

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON MISSION, WARREN LANE, WOOLSTON ON 27 APRIL 2022**

**Present:** Councillor M Banner (Chairman)  
Councillors: M Czekalski, J Dixon, D Hill, J Greenslade, MH Greenslade,  
D Nowell, A McCarthy, M Pearce, S Rydzkowski, R Tynan  
**Apologies for absence:** Councillor AJ Hill

### **C93 Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors M Czekalski and R Tynan following their election to the Council at the elections held on 7 April 2022.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C95 Result of elections, East Ward – 7 April 2022**

The Clerk reported that the Returning Officer had supplied the results of the elections for the East Ward held on 7 April 2022 to fill the casual vacancies:  
Elected: Mr M Czekalski and Mr R Tynan

Both members had completed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the meeting:

Resolved,  
That the report be noted.

### **C96 Apologies for absence**

The Clerk reported and the Council noted an apology for absence from Councillor AJ Hill.

### **C97 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C98 Matters of report from previous minutes – Borough Council business – Bowfell Grove, Tree Preservation Order**

Councillor McCarthy referred to Minute C85 Borough Council business regarding a request to Councillor Dixon from a resident for support in seeking the relaxation of a Tree Preservation Order relating to a tree in the rear garden of his property on Bowfell Grove. Councillor McCarthy reported that previous requests had not been supported on several grounds including that the trees were in a healthy condition, had been in place at the time the properties were built and representations from other residents that the trees should remain. Councillor Dixon reported that the Council's decision to refuse a request for the relaxation of the Tree Preservation Order had been appealed and a site visit had recently been held by an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate. Similar applications had been made by other residents:

Resolved,  
That the reports be noted.

### **C99 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report**

The Clerk reported that the Police at Warrington East had informed the Council that PCSO Roberts was absent through ill health and a temporary replacement Police Community Support Officer had been allocated for Woolston. The Council had recently received information on changes to the officers in the roles of Neighbourhood Sergeant and Neighbourhood Police Constable. A message had been received that they intended to be present at this meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting subject to operational needs. No written monthly report had been provided:

Resolved,  
That the report be noted.

### **C100 Borough Council business**

Borough Councillor Dixon reported on matters under consideration by the Borough Council relating to the parish and on issues that he had acted on for residents since the last meeting. (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).

Details of matters since the last meeting:

- Complaints regarding pot holes at Martinscroft Green
- The Local Plan had been adopted by the Borough Council.
- Dam Lane – the works requested by residents at the Council meeting held on 26 January 2022 had been completed.
- Abingdon Avenue – the Borough Council had been requested to give an explanation why some parts of the highway had been resurfaced and others in a poor condition not. A written reply was to be provided by the Borough Council.

### **C101 Committee matters**

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

##### **(a) Parish Path Warden scheme**

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

- The Nicol Avenue to Juniper Lane path is accessible but a tree overhangs the middle section and needs cutting back. The adjacent drainage ditch has been re-profiled but still does not contain water. How the effluent from the domestic package treatment plant is supposed to be washed away remains a mystery.
- The container unit near the same path is gone but the caravan alongside the path remains. Both were classed as temporary structures under the sites planning consent.
- As previously reported Giant Hogweed plants are beginning to appear along the Battery Lane green space to Thelwall viaduct path.
- The Juniper Lane and Brook Lane path is intermittently obstructed.
- The ending surface of the Bridge Lane to Weir Lane path is deteriorating.

Report update

- The caravan at Nicol Avenue has now gone and the large earth mound is being levelled out. The green lines seem to indicate that the contractor has been made aware of the Public Right of Way.
- One tree cut back would significantly improve access to the path, but it is still too narrow and the first shoots of Bracken, which frequently obscure it, is beginning to reappear.
- The ditch next to the path was touted for discharge of planning consent for the package treatment plant as being capable of draining away treated domestic sewage to nearby watercourses. Firstly, the ditch is blocked off at one end and filled in at the other, no visible sign of a culvert. Secondly, the weather may currently be dry but very frequently the ditch is partially or entirely dry most of the year anyway and thirdly I see no evidence of a watercourse for the ditch to empty into locally.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

### **(b) Wildflower planting scheme – to consider the scheme offered by Warrington Borough Council**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had offered to sow flower meadows for parish councils in suitable locations. Details had been provided of suggested locations in the highway verge along the A57 Manchester Road. The cost was 80p per square metre including seed supply, cultivation, sowing, rolling and end of season cut. It was noted that the Council had expressed an interest in undertaking a planting scheme (Minute C76 – 26 January 2022) and that there was no commitment to continuing the scheme in future years:

Resolved,

That approval be given to planting an area in the highway verge between Redwood Close and Monmouth Close at an approximate cost of £500 as a contribution to events in the parish to celebrate the Platinum Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

### **(c) Facilities for Young People – results of survey undertaken by Kings Leadership Academy**

Further to Minute C86(b) – 2 March 2022, the Council considered the results of the survey undertaken by Kings Leadership Academy of children in years 7-9. The survey questions had been developed by the school. A copy of the survey had been provided by the Council to the Police and The Borough Council's Outreach Team for their comments. The Police had been unable to respond because of the absence through ill-health of the officer with knowledge of the community and the recent change in the Neighbourhood officers at Warrington East.

The Council considered how to develop the scheme, and it was

Resolved,

That

1. the results of the survey be noted;
2. approval be given to develop pilot projects in consultation with the school;
3. Councillor Dixon be requested to contact the Borough Council's Outreach Team to obtain their comments on the survey results and generally;
4. further contact be made with the Police;

5. Councillor Czekalski be thanked for his interest in contributing to the development of the scheme.

#### **(d) Woolston Playing Fields – management arrangements**

The Council considered the continuation of the management arrangements with the Borough Council for public use of the playing fields. The Clerk reported that responsibility for the management of the playing fields had been with the Borough Council from 1 September 2012 following the closure of the High School. Discussions with the Borough Council had been delayed on the future use and management of the playing fields and the associated impact on the Hillock Lane amenity area because of the Covid-19 emergency and other matters:

Resolved,

That

1. approval be given to the continuation of the current arrangements with Warrington BC for the management of public use of Woolston Playing Fields for 2022-23;
2. the Borough Council be requested to recommence discussions on the future use and management of the playing fields.

#### **(e) Woolston Playing Fields and Hillock Lane Amenity Area – application to site storage container**

No further information to report. (Minute C44 1(d) 8 September 2021 refers).

#### **(f) Woolston Weir – Hydropol scheme, Weir Lane - update**

The Clerk reported further to Minute C86(d) – 2 March 2022, that no further information had been received from Hydropol on the reinstatement works to the viewing area and generally on the completion of the scheme.

Councillor Nowell reported on issues with the operation of the Penny Ferry on the Manchester Ship Canal because of the water level and a suggestion that this may be caused by the facility at Woolston Weir:

Resolved,

That

1. the Borough Council be informed of the concerns raised about the completion of works at the Weir Lane viewing area;
2. the Borough Ward Councillors be asked to investigate the issue raised about the operation of the ferry through officers of the Borough Council.

#### **(g) Development of “Old Billy” scheme – design and cost of interpretative signage**

Further to Minute C86(e) – 2 March 2022, the Clerk reported that Culture Warrington had provided a progress report on the scheme. A designer/illustrator had produced most of the interpretive signs to be sited on the towpath and the information sign to be sited at the Weir Lane viewing area. The manufacturer of the signs had provided details of the materials and method of construction of the signs. Consultation on the scheme would proceed when final details were received from Culture Warrington on the cost and design of the signage. A further report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Council with the aim of moving to the consultation stage.

A further meeting via MS Teams had been convened by the Borough Council to discuss a revised bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund relating to “Old Billy” attended by the

Chairman and Clerk. The proposed bid had been scaled down to the under £10k category. A festival was planned to be held in 2022, probably in Victoria Park. The towpath scheme would feature as part of the event:

Resolved,  
That the report be noted.

#### **(h) Woolston Eyes – construction of viewing platform**

The Clerk reported further to Minute C86(c) – 2 March 2022, that the Borough Council's Enforcement Officer was to undertake an inspection of the platform before responding to the Council:

Resolved,  
That the report be noted.

#### **(i) Battery Lane Allotment Site – operation of toilet facility**

The Clerk reported on a site meeting held on 22 March 2022 with representatives of the Battery Lane Allotment Association and the Senior Enablement Officer of Catalyst Choices on the operation of the toilet facility. The facility was located on the plot used by Catalyst Choices and the operating costs were met by that organisation. A revised procedure had been introduced in May 2021 for their use and cleaning during the Covid-19 pandemic. The use by tenants had been suspended.

The site meeting had reviewed the procedures having regard to current Government Covid-19 guidance on the use of toilet facilities. A procedure had been agreed that the Association would administer to provide to access to tenants on payment of a deposit for a key to the facility and an undertaking to comply with hygiene regulations. The operation of the scheme would be reviewed monthly from its commencement:

Resolved,  
That approval be given to the proposed scheme.

### **(2) Finance and General Committee**

#### **(a) Conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Coronavirus pandemic**

The Council reviewed the arrangements for meetings having regard to current Government Covid 19 guidance. The Clerk reported on a meeting held with officers at the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub and the proposed use of the Wellbeing Suite rather than the room previously used:

Resolved,  
That approval be given to the use of the Wellbeing Suite for the next meeting.

#### **(b) Applications for grant aid**

The Council considered an application from the Woolston Scout Group for a grant towards the cost of a member attending the World Scout Jamboree 2023 to be held in South Korea:

Resolved,  
That approval be given to a grant of £50 being made to funds being raised by the scout group.

### **(c) Review of banking arrangements**

The Council reviewed the current banking arrangements and the Clerk reported on the operation of the online banking facility through the Unity Trust Bank:

Resolved,

That the present arrangements be continued, and a further review be made during this financial year.

### **C102 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 – Information was published by the group on their website. Meetings had resumed and held quarterly.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce:

#### 12 March – YFOWP (Young Friends of Woolston Park)

I was unable to attend this monthly meeting. I believe they continued working at stage two making the walking sticks and were putting a coin with the year of their birth onto the handles. From what I have seen of them they are looking good.

#### 14 March – Work Day

It was a quiet day due to weather and mainly covered litter picking.

#### 21 March – Work Day

Work was ongoing in the Jubilee Garden. Some were regular litter picking. Ian, one of the Friends has been steadily repairing the benches in the garden and was hoping to use the generator to be able to sand them down, unfortunately the generator broke down. I did a bit more weeding in front of the cabin and did my usual Monday topping up of all the bird feeders.

#### 28 March – Work Day

The generator was going in for repair and needed making safe for the journey. However, Ian put the electric sander to good use outside of the cabin with an extension lead. He had removed some of the wood strips from the benches and began sanding them down and in no time at all the wood almost looked new again. During the morning work continued in the Jubilee Garden whilst others were in the cabin trying to get some ideas of what was needed to organise the Extravaganza on 14 April. Alex had prepared leaflets letting it be known the Eggstravaganza was taking place etc.

#### 29 March

A man from the Council arrived to install a new door frame at the side of the cabin that had been reported previously. Other repairs still outstanding.

#### 3 April (Sunday)

The Friends had organised a one off big tidy up in and around the Jubilee Garden. It was nice to see so many people giving up their Sunday morning to come to help. There was a good selection of beautiful colourful plants and perennial cuttings donated. Even though there is still lots to do, it is looking much nicer. Many thanks to all those who gave up their time to help the FOWP to make the Jubilee Garden a nicer place. It was very much appreciated by the FOWP. The Friends hope to run one of these weekend sessions monthly.

#### 4 April – Work Day

3 of the Friends worked in the fenced off area by the small pond removing some of the wooden boardwalk which had become rotten. A new gate had already been fitted

and locked. 3 of us spent the morning clearing away heavy items left in a woodland area. A big disappointment for us and heavy work too.

#### 6 April – Extra Workday & Friends Meeting

The Friends once again returned to continue lifting up the boardwalk during the morning and attended a FOWP meeting in the afternoon. I was unable to attend that day.

#### 9 April YFOWP

Just a small group meeting this time, held inside the cabin, continuing with the walking sticks. The handles had been put on at the last meeting with their coin displaying their birth year. They concentrated this time on carefully varnishing the handles. The sticks have been left to dry ready to take home at the next meeting completed. They looked lovely and such an achievement. Well done Young Friends, you did a great job.

#### 11 April – Work Day

Two of the Friends were litter picking this morning, two continued lifting the boardwalk with just the stumps left to be sawn off, some of the wood that's been lifted will be reused for another project. Another volunteer worked in the Jubilee Garden and 2 of us went along to remove yet more fly-tipping. What a job that was, it makes one wonder how or why they dump it in such a lovely park. On a happier subject, some men arrived to work on the older children's play area giving it a coat of paint and some more arrived shortly afterwards to cut back some of the trees that were unsafe.

#### 14 April – Eggstravaganza

The Eggstravaganza took place and was a bit quiet to begin with as the schools were closed for Easter. It was a pleasant day weather-wise and before long children and parents began to arrive. They soon got involved dressing up Easter bonnets, painting eggs, lots of various crafts. Each table had different crafts. A student from Kings College arrived with his mother. He came to work as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and they both looked after the table with the raffle tickets and prizes very successfully. He actually won a prize but decided not to accept it enabling another child win instead. Such a lovely gesture. Near the end, lots of eggs were scattered around the wooded areas for them to find and bring back and in return were given chocolate eggs as a prize. This followed with real hard-boiled eggs being thrown down the hill where the bandstand used to be, supposedly the egg thrown furthest away was the winner. It didn't work out that way as they were all winners and they had the fantastic time and were so happy. No doubt they all slept well that night.

#### 18 April – Easter Monday

No Work Day

#### 22 April – Additional Workday

A one-off work day in the Jubilee Garden with some people from a Warrington company who volunteered to help in the park. Hopefully we may see them again.

#### 24 April

During my usual morning walk I met up with another Kings College student who also came to work as part of his D of E along with his mother. They were working really hard clearing away lots of leaves from the floor and under the hedges and lots of weeding around the bricks that circle the Jubilee Garden. There was a large pile of leaves/weeds already done before I saw them. Many thanks to the mother and son from the FOWP.

#### 24 April - Fungal Punk Dave

Another visit this morning of Fungal Punk Dave that I hope to report at the next meeting

- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held. Meeting expected to be held in June 2022.

Resolved,  
That the reports be noted.

### **C103 Correspondence – consultation and information**

#### **– Planting a tree for the Jubilee**

The Council considered contributing to the national “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee” initiative as part of the events to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee:

Resolved,  
That approval be given to the proposal to plant a tree in the Jubilee Gardens at Woolston Park in association with the Friends of Woolston Park.

#### **– appreciation of grants**

The Council noted that responses had been received from the Church of the Ascension, SS Peter and Michael RC Church, New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group and the Friends of Woolston Park Group for the grant made to them.

### **C104 Planning Applications and decisions**

The Council considered the following planning applications submitted to the Council for consultation. Details of applications were published on the Borough Council’s website. All applications since the last meeting were listed. This included Householder applications where comments were not usually made unless an application was considered to raise an issue of concern.

#### **Applications for consideration at the meeting**

Application reference: 2022/41275  
Location: 1, HILLOCK LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4NF  
Description of development: Proposed single storey side extension

Application reference: 2022/41296  
Location: 2, BARON CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4EU  
Description of development: PROPOSED PART TWO STOREY/PART SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

Application reference: 2022/41289  
Location: Land to rear of 48-58 Cliftonville Road, Land to the rear of, 48-58 Cliftonville Road, Woolston, Warrington  
Description of development: Change of use of land to enable the siting of storage containers to be used as self-storage units

Application reference: 2022/41301  
Location: 52, HILLOCK LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4NF  
Description of development: Single storey rear extension

Application reference: 2022/41313  
Location: STORAGE, 11, MANCHESTER ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON



Description of development: DISCHARGE OF CONDITION NO. 4 (REMEDIATION & VERIFICATION) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 2019/34391 (RETAIL)

Application reference: 2022/41251

Location: 14, HILLOCK LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4NF

Description of development: Proposed Pitched roof to bay window.

Application reference: 2022/41249

Location: 12, HILLOCK LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4NF

Description of development: Proposed pitched roof to bay window

Application reference: 2022/41168

Location: 191, MANCHESTER ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4HL

Description of development: Single storey rear extension

Application reference: 2021/39431

Location: 371, Manchester Road, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4PY

Description of development: Householder - Proposed first floor rear and side extensions over utility / dining / sitting and garage incorporating replacement and alterations to main roof.

Application reference: 2022/41073

Location: 31, Hillock Lane, Woolston, Warrington, Warrington, WA1 4NF

Description of development: New pitched roof to replace flat roof to existing out riggers and new porch to front.

Application reference: 2022/41029

Location: 16, MAGNOLIA CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4HS

Description of development: Proposed single storey rear extension with mono-pitch roof

Application reference: 2022/41095

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

Description of development : Discharge of condition 19 (Horticultural Purposes) on previously approved application 2021/38630 (Supporting Living)

Location: 43A - 43B HARDWICK GRANGE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4RF

Description of development: construction of a steel frame walkway between two buildings on the site.

Application reference: 2022/41058

Location: 20, MARGARET AVENUE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 3UN

Description of development: Single storey side and rear extension

### **Applications to approve action taken**

None to report.

Resolved,

That

1. an objection be submitted in respect of Application reference: 2022/41289 for reasons relating to traffic, noise and the effect on the amenity of residents;
2. no comments be made in respect of the other applications listed subject to any further comments received from members.

**C105 Business raised by Council Members**  
**– Martinscroft Green – repairs to boundary fence**

Councillor J Greenslade reported the appreciation of residents for the repairs to sections of broken fence to secure the boundary of the Green:

Resolved,  
That the action taken be approved in repairing sections of fencing.

**– Redwood Close – street sweeping**

Councillor McCarthy reported that lengths of Redwood Close had not been mechanically swept on a recent maintenance visit. It was noted that this may have been caused by parked vehicles:

Resolved,  
That the Borough Ward Councillors be asked to request a follow up visit.

**– Warrington’s Climate Emergency Commission**

Councillor Nowell referred to the work of the Commission as an independent group that supports local action to address the climate emergency. The group had invited the public to support the plans from the Commission and share their views to provide support for change:

Resolved,  
That the holding of a community event in Woolston by the Commission to increase awareness be supported.

**C106 Date of next meeting**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on 18 May 2022. Since that date was set, the Rixton with Glazebrook parish council had amended their meeting day to the third Wednesday of a month. Both councils would be holding their annual meeting in May. The Borough Ward Councillors and other members would be invited to each meeting:

Resolved,  
That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, determine any change needed to the arrangements for the annual meeting.

**C107 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>
4597	15/03/22	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	304.80	PAYE months 10 -12	
4598	15/03/22	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M12 March 2022	
4599	15/03/22	Sainsbury’s & Co-op (Clerk)	0.00	41.88	Postage stamps	

4600	15/03/22	Amazon (Clerk)	0.00	32.99	Printing supplies	
4601	15/03/22	St Martins Methot Church	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4602	15/03/22	Church of the Ascension	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4603	15/03/22	SS Peter and Michael RC Church	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4604	15/03/22	New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4605	15/03/22	Friends of Woolston Park	0.00	50.00	Grant	Yes
4606	30/3/22	Warrington BC	0.00	312.00	Christmas lights 2021	
4607	30/3/22	In Touch Now	0.00	360.00	Website licence 2022-23	
4608	30/3/22	Society of Local Council Clerks	0.00	134.00	Subscription 2022-23	
4609	27/4/22	Battery Lane Allotment Association	0.00	50.82	Refund cost of lock/keys for toilet facility	
4610	27/4/22	Microsoft licence	0.00	79.99	Annual fee 2022-23	
4511	27/4/22	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	Month 1 April 2022	

Chairman.....