

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

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

Apologies for absence: Councillor AJ Hill

C72 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting and congratulated Councillor Tynan on his election as a Borough Councillor for the Rixton and Woolston Ward.

C73 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C74 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor AJ Hill.

C75 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,
That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C76 Filling of Borough and Parish Council vacancies

The Council noted that Councillor Tynan had been elected on 24 November 2022 as a Councillor for the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward.
Further to Minute C62 9 November 2022 notice had been given inviting applications by 9 December 2022 to fill the vacancy for the East Ward by co-option. The Council gave consideration to the procedure for making an appointment:

Resolved,
That

1. the result of the Borough Council by-election be noted;
2. applicants for co-option be invited to attend the meeting to be held on 25 January 2023.

C77 Matters of report from previous minutes – Remembrance Sunday – poppy appeal

Councillor M Greenslade reported that the local group had raised £1030 from donations made through their work in fixing poppies to lamp posts and trees along Manchester Road:

Resolved,

That the group be congratulated on their achievement in raising funds for the poppy appeal.

– bus shelter adjacent to Woolston Social Club

Councillor McCarthy reported that the Borough Council had removed the bus shelter adjacent to Woolston Social Club and asked that the Borough Ward Councillors confirm with the officers that it is to be replaced as part of the current scheme.

C78 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council considered the monthly report for November 2022. PCSO Roberts was unable to attend the meeting and any matters raised by the meeting would be reported to the Police:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

(Please see appendix).

C79 Borough Council business

To receive reports from Borough Ward 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 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. Borough Councillor reports

Councillor Tynan – no items to report to the meeting.

2. Representations by residents

A resident reported on issues raised with the Council at the meeting held on 9 November 2022 (Minute C65):

- Blocked drains in the highway resulting in flooding to gardens – it was noted that further work had been carried out by the Borough Council to the drainage in Dam Lane but this had not been completed.
- Use of the road by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and speeding by vehicles – concern had been raised with the police at HGVs using Dam Lane to attempt to access the Grange Employment area and parking on the road adjacent to the shops. Reports had also been made relating to the spillage from overlaid HGVs onto the highway resulting in potential hazard to pedestrians and other road users.

The Council considered the response from the Director of Transport and Environment following a review of road safety on Holes Lane, Dam Lane and Gig Lane.

This did not support the action requested:

Resolved,

That

1. the Borough Ward Councillors be asked to raise the concerns expressed by the Council with officers in the Road Safety section relating to the speed of vehicles and damage caused by heavy goods vehicles to the highway drainage;

2. the Police be asked to attend the next Council meeting to respond to the concerns regarding the speed of vehicles on local roads.
3. Responses from the Borough Council
Further to Minute C65 9 November 2022 the Council considered the responses received from the Borough Council to issues raised:
 1. Weir Lane – request for additional street lighting
The Director of Transport and Environment has responded to the Council that there are engineering difficulties within this area because of the location of services and a requirement to install cable. No capital funding is identified for this work:
Resolved,
That the response be noted and further consideration be given at a future meeting.
 2. Dam Lane – flooding to footpath and gardens
The Director of Transport and Environment has responded to the Council that a number of gullies have been replaced and a further gully is scheduled for replacement in the next 8 weeks:
Resolved,
That the progress of the works be monitored.
 3. Access to the Grange Employment area from Gig Lane
The Director of Transport and Environment has responded to the Council that the route is being considered for an improvement to widen the corridor to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists. However, any improvements require agreement of adjacent landowners which is still to be sought. Agreement was reached in 2018 from landowners to clear vegetation that had encroached on to the path, although this has now largely returned to its previous condition. A further update was to be provided:
Resolved,
That the report be noted and progress be reviewed.
 4. Surfacing of the path to Woolston Playing Fields
The Director of Transport and Environment has responded to the Council that the land is under the control of Education Services. Funding would be required to surface the path. MOT stone had been used immediately after a site meeting with Councillor Dixon to infill the waterlogged areas:
Resolved,
That the response be noted and a further site meeting be requested with the Borough Ward Councillors and the officers.

C80 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

1. Parish Path Warden scheme – condition report

There were no matters to report.

2. Development of “Old Billy” scheme

Further to the report to the Council (Minute C66(1) 2. – 7 November 2022) the Clerk reported that Culture Warrington were progressing the amendments to the artwork to meet the standards agreed by the Borough Council for a sign in public spaces. These would be supplied to the Borough Council for their comments:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

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

3. Dam Lane Shopping Precinct

No matters to report (Minute C66 (1) 4. – 9 November 2022).

4. Tree maintenance, Martinscroft Green – appointment of consultant

Further to Minute C66 (1) 4. - 9 November 2022 the Council considered a quotation from The Environment Partnership in respect of the tree works. This included a survey of conflict trees, tender works specification and related works with the appointed contractor:

Resolved,

That the quotation be accepted.

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.

– site maintenance

There were no matters to report.

(2) Finance and General Committee

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

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

2. Management Accounts 2022/23 - April to June and July to September 2022

The Clerk submitted the Management Accounts for the quarterly periods ending June and September 2022:

Resolved,

That the Management Accounts for the quarterly periods ending June and September 2022 be accepted.

3. Development of Capital and Revenue Budget for 2023/24

The Council gave consideration to the development of the budget for 2023/24 and the Clerk reported the details supplied by the Borough Council regarding the tax base for precept setting purposes:

Resolved,

That

1. the information provided by the Borough Council be noted;
2. the budget for 2023/24 be prepared on a no growth basis.

4. Annual Service of Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2022

The Council reviewed the organisation and arrangements for the service held on Sunday 13 November 2022. The Woolston Church of the Ascension in recent years had organised the event in liaison with the appointed representative of the Royal British Legion (RBL) in Woolston. The post of vicar at the church was vacated in August 2021 and the Council had agreed to undertake the role of event organiser for 2021 and this year in liaison with the church and the RBL representative. Previously the role of the Council had been to prepare the memorial and land surrounding for the event.

The Council in January 2022 (Minute C72 (2) (c)) had agreed to continue to undertake the role of organiser for the 2022 service in consultation with the Woolston Church of the Ascension and the local RBL representative. The Council had also agreed to the continued use of the tiled surface for the event provided through the Borough Council for the area used by the public adjacent to the memorial. A review of this year's event was to be carried out with the church and RBL representatives:

Resolved,

That

1. approval be given for the Council to undertake the role of organiser for the 2023 service in consultation with the Woolston Church of the Ascension and the local RBL representative;
2. approval be given to the continued use of the tiled surface for the event for the area used by the public adjacent to the memorial;
3. a report be given following a review of the 2022 event including the type of public address system.

5. Report on action taken under the scheme of delegation

The Council noted that no decisions had been required under the scheme of delegation approved for undertaking business during the Covid 19 pandemic since the last meeting.

6. Applications for grant aid

No applications to be considered.

C81 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 – the Annual General Meeting had been held on 28 November 2022 and had included a slide show. Thanks had been recorded to the Council for the grant made in supporting the group’s work in the parish. Activities during the year had been mainly directed to Paddington Meadows working in partnership with the Borough Council. Councillor Rydzkowski reported that the Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council had recently approved a grant application of £500 to support the group’s activities. Information was published by the group on their website.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce for November (please see appendix). Members recorded their thanks to Councillor Pearce.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell reported that the last meeting had been held on 15 June 2022. The meeting intended for December had not been held and may be held in January/February next year. There had been no feedback from the Borough Council regarding the report made of the blockage to Path 12 at Nicol Avenue (Minute C66 (1) 1. – 9 November 2022. It was understood that officers in the Ranger Service carried out periodic inspections of public footpaths. Councillor Nowell reported on the Path Checker service provided by the Peak and Northern Footpath Society (P&NFS) and suggested that consideration be given to the Council to becoming a member. It was agreed that the Public Rights of Way Forum should be asked to discuss the arrangements for the inspection of public paths and for the Council to consider membership of the P&NFS.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted and action approved.

C82 Correspondence – consultation and information

No items to report.

C83 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
2022/41946	Land to the rear of 36 Hertford Close WA1 4EZ	Change of use of land to form extended garden area together with proposed 2.1m high fencing
2022/42716	Ninemeister 12 Chesford Grange WA1 4RE	Proposed new 2 storey extension to create new vehicle bodywork repair and renovation workshop with new spray shop in existing single storey wing adjacent. Installation of solar panels to flat roof of new extension and main roof.

FULL PLANNING (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2022/41714	28 Hawthorne Avenue WA1 4AL	Two storey side extension
2022/42519	22 Ivy Road WA1 4DS	Single storey rear/side extension.
SECTION 192 CERTIFICATE		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2022/42681	Rent A Lift 12 Tatton Court WA1 4RR	Proposed 1.8m high palisade fence and gate, permeable tarmac and proposed EV charging point
PART 16 (CLASS A) PRIOR APPROVAL		FOR INFORMATION ONLY
2022/42001	Manchester Road WA1 4AP	Proposed replacement base station and associated works

The Clerk reported on representations made by residents to the Borough Council in respect of application 2022/42001, an application for information only, and that Councillor Hill was undertaking enquiries regarding this matter:

Resolved,
That

1. approval be given to comments being made in respect of application 2022/442001 following consideration of information received from the Borough Council;
2. no comments be submitted in respect of the other matters listed subject to consideration of any matters raised.

C84 Business raised by Council Members
- provision of bus services – Service 4

Consideration was given to reports of changes to or withdrawal of Service 4 because of the low numbers of users. No official notification had been received:

Resolved,

That support be given to the increase in frequency of this service to encourage its use.

- maintenance of trees - boundary of Woolston Neighbourhood Hub with Baron Close/Dam Lane

Consideration was given to representations from a resident regarding the need to cut back tree branches to remove the hazard to residents from a slip hazard being caused through leaves falling into rear gardens. Councillor Tynan agreed to support the resident in making representations:

Resolved,
That the offer made by Councillor Tynan be noted.

C85 Accounts

Resolved,
That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4648	15/11/22	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M8 November 2022	
4649	15/11/22	LiveWire CIC	0.00	42.00	Room hire 13 July 2022	
4650	VOID					
4651	7/12/22	Royal British Legion (Clerk)	0.00	40.00	Wreath for Remembrance service 2022	
4652	7/12/22	Warrington BC	0.00	722.81	Instalment 2 of 4 April 2021 for May 2021 elections	
4653	7/12/22	Battery Lane Allotment Association	0.00	178.28	Contribution to insurance premium for community works element 2023/24	
4654	7/12/22	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	27.59	Printing supplies	

APPENDIX

Woolston November 2022 - Monthly Parish report

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam
Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

Anti-Social Behaviour

3 Youths (1), environmental (1), personal (1)

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

Burglary

0 Dwelling

2 Other Businesses

Criminal Damage

5 3x vehicle damage, not linked (1x person arrested)

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle Business vehicles – parts, no LOE

OTHER

- Operation Stay Safe – safeguarding operation in progress across Warrington visiting parks and open spaces, areas of repeat anti-social behaviour – officers patrolling areas in partnership with social care, health, outreach workers
- Visits to business premises about seasonal sale of goods
- Woolston CE Primary – Halloween, bonfire, firework input; Social Media input
- Woolston CP – Provided presentations, bonfire/firework safety
- Remembrance Service Martinscroft Green attended
- Cannabis Farm Woolston dismantled, person arrested, investigation ongoing
- Theft of property from business premises, person arrested
- 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>
- Speed enforcement conducted Gig Lane 29/9, no activations
- 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/>

Schools & other events

Schools – liaised with schools regarding talks/visits

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates as follows (subject to change):-

21 Nov 18:00 – 19:00; 2 Dec 18:00 – 19:00; 9 Dec 11:00 – 12:00; 13 Dec 18:00 – 19:00

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES FOR FOWP – NOVEMBER 2022

Monday 14 November – FOWP Work Day

I didn't attend the FOWP Work Day. I just went down to the cabin to fill the bird feeders. Sorry I have nothing to report as I had arranged to go to the allotment to do some work on the allotment shed instead.

Saturday 19 November – YFOWP

Another lively Saturday morning with the Young Friends making Christmas wreaths. We had a new girl joining who came with her mother and she quickly settled in and made new friends. Each wreath was made from scratch using pliable branches from trees on site to make the framework of the wreath. Then came the fun side for the children to dress them up using a variety of bought items, much of which had been stored from previous years plus a few extras from this year and some holly. The finished wreaths were all so very different yet all were beautiful.

Monday 21 November – FOWP Work Day plus another visit for the Special Needs Children

4 people began their litter picking and 3 stayed in the cabin. We had no sooner arrived when the rain came and brought most of the outdoor work to a halt. We also had a visit from some Council workmen to check over the cabin. Then, because of the awful weather we stayed in the cabin to make some plans as to what steps to take for the coming months on the allotment site and to make a plan of the layout.

Yet again because of the rain the Special Needs children's visit had to be cancelled. They are due to come again the following Monday 28th.

Monday 28 November – Foxwood 6th Form

I worked on the allotment during the morning then came on the park in the afternoon to help with the Special Needs children. We took them on the path going towards the pond clearing lots of the fallen leaves and brushing the path clear. Some of the children had a go at cutting some overhanging branches too, they were supervised by teachers and FOWP. Whenever they come on the park, they nearly always enjoy themselves and regularly there's lots of laughter.

Allotment – November 2022

Week by week this plot is improving. Already it looks completely different to the first time we saw it. We are all proud of the changes so far. However, it will take time. The shed we inherited is now in fairly good condition with new floor and roof. Our priorities now are to

work on one area at a time and we aim to make at least 3 raised beds to enable us to use them on rotation over 3-year periods. Throughout this month several of the Friends have attended the allotment at various stages. The first of the raised beds is ready to put on site when enough people are on site at the same time to lift it into place. It will be a good strong one. There has been a lot of rubbish to remove, many strong weeds, digging and raking it level, endless tasks but every time we go, we see improvements. A lot has been achieved over the last month. My time alone was initially to be shared between the park and the allotment each Monday. It certainly hasn't worked out that way, this week alone I have been on 3 separate occasions and I'm sure some of the others have probably done the same. By the Spring it should be much easier to manage.

Chairman.....