

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 23 MARCH 2021

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 Hill, A McCarthy, D Nowell,
M Pearce, S Rydzkowski, P Wright

Apologies for absence:

C93 National day of reflection 23 March 2021 - Covid 19 pandemic

Members held a virtual assembly and maintained a minute's silence to support the national day of reflection remembering the more than 125,00 who have died so far during the covid pandemic.

C94 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Councillor Banner declared an interest in an item to be reported from Culture Warrington CIC, by reason of being a trustee.

C95 Apologies for absence

The Council noted that Councillor A Hill was attending a school governing body meeting and would join the meeting later.

C96 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2021 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.

C97 Matters of report from the previous meeting – C87 Reports from members appointed to local bodies – Friends of Woolston Park

Councillor MH Greenslade reported that no contact had been made by the Executive Member regarding the lack of progress in making repairs to the roof of the Ranger Cabin. Councillor McCarthy confirmed that he had raised this matter and undertook to raise it again with the Executive Member.

C98 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council considered a report provided by the Police for March 2021. The Beat Manager,

PC Burnell and PCSO Roberts attended the meeting to present the report and responded to questions from members.

Councillor MH Greenslade reported on incidents of anti-social behaviour by youths in Woolston Park referred to in the report. This issue had also been raised on the local social media site. Damage had been reported to vehicles and to property in the park, some involving work carried out by the FoWP group, who had cleared litter after the recent events.

The Police representatives reported on action taken in the park that regrettably was occurring in parks across the borough. Additional patrols had been deployed and the Police were seeking a multi-agency approach including a request to the Warrington Youth Club outreach teams. The Police outlined the action taken against youths in respect of these incidents that followed the relevant laws and force guidance. It was noted that High Schools across Warrington had been contacted to seek their support and that of pupils and parents:

Resolved,

That

1. the Police be thanked for their report for March 2021;
2. the Borough Council be approached regarding the installation of CCTV in Woolston Park to help deter acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour and to aid in identifying offenders.

(Please see appendix for report).

C99 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors McCarthy and Wright 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 since the last meeting. (The Council noted that the report 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).

Details of matters since the last meeting:

- Fly-tipping of tree branches on passageway between Redwood Close and Lawson Close – A complaint had been made by a resident to the Borough Council's Contact Centre. The Borough Council had confirmed that the pruning to the trees on the passageway had not been carried out as part of their maintenance works. Residents had responded that they had thought the work was being undertaken by the Council and the branches were to be collected for disposal.
- A57 Manchester Road – highway verge from Redwood Close to Monmouth Close. It was noted that following a report two trees considered to be in a dangerous condition had been cut back and made safe.
- Fly-tipping – passageway from Gig Lane to Chesford Grange. Following a complaint officers had arranged for the clearance of rubbish from and adjacent to the passageway including 30 sacks and other sacks at the end of the highway. The highway was used by parked HGV vehicles and a request had been made for the siting of a large waste container.
- Residents had made complaints at the nuisance caused by seagulls that had returned to the Grange Employment Area. Representations had previously been made to the Borough Council and a progress report had been requested on action that could be taken:

Resolved,
That the report be noted.

C100 Committee matters

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

(a) Woolston Playing Fields and Hillock Lane Amenity area – application for siting of storage equipment – Minute C86(1)(a) – 17 February 2021

The Clerk reported the response from the Environment Services Manager regarding assistance in progressing the request from Woolston Rovers JFC to site a storage facility on the playing fields.

- The Council's Estates Service had agreed to supply a typical example of an agreement for a third party to occupy land shared with the parish council. This had been received from the Estates Service.
- In terms of access, the situation was unchanged in that ground conditions remain unstable for a heavy goods vehicle to travel over the grassland to instal a container. Timing would be critical to avoid significant damage to the sports pitches, so the situation will require ongoing review. In the interim, it was suggested that the parties could finalise the plans for installation when the conditions are suitable.
- If vandalism to posts remains an issue for the club it may be an option for them to approach the Kings Leadership Academy with a view to temporarily storing the posts within the school boundary. The position could then be reviewed once a license is in place and ground conditions will facilitate access for delivery.

Following consideration of the response, it was

Resolved,
That Woolston Rovers JFC be informed of the response from the Borough Council.

(b) Hydropol scheme, Weir Lane – Minute C73(1)(b) – 18 January 2021

The Council noted details from Hydropol regarding the delivery of the three Archimedes screw turbines that were scheduled to arrive on site between 6 and 8 April 2021. Notice was to be given to the public through the local social media site and street notices to help keep Weir Lane clear of parked vehicles.

(c) Woolston New Cut Canal - "Old Billy" Heritage walk

Further to minute C87 17 February 2021, the Clerk reported on the outline scheme produced by the Archives and Heritage Officer at Culture Warrington. This would include the production of an information board about the life of "Old Billy" as a working horse on the canal and interpretative information. The proposed scheme extended from Weir Lane to Paddington Bank, and it was intended to involve the Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council and local groups in the development of the project.

The Borough Council's Public Rights of Way Officer had been consulted regarding works on the towpath of the canal and he had raised no objections in principle. The comments of the Borough Council's Environment Manager had been invited but no response had been

received to report to the meeting. This officer had operational responsibility for the Weir Lane viewing area and the public open spaces adjacent to the towpath:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the development of the scheme subject to consideration of comments from the Environment Manager.

(d) Weir Lane – representations made to the Borough Council for additional street lighting

The Clerk reported a request from a resident to support a bid submitted to the Borough Council for 2 additional streetlights on Weir Lane between Edward Gardens and Timberscombe Gardens. This followed an announcement that the Government was making available funding to local authorities to improve street lighting to enable women to be more safe at night. It was noted that previous requests had been made for this provision:

Resolved,

That support be given to the bid for additional street lighting on this section of Weir Lane.

(e) Battery Lane Allotment Association – repairs to surface of communal paths

The Clerk reported on the offer of assistance from the Association for repairs to the communal paths within the allotment site. Volunteers from the Association had assisted in the construction of the paths. The estimated cost for the supply of stone was £200.

Representations had been made to the Borough Council for repairs to the track leading to the site from Battery Lane and it was noted that the Association had also offered help with this work:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the purchase of stone for the works.

(2) Finance and General Amenities Committee

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

The Clerk recommended that the Conference Call system be extended for a period beyond April 2021 to facilitate contact with members and outside bodies until the covid pandemic restrictions were relaxed. This provision would not apply to formal meetings of the Council from May 2021 unless the continued use was permitted:

Resolved,

That approval be given for the continuing provision of the Conference call system.

(b) Local council elections 6 May 2021 – guidance from the Local Government Association (LGA) to councils on the pre-election period

The Council noted the guidance published by the LGA on action by councils and members during the pre-election period.

(c) Annual review of procedures and documents

The Clerk reported on the annual review of procedures and documents:

Resolved,

That

1. the following procedures and documents be approved:
 - a. Financial Regulations.
 - b. Standing Orders.
 - c. Risk Assessment.
 - d. Fixed Asset Register.
 - e. Complaints procedure.
 - f. Procedure for handling complaints under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the General Data Protection Policy.
 - g. Procedure for dealing with the press/media.
 - h. The Code of Conduct.
 - i. Rates of pay and review of employee contract.
 - j. Retention of documents and combined data protection and security policy.
2. approval be given to insurance arrangements following a review with the council's insurers.

(d) Road safety schemes – (1) speed monitoring signs; (2) introduction of 20mph speed restrictions

No information to report.

(e) Applications for grant aid

No applications to report.

(f) Recognition of Service

Councillor MH Greenslade reported that Councillor McCarthy was to retire from the parish council after 34 years' service and as a Borough Councillor for the Rixton and Woolston Ward in May 2021:

Resolved,

That

1. the thanks of the Council be recorded to Councillor McCarthy for his service to the parish;
2. approval be given for the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to adopt the style of recognition of service approved by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

C101 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 meeting held because of covid guidance. Information published by the group on their website.
- Friends of Woolston Park – report by Councillor MH Greenslade:
 - Recent posting from Rixton and Woolston police on social media "approximately 50 youths between ages 12 - 15 years reported on Woolston Park. Residents have said that they are tampering with cars as they passed in large groups"
 - Later posting " a large group has dispersed upon police arrival and details of some of the children THAT WE WERE ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH (my emphasis) have been taken and will be dealt with accordingly"
 - Also recent fly-tipping in the Park ...including a dishwasher among other household items, mostly cleared by Friends of the Park and other volunteers.
 - Alex Eaton has decided to stand down as Chairman of the group after many year's service. The Council agreed to record their thanks to Mr Eaton for his service as Chairman.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell reported that no meeting had been held. Path 31 (Woolston Weir to Thelwall Lane) had been repaired.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C102 Correspondence – consultation and information **– Police and Crime Commissioner – Stakeholder update**

The Council noted the Stakeholder Update dated 15 March 2021.

– National Census 21 March 2021

The Council noted details provided to local councils on the national census.

– St Martin's Methodist Church – grant aid

The Council noted a letter of thanks for the grant aid from the Council (minute C59(2)(g) – 9 December 2021).

C103 Planning Applications, appeals and decisions

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

Applications for consideration at meeting

Application reference: 2021/38817

Location: 33, ACACIA AVENUE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4EN

Description of development: Section 192 Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed single storey rear extension

Application reference: 2021/38818
Location: 12, WALNUT CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4HA
Description of development: Householder - Proposed single storey rear and side extension
Application reference: 2021/38812
Location: 1, BERKSHIRE DRIVE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4EX
Description of development: Householder - Proposed single-storey front, side, and rear extension.
Application reference: 2021/38826
Location: 52, EPPING DRIVE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QN
Description of development: Householder-Proposed single storey side extension-
Resubmission of 2020/37621
Application reference: 2021/38638
Location: 8, SHROPSHIRE CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4DY
Description of development: Householder - Proposed 2 storey side extension and detached garage
Application reference: 2020/38397
Location: WILLIAMS TARR CONSTRUCTION LIMITED, BRIDGE ROAD, WOOLSTON, WA1 4AU
Description of development: Class O Prior Approval - Proposed Change of use from Offices to 20 Apartments

Applications to approve action taken

None to report.

Councillor McCarthy reported on the arrangements introduced by the Borough Council for the determination of planning applications during the covid 19 pandemic. This involved a greater delegation to officers and had the effect of restricting the right of parish councils amongst others in making personal representations to the Development Management Committee. He supported the return to the previous arrangements when meetings in public were safe to return:

Resolved,
That

1. no comments be made in respect of the applications listed, subject to any further comments received from members;
2. support be given to the return to the previous arrangements for determining applications when covid restrictions are lifted at meetings of the Borough Council.

(Councillor A Hill in attendance)

C104 Business raised by Council members **- Carbon Landscape**

Councillor Nowell reported that Jenny Griggs, Community Engagement Officer for the Carbon Landscape Partnership, had given notice that she was to leave the organisation for another post. He referred to the presentations made by her to the Council and to the work undertaken in Woolston:

Resolved,

That the Council record their appreciation for the work undertaken by Jenny Griggs in Woolston and extend their best wishes to her for the future.

C105 Date of next meeting

Resolved,

That the date of the April 2021 meeting of the Council be notified by the Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman, when information has been obtained from the Borough Council on the dates of committee meetings.

C106 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4533	17/2/21	Councillor J Greenslade	0.00	500.00	Chairman's allowance 2020-21	
4534	17/2/21	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M11 February 2021	
4535	17/2/21	Post Office Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	55.44	Postage stamps	
4536	17/2/21	Zurich Municipal	0.00	1319.54	Annual premium 1/4/21 to 31/3/22	
4537	19/2/21	Warrington BC	0.00	2150.88	Supply, installation, and removal of Christmas tree and fencing 2020	
4538	15/3/21	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M12 March	
4539	23/3/21	InTouchNow	0.00	360.00	Annual hosting, user licences and support	
4540	23/3/21	Society of Local Council Clerks (Clerk)	0.00	130.00	Membership fee 2021/22	
4541	23/3/21	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	304.80	PAYE M10 to 12	

**APPENDIX
MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

**Woolston
March 2021 - Monthly Parish report**

**Beat Sergeant PS Stuart Gibbard
Beat Manager PC Naomi Burnell
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

Anti-Social Behaviour

20 Youths (15), environmental (5), personal (0)

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

11 youth incidents relate to the period 5-16th March, some being duplicate and/or linked

Burglary

0 Dwelling

1 Other

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Criminal Damage

6 3x bin fires park; 2x vehicle

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle Business vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle Vehicle part

OTHER

- Patrols continue covering various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car park, Woolston Eyes & New Cut Canal Path
- Dam Lane Shops – The area continues to be patrolled and monitored, and link in with shop staff. Spoken with new business unit owner
- Woolston Hub – 1x arrest for drug driving related offences 13/3 by beat team
- Woolston Park – Bins fires and ASB – Patrols from across other areas of Warrington have been supporting us with patrols of the park. High schools across Warrington have been contacted to remind pupils/parents regarding youths congregating on parks across Warrington
- Warrington Youth Club – outreach teams, requested consider work on our areas
- Speed enforcement – 7 Mar and 17 Mar Hillock Lane – No activations, all below 30mph

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/>

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
Schools – Primary schools whilst working from home 22x While You Are At Home communications were created and emailed out each week to keep in touch - included safety messages (e.g., roads, stranger, online). Safer Internet Day presentation sent to schools – accompanied by presentation notes for older pupils such as a Junior Safety Officer to present to other pupils on behalf of PCSO
Kings – staff spoken to regarding local ASB issues, liaised over identification of youths
Patrols when other commitments permit in vicinity of schools start/dispersal times

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Face to face surgeries cancelled until further notice, in meantime host virtual surgery

Chairman.....