

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors D Hill, A McCarthy

C28 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C29 Apologies for absence

The Council noted apologies for absence from Councillor D Hill and from Councillor McCarthy because of a hospital appointment:

Resolved,

That the apologies for absence be noted and the best wishes of the Council be sent to Councillor McCarthy for a speedy recovery.

C30 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 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.

C31 Matters of report from the previous meeting

No matters to report.

C32 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council considered the report provided by the Police for September 2020:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

(Please see appendix for report).

C33 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors Hill and Wright reported, and the Clerk gave a report provided by Councillor McCarthy 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:

- Flooding in Redwood Close – the Borough Council had initially provided sandbags to protect a dwelling and then completed repairs following surface flooding of the highway.
- Broken fencing adjacent to the highway on north side of A57 Manchester Road (opposite junction with Weir Lane). Repair work had been delayed.
- Report made to the Borough Council following vandalism to a bench in Woolston Park. Repairs had been completed. The bench had recently been sited by the Borough Council at the expense of the family in memory of their mother and father. Mr ACE Robinson was well known in the community and had served as a member of the parish council for many years, also being elected as Chairman.
- Stumps were to be provided at Nottingham Close park area and in Woolston Linear Park.
- Maintenance was to be carried out to the path leading from the Hillock Lane Amenity area to the playing fields.
- Maintenance was to be carried out to Spittle Brook to clear the watercourse of vegetation.
- Urgent action had been taken by the Borough Council following the report of a tree in a dangerous condition in Woolston Park.
- Road markings in Hillock Lane, including junctions, being re-painted to improve road safety.
- Officers were acting following a complaint from a resident at noise nuisance in the early morning from the premises of Mincrete at Bridge Road.
- Officers were investigating a complaint from a resident at the flooding of their garden from Woolston Playing Fields.

Councillor Nowell reported that the growth of Giant Hogweed along lengths of the New Cut Canal had been reported to the Borough Council. Action had been taken by cutting rather than spraying. Concern had been reported at the potential damage to the edge of the Weir Lane Viewing Area by vehicles and other works related to the Hydropol scheme. The area was the responsibility of the Borough Council and it was understood that undertakings had been given that the area would be protected, and remedial work carried out as necessary.

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.

C34 Committee matters

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

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

The Clerk reported further to minute C20(1)(a) – 19 August 2020 on further details received from Woolston Rovers FC in support of their request for the siting of a storage facility on the playing fields. This information had been sent to the Borough Council for their comments. It was noted that the Club had sited the new goal posts funded through grant aid to the rear of the boundary with the Kings Leadership Academy as a temporary measure.

No further discussions had been held with the Borough Council on the management of the public use of the playing fields:

Resolved,

That a further approach be made to the Borough Council on the management of the playing fields and to the siting of new storage facilities by Woolston Rovers FC.

(b) Complaint regarding overgrown bushes and trees along New Cut Canal towpath – action by the Borough Council

The Clerk reported and the Council noted that further to minute C20(1)(b) – 19 August 2020 the Borough Council had carried out work to cut back bushes and trees along the towpath.

(c) Maintenance of access road from Somerset Way to Woolston Park – progress report

The Clerk reported and the Council noted that the road surface had been repaired by the filling in of potholes along the access road.

(d) Hydropol scheme, Weir Lane – report on matters relating to temporary works on the highway and public information on the scheme

The Clerk reported that representations had been made to Scottish Power plc regarding the traffic control arrangements made at the commencement of works in the highway in Weir Lane from the junction with Edward Gardens to the end of the public highway. The Chairman and Borough Councillor McCarthy had received an assurance from a representative of the company that the sub-contractor was in the process of introducing the necessary controls and this had followed the next day. The works were being undertaken in accordance with a temporary traffic regulation order made by the Borough Council.

The Project Coordinator for Hydropol had agreed to provide updates on the Woolston Weir Hydropower scheme. Information was being posted on the local Facebook site and supplied to the Council. The company had cooperated, where possible, in scheduling deliveries of material and equipment to the site to avoid disruption to traffic on Weir Lane and to services held at SS Peter and Michael RC Church:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

(e) Battery Lane Allotment Site – action following inspection of plots

The Clerk reported that the joint monthly inspections with the Battery Lane Allotment Association of all plots had been suspended because of the Covid restrictions and guidance. Liaison continued with the Association on matters relating to the site including any plots where the condition was causing concern. Notices of Satisfactory Cultivation had been issued as necessary and where no satisfactory improvement is made this may lead to the issue of Notice to Quit:

Resolved,

That the action taken be approved.

- (2) Finance and General Amenities Committee

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

The Clerk reported a letter from the Director of Law and Governance at the Borough Council on the holding of physical meetings of parish councils during the coronavirus pandemic following requests for guidance.

The Borough Council did not recommend holding any physical council meetings and considered that all meetings should take place remotely. The possibility of a meeting resulting in the gathering of more than six people (even with the limited exemptions) meant that there was a risk that a council could contravene the law as well as placing councillors, staff and the public at risk. Coronavirus legislation, core public health guidance, safe workplace guidance and even equalities legislation could be breached by holding a physical meeting. Borough Council buildings would not be available to accommodate meetings at this time. The matter would be kept under review and further guidance issued if the position changed:

Resolved,

That the guidance be noted and the present arrangements for remote meetings be continued.

(b) Annual Service of Remembrance 2020 – report on discussions with the clergy and notice from the Borough Council

The Chairman reported on details supplied to members following his discussions with Reverend Rebecca Roberts of the Church of the Ascension about the effect of the coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings. Rev Roberts had led arrangements for the service held at the memorial in recent years in consultation with the local clergy and other participants.

It was proposed to announce that there will be no formal service at the memorial this year. Individuals may still pay their respects with wreaths and crosses privately, up to and including the 11th hour on 11 November. Rev. Roberts had agreed to bless the offerings without a formal congregation. It was hoped that whatever legal obligations transpired in the coming weeks this would allow residents the opportunity to pay their respects to those who gave their lives during conflict.

The Clerk reported that the memorial and pavement flags adjacent were to be cleaned later this month; the Borough Council would not be requested to make any arrangements for a service this year.

The Borough Council had requested details from parish councils on any event planned this year to commemorate Remembrance Sunday having regard to current legislation and Government guidance. It was planned to update photographs of war memorials in the Borough and to include some of these with the Council's Remembrance Day communications:

Resolved,

That

1. the recommendation not to hold a service because of the coronavirus pandemic be approved and publicity be given to this decision and the arrangements made for residents to pay their respects safely;

2. the information from the Borough Council be noted and they be informed of the decision made;
3. the quotation from D&N Shotblasting and Painting Services Ltd of £1020 (excluding VAT) be accepted for the cleaning to the memorial and surrounding paved area and financial regulation 11.1(b)(ii) be not applied to these specialist works.

(c) request for enhancement of the website

The Clerk reported further to minute C20(2)(b) – 19 August 2020 that details of options and cost for enhancing the website had been requested from the website provider.

Details had been provided of the cost ensuring the compliance of the website with The Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 to meet the WCAG 2.1 AA standard. The guide price was £750 (excluding VAT) for an estimated 1.5 days of developer work, to be confirmed after the initial audit of the site:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be noted;
2. approval be given to work required to ensure compliance of the website with the new standard.

(d) Powers for the control of dogs in public places

Further to minute C20(2)(c) 19 August 2020, the Council noted that there was additional information to report.

(e) Woolston with Martinscroft Poppy Appeal scheme – arrangements for 2020

Further to minute C20(2)(d) – 19 August 2020, the Council noted that the group had been provided with details of the new Group Development contact at Warrington Voluntary Action who assists with identifying the needs of new groups including possible sources of funding.

(f) applications for grant aid

No applications to report.

C35 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 reported that no meetings of the group have taken place since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The group continued to update their website and Facebook site.
- Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade reported that:
 - Repairs completed to surface of access road to Woolston Park by the Borough Council.

- Volunteers were continuing to work in the park. The thanks of residents had been received, some of whom are shielding during the Coronavirus pandemic, on how well the park looks when having a recreational walk.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting.

**C36 Correspondence – consultation and information
– unauthorised encampment at Kingsland Grange**

The Council noted that the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team had taken action to secure the removal of an unauthorised encampment of 5 caravans on Kingsland Grange (adjacent to the FedEx premises).

– Cheshire Constabulary – update on Community Policing

The Clerk reported the receipt of a Stakeholder Bulletin from Cheshire Constabulary on the launch of its new approach to community policing which would see dedicated police officers assigned to each of the county’s 122 policing areas to tackle crime and support communities. The initiative had been developed by the Police and Crime Commissioner who is striving for Cheshire to be the leading police service for delivering community policing. Details were provided of the arrangements for Woolston:

Resolved,
That the details be noted.

C37 Planning Applications, appeals and decisions

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

Applications for consideration at meeting

No relevant applications.

Applications to approve action taken

Application reference: 2020/37395

Location: 10, BATTERY LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QF

Description of development: Full Planning -. Retrospective change of use from waste land to residential curtilage and erection of garden wall and pillars

Comment

The application does not appear to contain information about visibility splays for vehicles exiting the parking space. Concern is expressed at possible hazard to the safety of walkers using the public right of way and other vehicles using this route.

Application reference: 2020/36797

Location: Moss Brow Cottages, Nicol Avenue, Woolston, Warrington, WA3 6DN

Description of development : Full Planning - Proposed demolition of 1 - 3 Mossbrow

Cottages and the erection of 1 no. single storey detached dwelling, with associated access, servicing and landscaping, including installation of package treatment plant

OBJECT There is lack of sufficient detail relating to the route of the right of way for the Public Footpath through the site.

The following representations were submitted following the meeting of the Council on 19 August 2020 (Minute C23):

- support be given to the submission made by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.
- an explanation is requested to the proposed allocation of the S106 funds and information on any consideration to the allocation of that funding for Woolston;
- further action be taken following receipt of information from the Borough Council.

After consideration of responses received from the Borough Council to the objection and representations made the following response was submitted:

Please proceed on the basis of the informal style of reply suggested in your email confirming that the reason for objection has been remedied on the basis of the undertakings given to the Council.

Resolved,
That

1. the comment submitted in respect of application 2020/37395 be approved;
2. the response submitted in respect of application 2020/36797 be approved and the Borough Council be asked to supply, when determined, a copy of the related Section 106 agreement and the map showing the approved route of the public right of way through the development.

C38 Business raised by members – Dam Lane Shopping precinct

Councillor Nowell reported on the recent initiative from the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of anti-social behaviour at the precinct:

Resolved,
That an update be requested on the progress made.

C39 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,
That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4505	23/09/20	Employee1	0.00	241.10	Arrears of pay - national salary scales wef April 2020	

4506	23/9/20	Adobe Systems Software (Clerk)	0.00	181.10	Adobe software licence 2020/21	
4507	23/9/20	Post Office Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	2.82	Certificate of posting PKF Littlejohn 27/8/20 & 21/9/20	
4508	24/9/20	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M6 September 2020	
4509	24/9/20	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	351.71	PAYE Months 4 to6 2020/21	

**APPENDIX
MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

**Woolston
September 2020 - Monthly Parish report**

**Beat Sergeant PS Stuart Gibbard
Beat Manager PC Alison Edwards
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

Anti-Social Behaviour

4 Youths (3), environmental (1), personal (0)
Personal/environmental include neighbour issues, parking/traffic, domestic related issues.

Burglary

3 Dwelling 1x investigation by Burglary Team; 2x Reclassed as no crime
5 Other 4x Business premises (2x linked occurrences); 1x Stables

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Criminal Damage

3 1x personal; 1x HGV; 1x Linked to Burg Other

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle
0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- ASB issues have increased since some of the lockdown restrictions have been relaxed with youths allowed out unaccompanied by parents/carers to catch up with their friends. Patrols continue covering various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car park, Woolston Eyes & New Cut Canal Path.
- Dam Lane Shops – continue to liaise with the management team who own the parade. They have approved alterations/improvements for implementing at the parade, such as gating for the upper level. The area is regularly patrolled and monitored, and link in with shop staff. CCTV reviewed to see if any offenders can be identified for any offences. Colleagues from other beat areas have been supporting our local patrols
- Woolston Park & Industrial Estate – Patrols continue at varying times of the day and different days, we continue to link in with County Fire and other colleagues to support us
- WBC Community Safety Team continue to conduct youth outreach work across Warrington with Woolston included on their areas to patrol and engage with youngsters regarding behaviour – including drinking alcohol. Warrington Youth Club staff seen on

Woolston Park too during work across Warrington whilst coronavirus restrictions on the youth centre

- Burglary investigation team are continuing to investigate a series of Burglary with theft of high powered motor vehicle, liaising with other areas of Cheshire and force areas
- 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/>

Water awareness campaign by Cheshire Fire & Rescue

<https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/public-safety/outdoor-safety/water-safety-dont-be-tempted-to-cool-off-in-open-water>

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

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Cancelled – until further notice

Chairman.....