

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 24 JANUARY 2024**

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

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors AJ Hill, D Hill

### **C75 Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting.

### **C76 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C77 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors AJ Hill and D Hill.

### **C78 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C79 Matters of report from previous minutes**

No matters to report.

### **C80 Budget and Parish Precept 2024/25**

The Council considered a report of the Clerk on the Budget and Parish Precept for 2024/25. The report gave a summary of the estimated net expenditure for 2024/25 together with other financial provision to be made. The Council had agreed that the budget be prepared on a no growth basis (Minute C69(2)3 - 6 December 2023). Information provided by the Borough Council on the Tax base for 2024/25 was noted.

In determining the precept, the Council had regard to additional financial pressures on the community in common with other areas to be met in the coming year:

Resolved,

That

1. approval be given to a precept of £26,300 for 2024/25 maintaining the estimated amount for a Band D property;

2. the draft budget recommendations be approved, and a report be made on any adjustments required in the next financial year.

### **C81 Policing of Woolston**

#### **– Warrington Working Together event 2 November 2023**

No matters to report.

#### **– community liaison report**

The Council considered the monthly reports for December 2023 and January 2024. PCSO Roberts was not on duty and had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting:

Resolved,

That the monthly reports for December 2023 and January 2024 be noted.  
*(Please see appendix for a copy of the reports).*

### **C82 Borough Council business**

The Council received reports from Borough 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 the 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).

The Council heard representations from a resident of Bridge Road regarding planning and traffic issues causing concern to those living in Bridge Road. A number of matters had been raised with officers.

1. Reports from Borough Councillors - Councillor Tynan
  - 1.1 Longbarn Lane – complaint regarding a tree reported to the Borough Council.
2. Matters raised with the Borough Council
  - 2.1 Borough Council Review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane - Borough Ward Councillors were asked to raise again the request for 20mph restrictions on Hillock Lane, Dam Lane and roads adjacent to schools – no information to report.

Resolved,

That

1. the offer from Borough Councillor Tynan to hold a meeting to hear the detailed concerns of residents and determine the action to be taken regarding issues relating to Bridge Road be supported and the Clerk be requested to attend;
2. the reports be noted and action approved.

## **C83 Committee matters**

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

### **(1) Environment and Amenities Committee**

#### **1. Parish Path Warden scheme – condition report**

Councillor Nowell reported on matters relating to public footpaths and on issues that had been reported to the Borough Council:

- The Nicol Avenue footpath is currently accessible, (20 January 2024) but it is unclear whether the land owner or Warrington BC have cut the vegetation back? Therefore, the benefit may not be sustained.
- The New Cut towpath and a section of path 27 towards Rixton have been cut back including tree pruning in places. Some of this work was carried out by Community Payback.
- A section of palisade fencing near Bridge Lane that was collapsing onto the New Cut towpath has been propped up by additional strips of the same type of fencing. This matter was reported to the Warrington BC Public Rights of Way officer. Reworking of a soil embankment behind the damaged section was undertaken by the business the fence surrounds but since then no further action has been taken.
- Issues with vehicles parked on no waiting restrictions at New Cut Lane reported at the 6 December 2023 meeting continue.
- Construction of a residential property at the end of Juniper Lane does not appear so far to be causing any obstruction to the two public rights of way that intersect a short distance from it.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

#### **2. Martinscroft Green – repairs to trip rail**

The Clerk reported that an inspection had been carried out of all of the trip rails following the collapse of a section by the contractor identified from the Borough Council's list who had carried out the installation. The survey had identified that 18 posts needed to be replaced at an estimated cost of £960 plus VAT because of deterioration through age:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the repair works.

#### **3. Development of "Old Billy" scheme**

Further to Minute C69(1) 3. – 6 December 2023, the Clerk reported on the progress made since the last meeting. Stef Woof, the illustrator of the Old Billy book, had provided in mid-December the draft designs for the Information board to be located at Weir Lane Viewing area and Paddington Bank and the 5 signs to be located at points along the whole length of the trail. The wording created by Culture Warrington for the original design had been used on

the trail signs. A digital copy of the designs had been sent to the Borough Council's graphic artist contractor to create the final design.

Poulton with Fearnhead PC had given their support to the scheme in December 2023 and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group had informally indicated their support.

The final design, to include the QR image to access information held by Culture Warrington, would also show the logo from each supporting body to the scheme - Culture Warrington, New Cut Heritage & Ecology Trail Group, Poulton with Fearnhead PC, Warrington BC, Woolston PC. Members of the Council and each supporting body would be consulted on the final design.

The construction of the base for the 2 Information boards was proceeding because the production and siting of these was to be undertaken by a contractor appointed by the Borough Council. This was to avoid delay in fixing the sign to the base when finalised and was likely to proceed ahead of the trail signs. The New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group had been requested by the Borough Council to install the signs along the towpath, mostly to existing posts, at locations identified by the Borough Council. It was noted that schools were already using Old Billy as part of their local history lessons:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted;
2. final drafts of the signs be supplied to members, Culture Warrington, the Poulton with Fearnhead parish council and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group;
3. approval be given to the Clerk being authorised to proceed with the implementation of the scheme in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance and General Committee, subject to there being no unresolved issues after considering the results of consultation.

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

#### **4. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park – representations to the Borough Council**

Further to Minute C69(1)45. – 6 December 2023, the Clerk reported that no further response had been received to the representations made to the Borough Council on the provision of a replacement facility. Councillor Smith reported that the Borough Council had not responded to the joint proposal by the Friends of Woolston Park group and Bruche Athletic for repair works to the Ranger Cabin:

Resolved,

That the reports be noted and further consideration be given at the next meeting.

#### **5. Woolston Eyes Conservation area – access and facilities**

No further information received (Minute C69(1) 5. – 6 December 2023).

**6. Battery Lane Allotment site**  
**– entrance gate and site security**

Further to Minute C69(1)6. – 6 December 2023, the Clerk reported that a quote of £1,980 plus VAT had been accepted to supply and install 3.6m wide double gates, 2.1m tall, triple pointed, with 2 new gate posts, galvanised. This was to the specifications used by the Borough Council and was a contractor used by them for this type of work. The Battery Lane Allotment Association had been consulted and their representatives were satisfied with the proposed design and had requested that the new gates be installed as soon as possible:

Resolved,  
That the report be accepted.

**– management matters**

No items to report.

**– annual rent for the allotment year 2024/25**

The Council considered the setting of the annual rent of a plot for 2024/25:

Resolved,  
That the rent for an allotment plot for 2024/25 be set at £24 (£12 for senior citizens and persons in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance) and the required notice be given to tenants.

**(2) Finance and General Committee**

**1. Conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Covid 19 pandemic**

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

**2. Management Accounts 2023/24 – October to December 2023**

The Clerk submitted the Management Accounts for the quarterly period ending December 2023:

Resolved,  
That the Management Accounts for the quarterly period ending December 2023 be accepted.

**3. Register of Members' interests – publication of information**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had revised the form for the declaration of information and members who had not replied were asked to confirm if any changes were required to their current information:

Resolved,  
That the report be accepted.

#### **4. Applications for grant aid**

No applications to consider.

#### **5. Calendar of meetings 2023/24 – change to date**

Resolved,

That approval be given to the change of date of the Council from 8 to 15 May 2024.

#### **6. Woolston Church of the Ascension – licensing of new Vicar**

The Council welcomed an invitation for members to attend the Licensing of Reverend Tabitho Rao as Team Vicar of the Parish of Birchwood and Woolston to be held at 7pm on 6 February 2024 at the Church of the Ascension.

#### **C84 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 – report by Councillor J Greenslade. No meeting held. Information was published by the group on their website. Noted that the Annual General Meeting was to be held at 7.00pm on 30 January 2024 and all members were invited to attend.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Smith on activities by FoWP group since the last Council meeting and related information:

Maintenance of the park environment

- Regular Monday work days involving: litter picking, weeding and maintenance of flower beds.
- Cleaning and maintenance of bird boxes.
- Clearance of park access road verges.

Maintenance of Ranger Cabin

- The Borough Council had not yet responded to the joint proposal by FoWP and Bruche Athletic for repair of the Ranger Cabin.

Engagement with young people

- A Young Friends event was held on 13 January at which plans were developed for activities in 2024.

Anti-social behaviour

- A bicycle was recovered from Spittle Brook and a shopping trolley from the main pond.
- Signage that had been removed from the park main entrance (size 2m by 1m, approx.) was recovered and replaced.
- Several large containers thought to contain nitrous oxide were recovered and eventually disposed of at a local scrap yard.
- An abandoned tent and sleeping bag were recovered from the park.

## Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell

A meeting of the Rights of Way Forum had been held on 18 January 2024. This was an ad hoc meeting. The Borough Council had recently appointed WSP consultants to review and update the existing Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2011 (ROWIP). To assist in this task WSP had sought to engage with Forum members to discuss the work and capture the input of members to shape the review and inform the new ROWIP. A copy of the slides from the presentation to the Forum had been supplied to all members.

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had today sent an email to all parish councils seeking views on the following strategic points:

- Are the Themes included in the previous ROWIP 2006-2011 still relevant?
- Are the issues/problems covered in the previous ROWIP 2006-2011 still prevalent?
- Do you have new/additional Themes and Issues you think the updated ROWIP should include?
- Do you have suggestions for partners/organisations to be involved in actions in the updated ROWIP?

A further meeting was to be scheduled for early to mid-March 2024 where the Borough Council would present the Action Plan for the updated ROWIP for review and feedback.

Resolved,  
That

1. the reports be accepted;
2. Councillor Nowell be delegated to comment on the Action Plan.

## **C85 Correspondence – consultation and information**

### **- Police Budget 2024/25**

The Council noted information from the Police and Crime Commissioner on a survey being undertaken throughout Cheshire to gather residents' views on issues in their community and the level at which the precept should be set.

### **- Warrington Local Plan 2021/22 – 2038/39**

The Council noted that the Borough Council on 4 December 2023 had adopted the Local Plan. Consultation had been held on three Draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- Draft Environmental Protection SPD
- Draft Planning Obligations SPD
- Draft Warrington Design Guide SPD

## **C86 Planning Applications and decisions**

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

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
FULL PLANNING		
2023//01/01340/FUL	Unit 1 18 Chesford Grange, WA1 4RQ	Change of use from retail (use class E) to a flexible use of Light Industrial, General Industrial, Storage Distribution along with Ancillary Offices (Use Classes E(g)(i) and (ii), B2 and B8) and the erection of fencing.
2023/01438/FUL	Sainsbury's Local, 11 Manchester Road, WA1 4AE	Retrospective application for replacement external lighting.
2023/01560/FUL	Williams Tarr & Co. Construction Bridge Road WA1 4AT	Redevelopment of builders yard including demolition of buildings (Su Generis) and erection of 3no. units (Use Class) E and ancillary infra structure.
FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2024/00021/DISCON	15 Chesford Grange WA1 4RQ	Discharge of condition 7 (Electric Vehicle Charging Point) on previously agreed application 2023/010430(Change of Use).
FULL PLANNING- HOUSEHOLDER (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2023/01467/FULH	58 Longbarn Lane WA1 4QR	Two storey side extension and new porch to front elevation.
2023/00753/FULH	212 Manchester Road WA1 4DE	Retention of garage but height of eaves are proposed to be dropped from 2.93m to 2.5m.
2023/01/01567/FULH	2 Maple Road WA1 4DP	Part single storey and part two storey extension to front and rear.
2023/01/1452/FULH	Weir Lodge, Weir Lane WA1 4QH	Two storey rear extension.
2024/00033/FULH	116 Longbarn Lane WA1 4QR	Double storey side extension.



SECTION 192 CERTIFICATE FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2023/01548/CLDP	212 Manchester Road, WA4 6DE	Proposed erection of an outbuilding for use as a domestic garage
2023/01449/CDLP	18 Hayfield Road WA1 4PE	Single storey kitchen extension to rear elevation
PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS		
None to report		
PLANNING APPEALS		
2023/00753/FULH	212 Manchester Road WA1 4DE	Retention of garage but height of eaves are proposed to be dropped from 2.93m to 2.5m.

Councillor Nowell reported on his attendance at the Development Management Committee on 17 January 2024 in support of the objection made by the Council to Application 2022/41289- Land to rear of 48-58 Cliftonville Road, change of use of land to enable the siting of storage containers to be used as Use Class B8 self-storage units.

Representations were made that the area opposite the site was not considered material even though it had been built without planning permission and was the subject of an enforcement order. A planning application had been submitted but awaited validation. The application had been approved as recommended by the officers:

Resolved,

That

1. no comments be made in respect of the applications listed subject to consideration of any further comments from members;
2. the report from Councillor Nowel be noted and he be thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

### **C86 Business raised by Council Members – Grange Employment area/Gig Lane**

Councillor McCarthy reported on tissues relating to Gig Lane and along the footway to the Grange Employment area. The area caused concern because of fly-tipping, overnight parking of Heavy Goods Vehicles with no toilet facilities provided for the drivers and general littering:

Resolved,

That this matter be reported to the Borough Council.

## C87 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Date expenditure incurred</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>VAT not recoverable</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>S137</b>
4717	15/12/23	Employee 1	0.00	227.56	Pay award M1-M8 2023-24	
4718	15/12/23	Employee 1	0.00	462.23	M9 December 2023	
4719	15/12/23	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	393.78	PAYE M7-9	
4720	18/12/23	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	58.75	Toner and Stationery	
4741	24/01/24	Employee 1	0.00	462.23	M10 January 2024	

## APPENDIX

### Woolston December 2023 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam  
Neighbourhood Officer PC Anthony Murphy  
PCSO Bethan Roberts

#### **Anti Social Behaviour**

6 Youths (0), environmental (3), personal (3)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Burglary**

0 Dwelling

2 Other - 1x business; 1x out building

---

#### **Criminal Damage**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Vehicle crime**

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle (parts/goods)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **OTHER**

- Speed enforcement 28/11/23 Gig Lane – range 14 to 33mph
- Speed enforcement 28/11/23 Hillock Lane – range 12 to 25mph
- St Peters Primary 23/11/23 – Roads Safety input with Reception, Yr 1, 2, 3
- Church of Ascension Church Fayre attended
- Woolston Primary Schools Community Carols attended 06/12/23
  
- For further information and how to download the Hollie Guard App [Cheshire Constabulary and The Hollie Gazzard Trust working together to keep people safe across Cheshire | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
  
- 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)

- The new Warrington Youth Zone opened in Warrington town centre in July 2022, 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>
- 24/7 mental health crisis lines 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 1508 for people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington
- 0800 051 3253 for people living in Wigan

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

.....

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/email

Online Reporting portal is available via the Cheshire Constabulary website to report certain crimes, incidents, issues:-  
<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

.....

**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 – Primary schools community carols

\*\*\*\*\*

**Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates to be confirmed

**Woolston**  
**January 2024 - Monthly Parish report**

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam**  
**Neighbourhood Officer PC Anthony Murphy**  
**PCSO Bethan Roberts**

**Anti Social Behaviour**

6 Youths (0), environmental (5), personal (1)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

\*\*\*\*\*

**Burglary**

1 Dwelling (attempt, no access gained)

1 Other 1x business

.....  
**Criminal Damage**

2

\*\*\*\*\*

**Vehicle crime**

- 1 Theft of vehicle
- 1 Theft from vehicle (attempt, nothing taken)

\*\*\*\*\*

**OTHER**

- Speed enforcement 21/12/23 Gig Lane – no activations observed
- Police continue to warn Warrington residents to be vigilant against courier fraud | Cheshire Constabulary
- For further information and how to download the Hollie Guard App Cheshire Constabulary and The Hollie Gazzard Trust working together to keep people safe across Cheshire | Cheshire Constabulary
- 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)
- The new Warrington Youth Zone opened in Warrington town centre in July 2022, 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>
- 24/7 mental health crisis lines 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 1508 for people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington
- 0800 051 3253 for people living in Wigan

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

.....

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/email

Online Reporting portal is available via the Cheshire Constabulary website to report certain crimes, incidents, issues:-  
<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

.....  
**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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates to be confirmed

Chairman.....