

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors J Dixon, AJ Hill, M Pearce

C46 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C47 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Dixon, on business, M Pearce, through ill health, and AJ Hill were noted.

C48 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the deletion in Minute C44 Business raised by Council Members – Warrington Worldwide article – report on planning objection of the sentence, “The article had been amended from that appearing in the Warrington Guardian on the same topic relating to the objections made by the council to this application”.

C49 Matters of report from previous minutes - Borough Council business

Further to Minute C36 – 13 July 2022, Councillor McCarthy considered that the introduction of an Action List for members to track matters reported to the Borough Council and other matters was of even greater importance given the impending resignation of Councillor Dixon. It was noted that a draft format of an Action List was to be considered at the meeting.

C50 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

PCSO Roberts attended the meeting to present a report on the policing of Woolston for August 2022. It was noted that PC Taylor had been appointed as the Neighbourhood Officer for Woolston.

The youth zone in Warrington town centre had opened in July. For teenagers living on the outer areas of Warrington such as Woolston they may not be able to utilise this great facility if they do not have an adult to transport them to/from the location. Local buses tend to not run across some of these outer areas after 6-7pm. The police had been suggested that the parish council might want to consider/discuss whether they could support a youth zone bus service – limited stops (perhaps using the school bus locations?), where the teenagers pay say 50p/£1 each way to get them to/from the youth zone for areas like Warrington East

The Council was asked to consider if this was a feasible idea, to be operated with other parish councils by holding discussions between them and/or bus operators in Warrington. Members asked for information on the supply of No Canvasser No Caller notices for issue to residents. It was noted that these could be obtained through Warrington BC and at some community events. A comment was made on the attendance of police officers on motor bikes in Woolston Park. It was noted that this was part of "Operation Scrambler" referred to in the monthly report:

Resolved,

That the report be noted and consideration be given to the suggested support for use of the Youth Zone.

(Please see appendix for report).

C51 Borough Council business

The Council considered the following reports:

Report from Councillor Dixon

1) Borough Councillor report.

I am pleased that the drains on Manchester Rd have been cleaned, as requested last meeting by Cllr McCarthy.

I am heavily involved in a dispute between two neighbours also, on Manchester Rd as to the use of buildings in the rear garden - I hope this will be resolved, following a Warrington BC investigation, in the next few weeks.

Residents have been concerned about the hatch markings being unclear near the new Sainsbury Store, so I am asking for these to be repainted.

The issue with Abingdon Avenue remains ongoing - a meeting will take place soon to re-examine the partially resurfaced pavement and to allay some of the anger raised by residents. I had a meeting myself recently to help resolve the situation. Additionally, there was a damaged access point on Vaudrey Drive which was covered by an orange cone: I had asked for this to be repaired, but it turned out the responsibility was British Telecom and Warrington BC had contacted them - this has now been resolved. Having met with residents on Alder Lane, I have asked for part of the pavement, which is badly worn away, to be resurfaced.

As requested last meeting, I have contacted the relevant people and, hopefully, a speed wire will be put down to gather data on speeds on Gig Lane soon.

Another issue is the request for a feasibility study for new lighting on Weir Lane, which was promised last year. This has not yet been responded to and I have asked for a progress update - it is dark and dangerous during the winter months, especially for children walking to and from the bus stop, so I feel lights will be beneficial.

The tree situation on Bowfell Grove I have already emailed about, but I suspect that will be an on-going issue now that permission was granted for one house to fell the trees and replace them, under strict conditions.

I had a meeting with an officer in Poulton Crescent and he has promised action to reduce the hedge and tidy the park up in September, but I understand it has not yet happened - this has not been done for several years so I am pleased with the outcome.

There is an 'abandoned' house, recently boarded, at the end of Weir Lane. There is an ongoing dispute, as I understand it, between the owner and Peel Ports as to land ownership and other connected issues, hence it is boarded. This will need to play itself out and there is

little that can be done from a Parish or Borough perspective, unless issues arise with rats or other social problems.

Finally, there will be a full council meeting in later September, following the summer recess.

2) Prospective Resignation

As some of you know, after much thought and deliberation, I have accepted a new position teaching in St Louis, Missouri, USA. This was an incredibly difficult decision to make, not only due to my responsibilities and sense of commitment as a Borough & Parish Councillor, but also for family and personal connections in the UK. Nevertheless, I am now in my new position and enjoying it.

After several discussions with Warrington BC Chief Executive Steven Broomhead, and other relevant officers, as well as party leadership, it was decided to wait until now to communicate this more publicly. Whilst I agree with the rationale, I was, and am, sorry not to have been able to communicate this in person.

The date of my resignation for both Woolston Parish, Rixton & Glazebrook Parish and Warrington Borough Council, is likely to take immediate effect from the end of November 2022. The reason for this delay is to allow for the Grappenhall by-elections to take place, scheduled for the end of September, and then to allow for the relevant parties and interested groups to recover and prepare adequately, hopefully aiding local democratic engagement in the process. The second reason is to allow certain casework that I am currently working on to be resolved in a timely manner. It would be best if new casework be directed to Cllr Hill or Eastty in order to action from now on in.

I will still be working remotely on casework but will need to send my apologies for the scheduled meetings until then. I will submit a Councillor report, but this will be limited due to my working remotely. I will not be drawing any allowance effective September 1st, as I do not personally feel it is appropriate. In order to minimise disruption to the parish and allow time for on-going projects to bed-in, such as the King's Academy outreach, it seems best to have the by-election on the same date for both parish and borough, thus dividing costs. If there is a change in the date, for whatever reason, the parish will be informed directly.

On a personal note, it has been a tremendous privilege and honour to serve both as a Parish and Borough Councillor for Rixton & Woolston. I have gained a huge amount of experience and many friendships and positives in the process. I am genuinely sorry to resign early, cause extra work and, above all, no longer to work directly with such committed and inspiring colleagues, especially on the parish. I will be keeping my property in Woolston and registered as an overseas voter, so I am cheering you all on for success in caring for the life of the community. I feel that lots of good projects are underway and that, despite it only being 18 months, lots of progress has been made, building on the excellent work inherited from previous Borough & Parish councillors. Thank you to the parish clerk, David, and to Maureen, and you all, for your wisdom, support and welcome - I think Woolston is a model parish in working collaboratively for the good of the area. I hope to see you at Christmas time, when I will be back in UK. I am also happy to be contacted on the published email address at any time and to answer any personal questions that may arise. Until then, I wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to reading about the excellent work ahead!

Best wishes, as always,

Josh

Report from Councillor Eastty

A response had been received from the Borough Council following representations on behalf of residents at speeding traffic on Gig Lane. Further representations were to be made for action by the Council in addition to the speed checks being carried out by the police.

Report from Councillor Hill

Reports submitted to Warrington BC on faults to street lights and pot holes in the highway following representations by residents.

Abandoned house – request made to have garden maintained

Resolved,

That

1. the reports and action taken be noted;
2. given the absence of Councillor Dixon, Councillor Eastty to be asked to attend meetings.

C52 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:

- Nicol Avenue – path obstructed by vegetation.
- New Cut towpath – report on social media that path overgrown but no location stated. Increased use of the route by cyclists and users of electric powered bikes.
- Weir Lane adjacent to Lock House – cars parking and obstructing the footpath.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

2. Development of “Old Billy” scheme

Further to the report to the Council (Minute C39(1) 2. - 13 July 2022) the Clerk reported a response from the Borough Council on the implementation of the scheme. Support was given to the proposed signage subject to further discussions on the location of these on the towpath between Weir Lane and Paddington Bank and consideration of the results of consultation with the Poulton with Fearnhead parish council and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group. The group worked in partnership with the Borough Council on works along the towpath and the adjacent open spaces. Consideration was given to the options for the supply and installation of the signage:

Resolved,
That

1. approval be given to commission Warrington BC Environment Services to procure the supply and installation of the signage utilising their existing contractors subject to consideration of the cost of the works;
2. consultation with Poulton with Fearnhead PC and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group be carried out when the final artwork has been received from Culture Warrington and the cost estimates are known.

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

3. Facilities for young people – progress report

Noted that no further action to report. (Minute C39(1) 3 – 13 July 2022).

4. A57 Manchester Road – planting in the highway verge - progress report

The Council reviewed the planting in the highway verge undertaken by the Borough Council. The display of flowers had not been as successful as hoped, probably because of the weather conditions during the summer:

Resolved,

That further information be requested from the Borough Council before consideration is given to continuing with the annual scheme of planting.

5. Battery Lane allotment site – management matters

The Council noted that monthly inspections of all plots at the site were being held with the Battery Lane Allotment Association and action taken as required on issues identified.

(2) Finance and General Committee

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

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

It was noted that no delegated action had been taken under the scheme approved by the Council (Minute C39(2) 1 – 13 July 2022).

2. Remembrance Sunday 2022 – event planning

The Council noted that work was proceeding with the Borough Council on the arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday service to be held on 13 November 2022. (Minute C39(2) 2. – 13 July 2022).

3. Action list – draft summary of ongoing actions

Further to Minute C36 – Matters of report from previous minutes – Borough Council business - 13 July 2022 consideration was given to a draft action list of ongoing matters:

Resolved,
That approval be given to the draft format.

4. Applications for grant aid

No applications to be considered.

C53 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 further information on the next quarterly meeting. Information was published by the group on their website. Details were reported of a family event being promoted by the Borough Council on 11 September 2022 at Victoria Park to mark the 200th anniversary of Old Billy, the barge horse who worked and died in Warrington and is recorded as the longest living horse (1760-1822).
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce (please see appendix). Members recorded their thanks to Councillor Pearce.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held.

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.

C54 Correspondence – consultation and information – Refreshing the Police and Crime Plan

The Clerk reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was holding public consultation on his proposals to refresh the Police and Crime Plan. The survey was being carried out online until 28 September 2022:

Resolved,
That details of the survey be noted.

– Consultation on Cumulative Impact Assessment

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council was undertaking consultation on the Cumulative Impact Assessment published in 2019. The licensing authority was required to carry out an assessment within three years of its introduction. Comments were invited by 14 September 2022:

Resolved,
That no submission be made.

C55 Planning Applications and decisions

The Council considered the following planning applications and details of appeals submitted for comment by the Borough Council:

FULL PLANNING	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2022/42010	11 Manchester Road WA1 4AE	Replacement external lighting
2022/41748	Mill Cottage Manchester Road WA1 4HL	New dwelling, detached bike store, creation of new access and parking spaces
FULL PLANNING (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2022/41698	12 Ivy Road WA14DS	Two storey side and single storey rear extension
2022/41942	36 Hertford Close WA1 4EZ	Removal of rear conservatory to facilitate single storey side and rear extensions
2022/41933	10 Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Front porch extension to dwelling and single storey extension to existing detached garage including change of roof from flat to pitched
2022/41642	70 Linden Close WA1 4EW	Single storey side extension and porch extension including bin store
2022/41618	31 Barnfield Road WA1 4NR	Proposed single storey front porch and WC
2022/41481	32 Vaudrey Drive WA1 4HG	Single storey side/rear extension
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER		
2022/41966	9 Bowfell Grove WA1 4FT	Removal of 8 Lime trees from back garden
2022/41932	10 Bowfell Grove WA1 4FT	Removal of two mature Lime trees
INFORMATION ONLY		
Part 3 (Class) prior approval		
2022/42059	Mercedes Benz Juniper Lane WA3 6DP	Installation of solar PV system
Part 16 (Class) Prior approval		
2022/42001	As above	Proposed replacement base station and associated works
LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE		
2022/42137	131 Berkshire Drive WA1 4HB	Proposed demolition of flat roof to a mono pitched roof

SECTION 192 CERTIFICATE		
2022/41188	Rent A Lift 12 Tatton Court WA1 4RR	Proposed 1.8m high Palisade Fencing, 1.8m high Palisade gate and tarmac area (perimeter)
APPEALS		
2021/39924	7 Alder Road	Remodelling of existing dwelling and construction of two storey front and side extension with new entrance porch
APP/M0655/D/22/3302771		
2019/36133	Workshop adjacent to, 61, Greymist avenue, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4AR	Full planning – retention of portacabin for office use on the premises
APP/MO655/W/22/3300246		

Resolved,

That

1. objections be made in respect of applications 2022/41748 - Mill Cottage;
2022/41932 and 2022/41966 - Bowfell Grove for the reasons given;
2. no comments be submitted in respect of the other matters listed.

C56 Business raised by Council Members
– matters referred to the Borough Council

Councillor McCarthy gave details of matters he had raised with the Borough Council since the last meeting:

1. Woolston Playing Fields – surfacing of the path to the pitches and removal of pallets from the car park. Response awaited.
2. A57 Manchester Road – work had been carried out on a length of the road following a report of blocked drains.
3. Access to the Grange Employment Area from Gig Lane – the Borough Council had reported that the route was to be improved for access by pedestrians but the scheme had not been implemented. Trees had been cut back by the Borough Council along the route and he had litter picked the area.
4. Land adjacent to the Holiday Inn, Manchester Road – maintenance work requested.

The support of the Borough Ward Councillors was requested in completing these works.

– viewing platform at Woolston Eyes

Councillor Nowell reported that the Borough Council had not responded to the points raised by the Council regarding the viewing platform:

Resolved,

That the Clerk request a reply from the Borough Council.

C57 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4631	18/07/22	Employee 1	0.00	417.36	M4 July 2022	
4632	19/07/22	LiveWire CIC	0.00	42.00	Room hire 29 June 2022	
4633	19/07/22	Amazon UK Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	21.98	Stationery	
DD	19/07/22	British Telecom plc	0.00	176.33	Phone and broadband services July – September 2022	
4634	15/08/22	Employee 1	0.00	410.16	M5 August 2022 (£3.60 M4 July deduction)	
4635	7/09/22	Royal Mail Group Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	378.00	PO Box delivery annual fee 2022-23	
4636	7/09/22	Timpson (Clerk)	0.00	20.00	Allotment – mortice keys	
4637	7/09/22	Post Office Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	54.40	Postage stamps	
DD	7/09/22	Water Plus Group Ltd	0.0	64.80	Allotment meter charge	

APPENDIX

Woolston August 2022 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam
Neighbourhood Officer PC Jack Brennan
PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti-Social Behaviour

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

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic, Covid issues

Burglary

4 Dwelling 3x attempt, relate to same empty property

0 Other

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Criminal Damage

0

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle Parts

OTHER

- Operation Stay Safe – safeguarding operation in progress across Warrington visiting parks and open spaces – officers patrolling areas in partnership with social care, health, outreach workers
- The new Warrington Youth Zone opened in Warrington town centre in July, 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>
- 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/>

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/>

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Schools & other events

Emergency Services Open Day at Birchwood Fire Station 17 July

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

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

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES FOR FOWP – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022

Monday 26 July – FOWP Work Day

Not the best of the weather although 2 volunteers braved it to litter pick, 3 of us stayed in the cabin to put the finishing touches to the lovely new raised bed that our handyman has been making for us. All that was left to do was to screw the panels on the base and that was the easy part. It's looking very smart.

Monday 1 August – FOWP Work Day

Again, not many volunteers. We were unable to put the new raised bed in position as we didn't have the cement to secure the legs into the ground. So instead, we pruned the pyracanth's in front of the cabin as they were untidy and overgrown. One of the Friends cut the hedges around the Jubilee Garden and they look better.

Monday 8 August - FOWP Work Day

Yet again there was a shortage of volunteers although a couple were on holiday. We had a couple of litter pickers and 4 of us worked on the final stages of putting the new raised bed in place. It's looking very nice. We just need some decent soil/compost then it'll be ready for the plants to go in.

Saturday 13 August – YFOWP

Just 5 children this month, 1 parent and 3 Friends. Quite understandable as most of the children would be away on holiday plus school holidays too. It was hot weather and we stayed in the shade as much as possible trimming back some of the bushes along the bridle path and around the car parking area. We finished the morning with a cuppa and a few guessing games that got the children laughing.

Monday 15 August - FOWP Work Day

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this week.

Monday 22 August – FOWP Work Day

Luckily the weather was pleasant during the morning. Just 6 of us today. Quite a lot was achieved. The usual litter picking, the new trough is now complete with dwarf chrysanthemums. The garden in front of the cabin is gradually improving. It now has some nice steps enabling easier access to the bird feeder. Lots of action with a saw, drill/screwdriver completing these tasks. Weeding in the garden plus cutting back and cleaning up part of the pathway towards the pond area.

Monday 29 August – Bank Holiday

The Bank Holiday was a rest day from working on the park for the FOWP.

Thursday 1 September – Jubilee Garden Work Day

The FOWP are trying to get people involved to come along once a month or whenever is convenience for them to help with the upkeep of the Jubilee Garden.

Monday 5 September – FOWP Work Day

Unfortunately, I was unable to join the workers but did attend for a brief chat. At the time only 3 of the Friends had arrived so it probably was mostly litter picking.

Chairman.....