

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors A Hill, B Maher, S Rydzkowski, P Wright

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

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C47 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors A Hill, B Maher, attending a Borough Ward meeting, and S Rydzkowski and P Wright who was recovering from illness:

Resolved,
That the apologies for absence be noted.

C48 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C49 Matters of report from the previous meeting

There were no matters to report.

C50 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council received a report on the policing of Woolston as set out below. Beat Manager PC A Edwards and PCSO B Roberts in attendance:

Woolston

September 2019 - Monthly Parish report

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

11 Youths (4), environmental (4), personal (3)

Personal/environmental include neighbour issues, parking/traffic, domestic related issues

Burglary

0 Dwelling

6 Other 4xbusinesses; 1xshed, 1xstables

Criminal Damage

2 These incidents were closed as no actual damage

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Regarding the armed robbery at One Stop, Dam Lane – detectives continue to work on this incidents, not further update at this present time
 - Shops – Patrols continue Dam Lane shops. Met with management agents and some of the business owners to discuss youth issues at location. Visibility to offer reassurance to staff and public following incident mentioned about
 - Woolston Park – we continue to liaise with County Fire. Met with Mobile Youth Workers who were engaging with youths on the park. Spoken with staff at local shops regarding restricting sale of eggs to youngsters following recent incident of eggs thrown at a property
 - New Cut Path – To tackle nuisance off-road motorbikes we need detailed descriptions of bikes & riders, where the bikes are kept (lock-ups/garages), names if possible. Call Cheshire Police on 101 and quote Operation Scrambler (Crimestoppers anonymously 0800 555 111)
-

5Cs guide to staying safe online:- <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/internet-safety-and-security/our-5cs-guide-to-staying-safe-online/>

Action Fraud

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK: -

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Schools & other events

Woolston Show – Pathways to Recovery Warrington and colleagues with a patrol car attended

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Hub – 13 Sep 18:00, 18 Sep 11:00, 24 Sep 18:00, 30 Sep 11:00, 9 Oct 11:00, 15 Oct 18:00

Members raised concern at speeding vehicles on Manchester Road and the riding of motor bikes on the New Cut Canal towpath. The Police representatives agreed to give attention to these matters and the Council noted the action already taken in respect of the towpath. The use of “A” frames to restrict access to the towpath had been discontinued by the Borough Council because of the effect on other users e.g. those using prams.

The Council noted a response from the Police to the representations made regarding non-attendance of officers at the 17 July meeting. This was because of shift patterns and the monthly report was intended to go some way to keeping members updated when an officer could not attend. Details were given of the action taken regarding the robbery at the “One Shop” including liaison and support available with the shop

owners. The Police and Crime Commissioner had made the Warrington LPU Superintendent and Chief Inspector aware of the Council's concerns.

Resolved,

That

1. the monthly report for September 2019 be noted;
2. the thanks of the Council be recorded to the Police in attendance at the Woolston Show.

C51 Encampments by travellers

The Clerk reported further to minute C38 17 July 2019 - nuisance caused by traveller encampments, on the responses from the Borough Council and LiveWire CIC.

The Borough Council and LiveWire CIC officers had met to discuss security issues with the site and options to prevent further access to the site by the travelling community.

Two sets of plans had been developed for security barriers at both entrances to the site. Once priced submissions had been received a decision would be taken on the most appropriate solution and works commissioned. Details had also been provided of action taken when a traveller encampment arrived on Council land including a record of the events relating to the encampment commencing with the welfare visit on 4 July 2019. Following the failure to comply with a Section 77 notice an application had been made to the court on 12 July 2019 to remove the group. The issue had been listed for court on 16 July 2019 and notice of this had been served on the group. The group had left the site on the evening of 15 July 2019:

Resolved,

That

1. the action taken by the Borough Council and LiveWire CIC in response to the representations made be noted;
2. the thanks of the Council be recorded to the officers for the action taken and to those involved in the clean-up operation.

C52 Complaint of alleged nuisance and ecological impact from gulls nesting in the Woolston Grange area

The Clerk reported further to minute C38 17 July 2019 - nuisance caused by Lesser Black-backed gulls, on the response from the Environmental Health and Protection section of the Borough Council. The Borough Council has a duty to investigate statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In respect of the complaint made by the parish council the response made was

“For enforcement action we must be satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists and that evidence (suitable for a Court) can be obtained to support legal proceedings. We would need to establish the noise a resident is being disturbed by is situated at a specific premises and this noise is affecting them to a level sufficient to result in a statutory nuisance at their property. If a resident requires the council to investigate allegations of noise nuisance, we will need to be advised of a specific location of the premises which is the source of the noise. If the noise disturbance residents are experiencing is from birds in flight, there is no action we can take.

There must also be practical steps that the person(s) responsible can reasonably take to abate any nuisance. It is suggested that the playing of recordings of loud gull distress calls during daylight hours, as a means to move the gulls could be used. Whilst it may be productive as a

means of controlling bird numbers at other suitable locations, it is likely to be counter-productive in this case given the existing concerns about noise, furthermore the problem may reoccur once the recording stop. It is therefore unlikely that we could require a business to carry out this type of action, even if a statutory nuisance was occurring. I have been advised by an ecologist that netting of roofs could cause harm to other bird species, so should also be avoided. With regard to the issues raised concerning the SSSI site and the impact gulls are having, I have contacted the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to request their advice, they provide ecology support and advice to the council for Planning applications. They have reviewed the Woolston Eyes Conservation Groups' annual reports 2014-18 and I have been informed that they are aware of the type of situation you have advised can occur, but they do not believe there is sufficient evidence to justify action to control the local Gull population on Ecology grounds."

Following receipt of the Borough Council's response, Borough Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors had made been making further enquiries of other local authorities and organisations, including the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, regarding the action that was taken in other areas regarding the nuisance caused by gulls in order to provide a remedy to this issue:

Resolved,

That

1. the response from the Borough Council be noted;
2. further reports be made to the Environment and Amenities Committee.

C53 Borough Council business

Borough Councillor 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 further representations additional work had been carried out to the footpath adjacent to St Peters school to remedy the flooding problem during times of heavy rainfall.
- The broken knee rail fence at the Dam Lane shops had been replaced and a new litter bin had been sited adjacent to the bus shelter on Dam Lane. The old bin had been removed.
- Works had been carried out to the path leading from Gig Lane to the Grange Employment Area.
- Following complaints relating to residential property in Parksway Environmental Health officers were making attempts to contact the property owner.
-

C54 Committee reports and recommendations

- Environment and Amenities Committee

Councillor MH Greenslade reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 4 September 2019 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That the recommendations be approved, and the proceedings be noted.

- Finance and General Amenities Committee

Councillor McCarthy reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 4 September 2019 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That the recommendations be approved, and the proceedings be noted.

C55 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 on the work of the group and the proceedings of the meeting held on 29 July 2019. Following the event at the Weir Lane viewing area on 16 July 2019 the mould used by the manufacturer for the “Old Bill” plaque had been presented to the group and had been displayed at the Woolston Show. The next meeting was to be held on 30 September 2019.

Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade submitted a report on the work of the group:

The final Woolston Show has taken place, and the announcement that it was to be the final Show has been made. It was, as always thankfully a successful day with no unexpected events - all credit to the volunteer organisers.

There have been a number of comments both at the Show during the day and on social media, regarding how sad it is that an annual community event should end, but with lots of thanks to the organisers. Reasons for finishing the Show have been explained and understood.

As already reported, it became impossible to continue with so few volunteers doing all the work - not just on the day, but with all the preparation and work during months prior to the event. Every year at the Show, and on the FOWP Facebook page, more volunteers were requested but none came forward. Indeed, the Show this year would not have been possible without the support of the Warrington East District Scout group and their parents.

Then in July came the news that the Warrington Borough Council Neighbourhood team had been reduced, and so a LOT of administration work then fell onto the small group of the Park’s volunteers.

The Friends have discussed a number of ideas for smaller events (e.g., the regular Easter Eggstravaganza) however they need guidance from the Borough Council with regard to the amount of administration required e.g., event licences, risk assessments, etc. Councillor Pat Wright has requested this information.

A balance sheet of income and expenditure will be submitted to the Parish Council in due course.

The event licence fee for holding the event on Borough Council land has this year been waived (thank you Councillor Wright) and the event licence fee for the fair will transfer to FOWP group (previously the fair team made a contribution to the FOWP).

Public Rights of Way Forum – the meeting scheduled for August had been cancelled because of staff illness. The next meeting was scheduled for 12 December 2019.

C56 Correspondence – consultation and information – Polling District and Polling Places Review 2019

The Clerk reported a letter from the Borough Council on the above review. No changes were proposed for the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward including the parished areas:
Resolved,

That no comments be made.

C57 Planning Applications and decisions

The Council gave consideration to the following planning application submitted for comment by the Borough Council:

Application reference: 2019/35099

Location: SANDYCROFT, BROOK LANE, WARRINGTON, WA3 6DT

Description of development: Full Planning - Retention of 5 storage containers and erection of stable block

Resolved,

That comments be submitted as required following a review of the application.

C58 Business raised by Members

No matters to report.

C59 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4444	30/8/19	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	M5 August 2019	
4445	4/9/19	LiveWire CIC	0.00	33.60	Meeting room 19 June 2019	
4446	4/9/19	Society of Local Council Clerks	0.00	106.00	Annual subscription 2019/20	
4447	4/9/19	WaterPlus (Clerk)	0.00	109.21	Allotment meter charge	
4448	4/9/19	Royal Mail Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	342.00	Annual PO Box fee 2019/20	

Chairman.....