4PD	New access with proposed car parking space and associated ramp.
NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT		

2024/00401/NMA	Ninemeister, 12 Chesford Grange WA1 4RE	Non-material amendment to omission of Proposed Roof Extension over existing offices to create parts store and alteration of existing roof over main workshop entrance to create new 2 storey wing to match approved 2 storey extension adjacent
PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS		
None to report		

Resolved,

That

- 1.the Council's objection in respect of application 2023/01560/FUL, Williams Tarr & Co., Bridge Road be reaffirmed;
- 2.a comment be submitted in respect of application 2024/00415/FULH Weir Lodge, Weir Lane relating to the proposed first floor extension;
- 3.no comments be made in respect of the other applications listed.

C114 Business raised by Council Members

No matters raised.

C115 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4760	28/03/24	Cheshire Association of Local Councils (Clerk)	0.00	25.00	Online training – Code of Conduct for Warrington	
4761	24 April 2024	Employee 1	0.00	462.43	M1 April 2024	
4762		Cheshire Association of Local Councils	0.00	1551.66	Affiliation fee 2024-24	

4763		Amazon.co.uk(Clerk)	0.00	24.99	Drum unit 6772	
4764		Amazon.co.uk(Clerk)	0.00	25.31	Toner 5136	
4765		Amazon.co.uk(Clerk)	0.00	63.98	Toner 6324	
4766		Costco Wholesale UK Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	101.46	Printing paper and 2 nd class postage stamps	
4767		St Peters Lourdes Fund	0.00	350.00	Grant	Yes

C116 Appreciation of service

In closing the meeting the Chairman noted that this would be the final meeting for members who had served on the Council, some after many terms of office:

Resolved,

That the thanks of the Council be recorded to all those members leaving on their final term of office and to all those who are continuing and to all members for conducting business in a collaborative manner.

APPENDIX

Woolston

April 2024 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS

Neighbourhood Officer PC Dave Reddington

PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti Social Behaviour

5 Youths (3), environmental (2), personal (0)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

1 Dwelling

0 Other

.....
Criminal Damage

0

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle

0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Speed enforcement 30/03/24 Hillock Lane – range 18 to 35mph (3 vehicles over 30mph)
- Speed enforcement 13/04/24 Hillock Lane – range 17 to 30mph
- Speed enforcement 13/04/24 Gig Lane – range 17 to 24mph
- [Cheshire’s Roads and Crime Unit make 1,650 arrests in 2023 | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- [Five men charged in connection to Warrington burglary series | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- [Police continue to warn Warrington residents to be vigilant against courier fraud | 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

.....
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/>

.....
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/>

.....
Schools & other events

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments

Face to face mobile drop-in surgeries – 23 Apr 13:00 – 14:00; 16 May 13:00 – 14:00; 6 Jun 13:00 – 14:00

Mobile drop in surgeries advertised on the Rixton & Woolston Police Facebook page

Chairman.....