

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 18 JANUARY 2017

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors M Banner, D Hill, B Maher

C102 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C103 Apologies for absence

The Council noted that Councillor Banner had submitted an apology for absence on the grounds of ill health, Councillor D Hill was unable to attend and Councillor Maher because of his attendance at another meeting on Borough Council business:

C104 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2016 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject in Minute 97 to the change of the words “Superintendent Cockcroft” to “Superintendent Crowcroft” and to clarify that a complaint had been made by a member of the Ramblers group in respect of the speed of vehicles on Bridge Lane.

C105 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters to report.

C106 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council received a report from the Police Community Support Officer on the policing of Woolston. Details were submitted of the number and type of incidents in the parish since the last meeting and on action taken by the police. This included reports on:

- There had been ten reports in the area of anti-social behaviour in the past 31 days. The only repeat location was based on a neighbour dispute which had been dealt with through a criminal behaviour order and the offender was on bail from the court with further conditions.
- Patrols had been made at Dam Lane shops and Longbarn Lane following the previous months spike in anti-social behaviour. Since the new year there had been no reports of damage to vehicles in that area and one report of anti-social behaviour.
- Criminal damage had also reduced in the new year since the police had targeted the area.
- No reports of burglary in Woolston during the past month.
- Damage to vehicles had reduced to one report a week after the recent spike.
- Three people had been arrested for drink driving and one further reported for dangerous driving within the area. All of these resulted from calls from local residents.
- There had been three road traffic collisions. Two of these had resulted in the offender driver being instructed to attend a driving improvement scheme.

Councillor Nowell reported on an incident of fireworks being set off adjacent to the Woolston Guard weir and on suspicious items being found in the same area. The PCSO reported that there

had been no reports from the public about this matter and that there were few incidents reported compared to that recorded about eight years ago.

C107 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors A Hill and McCarthy 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:

- Following the report of a fall from a resident the Borough Council had swept the footpaths in Redwood Close to remove leaves fallen from nearby trees.
- Residents had reported their concern at two trees in Redwood Close that were considered to be leaning over too far. An inspection had been made by the Borough Council and the trees were not considered to be a risk. Pruning of the trees had been programmed to take place later in the year.
- A complaint had been made at a heavy goods vehicle being parked in Redwood Close. The vehicle had been moved following a request to the driver from the police.
- A report had been made to United Utilities plc following a burst pipe in the highway in Poulton Crescent during freezing weather conditions. The company had carried out repair works.
- Residents had been informed of action to monitor parking outside schools at the beginning and end of the school day and on action under consideration for the introduction of waiting restrictions.
- Work was to proceed on the provision of a hard standing in the highway verge for the bus stop on Hillock Lane opposite St Peters RC School.

C108 Committee reports and recommendation

- Environment and Amenities Committee

Councillor MH Greenslade reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 18 January 2017 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That

1. the report on the development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct be noted;
2. the Environment Agency be informed that the Council supports the objection from residents to the provision of seating as part of the scheme for the New Cut Lock entrance reinstatement plan;
3. the report on the proposed introduction by the Borough Council of no waiting restrictions on Somerset Way adjacent to the park entrance be noted and approval be given to the Council funding a scheme for the provision of a timber fence in this area to prevent parking on the highway verge subject to the support of the Borough Council;
4. it be noted that the Borough Council is to give public notice of the proposed traffic calming scheme for Martinscroft Green from Croftside to Battery Lane;
5. the report on matters relating to footpaths from the Parish Path Warden be noted and it be noted that a review of the duties of the post of Parish Path Warden is to be undertaken;
6. it be noted that with the assistance of the Borough Council the replacement bus shelter had been sited at old Manchester Road;
7. the report on progress with the Weir Lane Play area scheme be noted and the chairs of the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee be authorised to finalise the scheme with a view to reporting back to the next meeting of the Council;
8. it be noted that the transfer of the storage container from the Battery Lane Allotment Association to the Council had been completed;

9. it be noted that an independent inspection of all plots at the allotment site was to be carried out in February 2017;
10. the rent for an allotment plot for 2017-18 be set at £16 (£8.00 for senior citizens and persons in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance) and the required notice be given to tenants;
11. the report relating to the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group relating to issues in Woolston be noted;
12. the draft committee estimates for 2017-18 be referred to the Finance and General Committee with a recommendation for approval and submission to the Council.

- **Finance and General Committee**

Councillor McCarthy reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 18 January 2017 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That

1. the report on progress in the development of the website be noted;
2. other than provision made in the budget for 2017-18, no specific capital projects or improvement schemes be identified for the 2017-18 financial year;
3. approval be given to the draft budget recommendations, as now amended, including provision for reserves and improvement schemes, and a precept of £19,798 be agreed for 2017-18;
4. the rent for an allotment plot be set at £16 (£8.00 for senior citizens and persons in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance) and the required notice be given to tenants.

C109 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:

- East Warrington Neighbourhood Board – no Board meeting held since the last Council meeting. A community meeting was to be held at Hollins Green on 24 January 2017. Members had attended a workshop and the Board meeting to be held on 25 January 2017 would look at the 5 priorities that had been developed.
- New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor J Greenslade reported on details of the work being carried out and other events supplied by the Group that had been issued to all members. It was agreed that details be obtained from the Borough Council of the maintenance work programmed for the path along the New Cut Canal.
- Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade reported on the work of the Group and activities planned for the park:
 - The refurbishment of the triangular bed outside the Ranger Cabin.
 - New signage to be installed by the Borough Council, including notice boards at the Ranger Cabin and the Kingfisher Play Area. Park announcement signs were also to be provided.
 - A report on the ongoing works by Scottish Power.
 - The works provided through funding from Section 106 planning agreements, capital funding from the Borough Council and a contribution from WREN had been largely completed.
 - Repainting work was to be carried out to the toilets.
 - Refurbishment work was to be carried out to the changing rooms at the end of the winter season.
 - Planning was underway for the Woolston Show to be held on 3 September 2017;
 - The Eggstravaganza event was planned for 20 April 2017.
 - A meeting was to be held with local schools on 18 February 2017 to discuss involvement in the celebration of 40 years of Woolston Park eg art competition.

- The Annual General Meeting was to be held on 13 February 2017 at 2.00pm.
- The next volunteer meeting was to be held on 1 February 2017 from 10.00am to Noon.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 5 January 2017 had been circulated to members. Councillor Nowell reported that parish councils had been invited to suggest works to the Borough Council eg path improvement plans. It was noted that a footpath diversion for the Mersey Way east of the Thelwall Viaduct over the currently closed length was on the agenda this winter. Problems were currently being experienced with the condition of the footpath between Thelwall Viaduct and Statham Lane and it was agreed that further information be requested from the Borough Council on their proposals in this area.

C110 – Consultation and information
– Mersey Phase 3b – status of works at Weir Lane

The Council considered an email from the Project Manager for the Environment Agency’s Mersey Phase 3b project providing an update on the flood defence scheme works in the Weir Lane area:

- In recent weeks work had been carried out had included undertaking significant earth works to the rear of Weir Lodge and adjacent to the Weir. This had involved the import of clay material to create an embankment which ties into the new sheet piling and provides the increase in ground level to provide the required flood protection.
- During the week ending 16 December 2016 a considerable number of truck movements had carried clay onto the site. Further clay had been brought in and another ten or so movements had been planned for the new year. A road sweeper had been used regularly along Weir Lane to keep the area clean during the import of materials. A stone surface had been provided between the New Cut Lock entrance and Weir Lodge.
- It was accepted that there had been some inconvenience to residents during this period and the understanding of residents was appreciated. The number of vehicle movements would reduce significantly when all the clay was delivered.
- From 3 January 2017 works would continue to finish the embankment and to apply suitable soil material to the rock revetment upstream of the New Cut lock in advance of seeding the area later in the year. These works were to be followed by footpath and piling works at the top of the rock revetment embankment. Other works included installing the brick and precast concrete facia to the sheet piling, reinstatement and landscaping. A completion date of early April was forecast for these works dependant on weather conditions.
- A “drop in” session had been held at St Peter’s RC Church on 11 January.

Resolved,
 That the information be noted.

– Neighbourhood Area consultation – Grappenhall and Thelwall parish area

The Council noted an email from the Borough Council regarding the proposal by the Grappenhall and Thelwall parish council to designate a Neighbourhood Area to allow the parish council to begin the process of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

– BT Payphone consultation

The Council considered an email from the Borough Council regarding the proposal by British Telecomm plc to remove 39 payphones in Warrington. The company had instigated a formal consultation process in September 2016 regarding their programme of intended payphone removals. Following a public consultation exercise the Borough Council had published their

draft response to the proposals. Councillor McCarthy reported that he had contacted the company to obtain further details of the use of payphones in the parish and in particular those proposed for removal through lack of use:

Resolved,

That the draft response of the Borough Council be noted and no representations be made on the payphones proposed to be removed.

– Woolston and Rixton Police Beat Manager

The Council noted an email from the police giving details of the change in Police Beat Manager for the area. Contact details for the parish council had been supplied.

– Neighbourhood Newsletter

The Council noted an email from the Borough Council providing a copy of the October to December edition of the newsletter.

– Centre Park Link - update

The Council noted an email from the Borough Council providing the latest plans for the scheme.

– Cheshire Police: Police and Crime Commissioner consultation on funding

The Council noted an email from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on public consultation taking place between 3 and 24 January 2017 on future funding for the police service in the county.

– East area plan – refresh workshop

The Council noted an email from the Borough Council regarding the refresh workshop to be held at Risley Moss on 11 January 2017.

C111 Planning Applications and decisions

No relevant planning applications had been considered for consultation.

C112 Business raised by Members

– speed reminders

Councillor J Greenslade reported on the provision of speed reminder signs on highways in the parish:

Resolved,

That details be requested from the Borough Council regarding the provision of equipment.

C113 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4234	18/1/17	Employee 1	0.00	358.38	M10 January 2017	
4235	18/1/17	Staples (Clerk)	0.00	49.34	Printing and stationery	

Chairman.....