

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020, Section 78

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors A Hill

C1 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C2 Apologies for absence

The Council noted the apologies for absence from Councillor A Hill.

C3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2020 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.

C4 Matters of report from the previous meeting – C103 Borough Council business

Councillor McCarthy reported and the Council noted that

- The appeal against refusal of Planning Application 2019/34391-11 Manchester Road had been allowed subject to conditions. Major construction work on the Sainsbury's local supermarket seemed unlikely this year.
- The trees in Redwood Close had been inspected and no work was needed at present.

C5 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors McCarthy and Wright reported, and the Council noted matters under consideration by the Borough Council relating to the parish and on issues that the Borough Ward members had acted on for residents including:

- Speeding vehicles along Riversdale and Battery Lane reported to police.
- Woolston Park and Dam Lane Shopping precinct – regular patrols being carried out by police following reports of anti-social behaviour by youths.
- Number of residents requesting assistance resulting from the Coronavirus lockdown that had commenced on 23 March 2020. Advice had been given to contact the Safe and Well Service jointly operated by the Borough Council and Warrington Voluntary Action.
- Flooding within Croftside junction – leaves blocking gully grating had been cleared.

- Footpath from Warren Lane to Hall Road – shrubs to be cut back to clear the path. Majority the responsibility of Torus Housing; Borough Council to ensure that the route is included in the weeding program.
- Details were provided of a draft scheme to improve parking provision at Parkway. This would involve the removal of the paved island opposite the shops and the provision of 14 parking spaces. Consultation was to be held with those affected.
- Cliftonville Road, ownership of land under electricity pylon. Complaints had been received regarding the dumping of rubbish and the lack of maintenance of the grassed area beneath the pylon. Further attempts were being made to determine responsibility for the land and to the possibility of fencing the land.
- Complaint regarding a vehicle damaging a fence in Fitzwalter Road was being investigated.
- Complaint received regarding the operation of the Safe Storage premises on Manchester Road. Planning Officers had confirmed that the use was in accordance with the planning permission.
- Noted that major roadworks had been advertised on the A57 Manchester Road between the north and southbound junctions.
- No decision had been made in respect of the appeal against refusal of Planning Application 2019/34923 submitted by Mincrete for premises at Forward Works, Bridge Lane.
- Fly-tipping reported to the Borough Council.

C6 Committee matters

- Environment and Amenities Committee

– (1) Woolston Playing Fields and Hillock Lane Amenity area – application for siting of storage equipment

The Clerk reported that Woolston Rovers FC had made a further application for the siting of a storage facility on the playing fields. This followed notice to the Club of the award of grant aid for sports equipment and the resulting need for storage. The Borough Council had been asked to comment on the application in view of their development of a scheme for the playing fields:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

– (2) Parish Path Warden scheme

The Council noted that the Parish Path Warden scheme across Warrington was informally suspended by mutual agreement with the Public Rights of Way Officer in late March 2020. This action was taken having regard to the guidance from the Government regarding the Covid 19 pandemic.

– (3) Complaint regarding littering – action by the Borough Council

The Clerk reported that a complaint regarding parking, littering and other issues in Parkway and Fitzwalter Road had been referred to the Borough Council using their website service. An acknowledgement had stated that the issues had been referred to the relevant officers to

investigate and reply. The Borough Ward Councillors reported that they had no knowledge of the complaints made by the resident prior to the matter being reported to the parish council:

Resolved,

That the action taken be noted.

- Finance and General Amenities Committee

- (4) approval of accounts and Interim Audit report 2019-20

The Council considered the Management Accounts and Interim Audit Report for 2019-20:

Resolved,

That

1. the Management Accounts for 2019-20 be accepted subject to consideration of the year-end report of the Internal Auditor;
2. the recommendations made in the Interim Audit report be accepted.

- (5) attendance at meetings and council business during the Coronavirus pandemic

On 4 April 2020, the Government had brought The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 into force and this allowed local authorities to conduct meetings remotely until May 2021. This followed the decision of the Government to introduce Stay at Home guidance with effect from 23 March 2020. Guidance had been updated by the Government since that time to reflect the changing situation in England with Covid 19. Restrictions remained in force on holding meetings in public and the advice from the National Association of Local Councils was to hold remote meetings having regard to personal safety.

The Clerk reported on trials of various remote meeting platforms and that this had resulted in the selection of a Telephone Conference system as being the most suitable option. This followed a trial of the system with all members. The system was compliant with statutory regulations. A review of the system would be carried out following the meeting.

The Regulations had made no provision for suspending the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 regarding attendance at meetings and consequently Councillors Creaghan and Maher had ceased to be members. It was noted that the Clerk had made both members aware of the situation. Notice of the casual vacancies would be given in consultation with the Returning Officer of the Borough Council. In the event that an election was requested paragraph 6(2) of the 2020 Regulations would apply and a poll would not be held to fill the casual vacancy; instead the vacancy would be filled at the ordinary election on 6 May 2021. If a poll was not requested, the provisions relating to filling a vacancy by co-option would apply:

Resolved

That

1. the report of the Clerk be noted;
2. the unanimous thanks of the Council be recorded to Mrs M Creaghan and Mr B Maher for their service as members of Woolston Parish Council;

3. approval be given to continuing the use of the Telephone Conference system subject to ongoing review.

(6) applications for grant aid

No applications to report.

(7) Woolston with Martinscroft Poppy Appeal scheme – arrangements for 2020

Further to minute EA84 - 26 February 2020 the Clerk reported on discussions with the group on the assistance that could be offered in continuing with their scheme. Warrington Voluntary Action had agreed to provide advice in establishing a formal group to allow access to sources of grant aid and other advice. The Borough Council had agreed to a direct approach being made by the group regarding approval to attach poppy emblems to lamp posts:

Resolved,
That the report be noted.

(8) rates of pay and review of employee contract

Councillor McCarthy reported further to minute FG74 - 26 February 2020 that following consultation with the Clerk a draft contract would be submitted to the next meeting for the post of Clerk to the Council. This followed consideration of advice provided by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils following an evaluation of the current duties of the post and a contract drafted based on the model contract published by the National Association of Local Council:

Resolved,
That approval be given to the proposed action.

C7 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council considered the reports provided by the Police for May, June and July 2020:

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.
(Please see appendix A for reports).

C8 Reports from members appointed to local bodies

The Council received reports from members who were appointed by the Council or other organisations on local bodies including:

- New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor J Greenslade reported that the Facebook page was kept updated including photos and reports from members of the Group on their walks. No meetings.
- Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade reported that work was ongoing with the Jubilee Garden. No meeting.

- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting.

C9 Correspondence – consultation and information

No matters to report.

C10 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: 2020/37270

Location: 1, HOLES LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AB

Description of development: Full Planning - Proposed change of use from A1(Shop) to Tattoo Studio (Sui Generis)

Application reference: 2020/37059

Location: 7, BOWFELL GROVE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4FT

Description of development: TPO - FELL 3 NO. TREES

Application reference: 2020/37213

Location: 11, KINGSLAND GRANGE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4RW

Description of development : Discharge of Condition - Proposed discharge of conditions 4 (Landscaping), 5 (Motorcycle Parking)), 6)Servicing Management Plan), 7 (Signing Lining Scheme) attached to planning permission 2016/28875

Applications to approve action taken

Application reference: 2020/37058

Location: 8, BOWFELL GROVE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4FT

Description of development: TPO 346-Proposed felling of three large lime trees.

OBJECT

The council object to the application and consider that the Tree Preservation Order should be maintained.

Application reference: 2020/37034

Location: LAND ADJACENT TO 153 BERKSHIRE DRIVE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4HB

Description of development: Full Planning - The provision of a new detached (self-build) dormer bungalow

Application reference: 2020/36797

Location: Moss Brow Cottages, Nicol Avenue, Woolston, Warrington, WA3 6DN

Description of development : Full Planning - Proposed demolition of 1 - 3 Mossbrow Cottages and the erection of 1 no. single storey detached dwelling, with associated access, servicing and landscaping, including installation of package treatment plant

OBJECT There is lack of sufficient detail relating to the route of the right of way for the Public Footpath through the site.

Application reference: 2020/36861

Location: Existing steel-portal framed B2 use class, Unit 43B, Hardwick Grange, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4RF

Description of development: Full Planning - Change of use of existing building and associated land from B2 to B8 use

Application reference: 2020/36803

Location: 26, KINGSLAND GRANGE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4RW

Description of development: Full Planning - Installation of 3No. above ground fuel tanks, with perimeter hit and miss timber fence. Remove the existing buried fuel tank.

Application reference: 2020/36566

Location: WOOLSTON BROOK SCHOOL, GREEN LANE, POULTON-WITH-FEARNHEAD, WARRINGTON, WA1 4JL

Description of development: Full Planning - Proposed building to be used as a classroom

Application reference: 2020/36508

Location: WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4PN

Description of development: Change of Use - Proposed change of use for part of Woolston Neighbourhood Hub, to allow for office space.

Application reference: 2020/36467

Location: 4, WEIR LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QQ

Description of development : Full Planning - Proposed demolition of existing garage and construction of single storey, 4 bed dwelling on land adjacent to No.4 Weir Lane, Woolston.

Resolved,

That

1. the action taken before this meeting in respect of the above applications be approved;
2. an objection be submitted in respect of application 2020/37059, 7 Bowfell Grove on the grounds that the Tree Preservation Order should be maintained.

(Councillor McCarthy took no part in the consideration of the above item).

C11 Business raised by members

No matters to report.

C12 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4481	25/03/20	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	M12 March 2020	
4482	25/03/20	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	268.60	PAYE M10-12	
4483	25/03/20	Live Wire CIC	0.00	33.60	Room hire 26/02/20	
4484	25/03/20	Society of Local Council Clerks (Clerk)	0.00	109.00	Membership fees 2020/21	
4485	25/03/20	Microsoft software licence (Clerk)	0.00	79.99	Licence 2020/21	
4486	25/03/20	Water Plus Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	13.83	Allotments 28 Nov 2019-12 February 2020	
4487	25/03/20	InTouchNow	0.00	360.00	Website hosting, user licences and support March 20	

4488	28/04/20	Employee 1	0.00	358.38	M1 April 2020	
4489	28/04/20	Newsquest Media Group	0.00	186.00	Annual Parish Meeting notice	
4490	28/04/20	Woods Building Services Ltd	0.00	462.00	Allotment site – removal of asbestos	
4491	28/04/20	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	0.00	36.00	Training course 7 April 20230	
4492	22/05/20	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	M2 May 2020	
4493	22/05/20	Holly Oak Tree Services Ltd	0.00	1200.00	Felling of tree Martinscroft Green	
4494	22/0520	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	0.00	1470.04	Cheshire Assoc of Local Council subscription 2020-21	
DD	22/05/20	British Telecomm plc	0.00	152.28	Phone and broadband services 1 April – 30 June 2020	

DD	22/05/20	Information Commissioner	0.00	35.00	Data protection fee 2020-21 and mandate	
4495	23/06/20	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	M3 June 2020	
4496	23/06/20	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	268.60	M1 to 3 PAYE 2020/21	
4497		VOID				
4498	23/06/20	Water Plus Ltd	0.00	219.40	Allotment site 13/02/20 to 11/05/20	
4499	23/06/20	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	73.67	Toner cartridges (2)	
4500	23/06/20	Woods Building Services Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	258.00	Allotment site removal and disposal of asbestos and PPE	
DD	23/06/20	Water-plus.co.uk	0.00	0.00	Mandate Allotment site	

Online Reporting 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/>

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Schools & other events

Keeping in contact with our schools, whilst observing social distancing measures

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Cancelled – until further notice

**Woolston
June 2020 - Monthly Parish report**

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

Anti Social Behaviour

13 Youths (9), environmental (4), personal (0)

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

Burglary

1 Dwelling Attempt (no entry gained)

3 Other Business, 2x confirmed breaks, 1x suspicious activity

Criminal Damage

5 Businesses (3x vehicle damages are linked to same premises on industrial estate, which are also linked to ASB incidents)

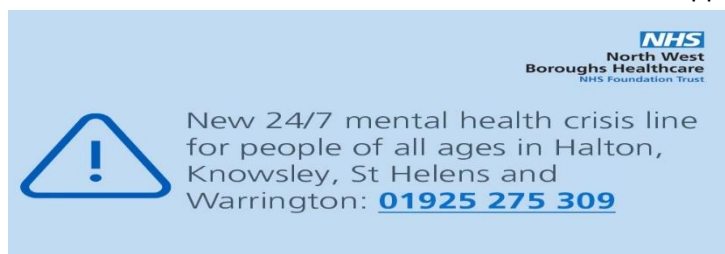
Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle HGV, goods

OTHER

- ASB issues have increased since some of the lockdown restrictions have been relaxed. Patrols have been attending various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car park, Woolston Eyes & New Cut Canal Path.
- Dam Lane Shops – continue to liaise with the management team, who are looking into what alterations/improvement can be implemented at the parade. The area is regularly patrolled and monitored, and link in with shop staff. CCTV reviewed to see if any offenders can be identified for any offences
- Woolston Park & Industrial Estate – Patrols continue at varying times of the day and different days, we continue to link in with County Fire and other colleagues to support us. Whilst there have been several reports of fires on the park and damage to vehicles on the industrial estate no offender has been identified
- Criminal damage to vehicles on Acacia Avenue, towards end of March – 2x youths subsequently identified and dealt with by officers - community resolution, letter of apology and referral to the Youth Offending Team
- Coronavirus Pandemic – Up to date guidance/advice on social distancing and social interactions is available on the Government website:- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- New NHS Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24h a day, seven days a week for Warrington residents (young and old) experiencing a mental health crisis to call. The line is operated by people in the local area who will know how best to offer support



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Woolston

July 2020 - Monthly Parish report

Beat Sergeant PS Stuart Gibbard

Beat Manager PC Alison Edwards

PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti Social Behaviour

11 Youths (9), environmental (2), personal (0)

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

Burglary

2 Dwelling 1x No entry gained. Both linked & enquiries ongoing by Burglary Team

1 Other 1x Business premises

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Criminal Damage

1 1x metal fencing

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle

4 Theft from vehicle 3x occurred from HGVs/business premises

OTHER

- ASB issues have increased since some of the lockdown restrictions have been relaxed with youths allowed out unaccompanied by parents/carers to catch up with their friends. Patrols continue covering various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car park, Woolston Eyes & New Cut Canal Path.
- Dam Lane Shops – continue to liaise with the management team who own the parade. They have approved alterations/improvements for implementing at the parade, such as gating for the upper level. The area is regularly patrolled and monitored, and link in with shop staff. CCTV reviewed to see if any offenders can be identified for any offences.
- Woolston Park & Industrial Estate – Patrols continue at varying times of the day and different days, we continue to link in with County Fire and other colleagues to support us. Whilst there have been several reports of fires on the park no offender has been identified.
- Criminal damage to vehicles Melford Court & Longbarn Lane – 5x youths are under investigation in relation to these offences, awaiting CPS review
- Following spike in youth ASB and criminal damage issues, all Warrington East officers deployed to patrol Woolston Park & shops on our recent lates shift
- WBC Community Safety Team are conducting youth outreach work, commenced 29/6, across Warrington with Woolston included on their areas to patrol and engage with youngsters regarding behaviour
- Cannabis Farm located, evidence seized, farm dismantled on a Woolston industrial unit 05/06 - A male from the GMP area arrested this week as part of the ongoing enquiries
- A red Corsa linked to suspected drug activity & nitrous oxide use on Woolston Park was seized with driver arrested 26/6 in another area of Warrington, following reports of similar activity
- Speed enforcement conducted 08/07 Hillock Lane – during period of observation 70 vehicles seen in 20min, max speed 30mph
- Speed monitoring Weir Lane – 9 vehicles in 10min. 1@ 25mph, 1@21, rest were below 20mph
- Speed monitoring Parksway – 10 vehicles in 10min. Max 21mph
- 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

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Schools & other events

Keeping in contact with our schools – whilst observing social distancing measures

We are aware of youths entering school grounds for football, perimeter checks of schools continue to be part of our patrols and link in with site staff

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Cancelled – until further notice

Chairman.....