

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19 AUGUST 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, A Hill, D Hill, A McCarthy, D Nowell,
M Pearce, S Rydzkowski

Apologies for absence: Councillor P Wright

C13 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C14 Apologies for absence

The Council noted the apologies for absence from Councillor Wright because of a hospital appointment.

C15 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 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.

C16 Notice of postponement of election – casual vacancies in the East and West Wards

The Clerk reported that further to the public notice of the vacancies, the Returning Officer had informed the Council that valid requests by 10 local government electors had been received. In response to the Covid 19 emergency, the UK Government had passed the Local Government Police and Crime Commissioner(Coronavirus)(Postponement of Elections and Referendums)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and the Coronavirus Act 2020 which postpones all polls until 6 May 2021. The regulations did not permit the Council to fill the vacancies by co-option following the request for a poll:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

C17 Matters of report from the previous meeting – C5 Borough Council business

Councillor McCarthy reported and the Council noted that:

- The Borough Council had responded that the reported fly-tipping on land at Nicol Avenue/Moss Lane was not part of the public highway.

C18 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council considered the report provided by the Police for August 2020:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

(Please see appendix A for report).

C19 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors Hill and McCarthy 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:

- Footpath from Warren Lane to Hall Road – work completed on cutting back shrubs to clear the path.
- An inspection had been made in Fitzwalter Road following reports of various issues including potholes and no matters required action at this time other than a broken fence; this matter had been reported to Torus.
- Repairs to highway at Manchester Road/Redwood Close carried out following report of a pothole.
- Report made to the Borough Council on damage to fencing adjacent to the highway on Manchester Road.
- 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.
- Report made to the Borough Council following a complaint from resident regarding lack of maintenance in Woolston Park.
- New Cut Canal towpath from Weir Lane to New Cut Lane. Complaint regarding overgrown bushes and trees reported to the Borough Council.

C20 Committee matters

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

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

The Clerk reported further to minute C6(1) – 13 July 2020 on the application made by Woolston Rovers FC 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.

In response to earlier enquiries from the Council, the Borough Council had advised that the installation of the existing freight containers predated involvement by current officers and their ownership was unclear. The use of services from the Estates Department to prepare a license for the siting of storage equipment may be an option but would need to be confirmed. The sports club would be required to engage with the Planning Department as part of preparations to locate an additional container on the site.

An officer had visited site to establish whether it was feasible to gain heavy goods vehicle access onto the hard-standing area from Woolston Park. Unfortunately, it was apparent that a vehicle route cannot be provided without the removal of site infrastructure and there is a

heightened risk of damage to the parkland. Therefore, delivery from the Borough Council land would not be feasible at this time. It was suggested that there may be an alternative route from the parish council section of the field.

The Clerk reported on issues raised with the Borough Council in 2019 regarding management of the playing fields that had not progressed further since June last year:

Resolved,

That

- (1) the Borough Council be requested to resume discussions on the management of the playing fields;
- (2) further consideration be given to the siting of new storage facilities when a response is received.

- (b) Complaint regarding littering – action by the Borough Council

The Clerk reported further to minute C6(3) – 13 July 2020 that the Borough Council had responded to the complaint from a resident regarding parking, littering and other issues in Parkway and Fitzwalter Road. A copy of the response had been sent to the resident and no further action had been requested by the Council:

Resolved,

That the action taken be noted.

(c) Complaint regarding overgrown bushes and trees along New Cut Canal towpath – action by the Borough Council

The Clerk reported further to minute C6(3) – 13 July 2020 that the Borough Council had responded to the complaint and had advised that the vegetation would be removed as soon as contractors had been appointed for this work. The first cut had been made much earlier in the year and some paths had become overgrown since then:

Resolved,

That the response be noted.

- (2) Finance and General Amenities Committee

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

Further to minute C6(5) - 13 July 2020, the Council reviewed the present arrangements for meetings and the conduct of business:

Resolved,

That the present arrangements be continued.

(b) request for enhancement of the website

The Council gave consideration to a request from a resident for consideration to be given to the publication of a leaflet to all households, similar to the Latchford News produced by the Borough Council, and providing information on the activities of the parish council. It was also suggested that the website "What's on" section include more information on community activities.

The Clerk reported that website had been selected to include details of how to contact councillors, council meetings and other related information and was limited in its use for other activities. It was noted that the Borough Council had produced similar newsletters to Latchford News through their Neighbourhood Service section for Woolston as part of Warrington East:

Resolved,

That

- (1) details be requested from the website provider of the options available and cost for enhancing the website;
- (2) the Borough Council be asked for details of their current arrangements for newsletters to households in Warrington East.

(c) Powers for the control of dogs in public places

The Clerk reported a letter from a resident following a recent incident involving a dog in a public place. Details had been requested from the Police of the action taken in dealing with incidents where a dog was reported as out of control of its owner. It was noted that these incidents are assessed by an officer in the control room on a case-by-case basis. The Police work with the Borough Council's Animal Wardens and the police force has a dedicated officer who advises on dog incidents should that be required regarding a dog and/or owner:

Resolved,

That further details be obtained of the action taken by other agencies in respect of the control of dogs.

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

Further to minute C6(7) – 13 July 2020, the Council noted that no further information had been received from the group on their proposals for November 2020.

(e) applications for grant aid

No applications to report.

(f)(a) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2019-20; (b) (1) the Annual Governance Statements and (2) the Accounting Statements for 2019-20; the Annual Internal Audit report 2019-20

The Council considered:

- (a) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2019-20.
(b) (1) the Annual Governance Statements for 2019-20 and (2) the Accounting Statements for 2019-20; the Annual Internal Audit report 2019-20.

Resolved,

That

- (1) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2019-20 be accepted, including the statement of accounts;
(2) approval be given to (a) the Annual Governance Statements and (b) the Accounting Statements for 2019-20;
(3) the Annual Internal Audit Report 2019-20 be accepted.

C21 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:
 - No formal meetings of the group have taken place since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic although, nature hasn't been pulled to a halt. In the name of Old Billy, the trail provides a worthy means of exercise and a definitive relief from Twitter and TV repeats.
 - The official site is laden with photographs of our environs and a drone camera provides an interesting view of the trail and Paddington Meadows with their accompanying river from the air.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U10QSQhs24&feature=youtu.be> (copy and paste)
 - Numerous informative posts and interesting flora and fauna are submitted by New Cut members and affiliated organizations (such as The Carbon Landscapes Partnership) to the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Facebook page. These posts keep us up to date with events, both social and ecological, in our immediate area.
 - For interest only, the Facebook site is worth a visit.
- Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade reported that:
 - Rats in pond –reported to Warrington Borough Council by Friends of Woolston Park. Subterranean bait stations have been laid regularly since June. Notices have been in place for some time to request no bread feeding which is a) bad for ducks and b) encourages rats...more prominent notices will be placed.
 - Very poor condition of road to Park reported to the Borough Council
 - A “comprehensive Covid risk assessment “is required to enable the use of Cabin for handwashing after volunteer work in the Park.
 - Outside FOWP meeting took place (observing social distancing) in the Park for information purposes.

- Most recent Park survey by British Trust of Ornithologists now published and posted on FOWB Facebook page.
- The planned bat walk has been cancelled.

The Council noted that the FOWP group had requested the Council to assist in identifying who is responsible for the maintenance of the access road from Somerset Way to Woolston Park and enquiries were being made regarding this matter.

- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting.

C22 Correspondence – consultation and information

No matters to report.

C23 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: 2020/37356

Location: 7, KINGSLAND GRANGE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4SR

Description of development : Full Planning - The introduction of windows into an existing elevation to the first floor LH side elevation when viewing from the front of the building

Application reference: 2020/37395

Location: 10, BATTERY LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QF

Description of development : Full Planning -.Retrospective change of use from waste land to residential curtilage and erection of garden wall and Pillars

Application 2020/36797

Location Moss Brow Cottages, Nicol Avenue, Woolston

Description of development: Full planning – the provision of a new detached dwelling, with associated access, servicing and landscaping including installation of package treatment plant.

Further to the objection submitted in respect of the above application (minute C10 -13 July 2020) Councillor Nowell had attended a site meeting on 6 August 2020, as representative of the Council, also attended by the Borough Council's Public Rights of Way Officer and two representatives of the landowner. Following the site meeting a submission had been made:

Concerns

1. The cottages once demolished will leave a hard-standing footprint and not as suggested by Warrington BC planning be returned to green belt. Use for vehicle parking was suggested as one possibility.
2. A number of trees are growing on the line of the right of way or will over time encroach on it. Some are overhanging. Under normal circumstances the owner would be directed by the Borough council to remove or reduce these obstructions or 'nuisances' however the removal of woodland to make way for a new dwelling means that further deforestation may not be

permitted on environmental impact grounds. WBC could resolve this issue and include a requirement for the cleared space to be of sufficient width to allow for maintenance

3. Assurances should be sought that any structures designated as temporary should be removed from site once demolition/dwelling construction is completed and if this is not seen

as a legal obligation then that they will not subsequently be moved onto the line of the right of way. No response had been received to the further comments.

The Council considered an objection submitted by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the proposed allocation of Section 106 payments.

Resolved,

That

(1) no objections or representations be made in respect of the applications 2020/37356 and 2020/37395;

(2) in respect of application 2020/36797:

- support be given to the submission made by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.
- an explanation is requested to the proposed allocation of the S106 funds and information on any consideration to the allocation of that funding for Woolston;
- further action be taken following receipt of information from the Borough Council.

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

C24 Business raised by members – revised operating procedures for the Development Management Committee

Councillor Nowell reported on the revised operating procedures approved by the Committee on 6 May 2020 and reviewed at the meeting held on 5 August 2020. These related to the delegation of matters from the Committee to officers and the frequency of meetings of the Committee during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Council were requested to support the Development Management Committee being asked to consider amending the procedures to accept planning objections received from parish councils if a public right of way is a material consideration:

Resolved,

That the proposed amendment be supported.

C25 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4501	29/7/20	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	M4 July 2020	

4502	30/7/20	JDH Business Services Ltd	0.00	1194.00	Interim and annual audit 2019-20	
4503	18/8/20	Employee1	0.00	358.38	M5 August 2020	
4504	19/8/20	Royal Mail Group Ltd	0.00	352.50	PO Box Delivery Annual Fee 2020/21	

C26 Exclusion of the public (including the press)

Resolved,

That members of the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item by reason of the confidential nature of business relating to staffing matters to be transacted in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

(The Clerk left the meeting during the consideration of the following item)

C27 Committee matters – Finance and General Committee – rates of pay and review of employee contract

Further to minute C6(8) – 13 July 2020, the Chairman of the Finance and General Committee reported on the draft contract 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 based on the model contract published by the National Association of Local Councils and consultation with the Clerk:

Resolved,

That the draft contract be approved and the salary point be fixed as SCP28 for the current post holder with effect from 1 April 2020.

**APPENDIX
MONTHLY POLICE REPORT**

**Woolston
August 2020 - Monthly Parish report**

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

8 Youths (3), environmental (3), personal (2)

Personal/environmental include neighbour issues, parking/traffic, domestic related issues.
1x male arrested for drunk & disorderly in relation to ASB report in Parkway area 15/7

Burglary

3 Dwelling 1x No entry gained. All linked & enquiries ongoing by Burglary Team

1 Other 1x Business premises

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Criminal Damage

3 1x resulted no crime/damage; 1x HGV; 1x Vehicle

Vehicle crime

2 Theft of vehicle 1x Business vehicle; 1x occurred elsewhere

0 Theft from vehicle 0x 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. Colleagues from other beat areas have been supporting our local patrols
- 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

- Criminal damage to vehicles Melford Court & Longbarn Lane – CPS has now authorized charges for 4x Juveniles, in relation to nearly £14k damage to vehicles at Tanseys and a vehicle on Longbarn Lane in June 2020
- 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. Warrington Youth Club staff seen on Woolston Park too, whilst conducting outreach work across Warrington during coronavirus restrictions on the youth centre
- Burglary investigation team are continuing to investigate a series of Burglary with theft of high powered motor vehicle, liaising with other areas of Cheshire and force areas
- Cannabis Farm located, evidence seized, farm dismantled on a Woolston industrial unit 05/06 - A male from the GMP area arrested as part of the ongoing enquiries
- Speed monitoring Cliftonville Road 28/7 – 12 vehicles in 20min. Max 26mph, 8 below 20mph
- Speed monitoring Parkway 28/7 – 31 vehicles in 30min, 27 below 20mph. Max 27mph
- 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/>

Water awareness campaign by Cheshire Fire & Rescue

<https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/public-safety/outdoor-safety/water-safety-dont-be-tempted-to-cool-off-in-open-water>

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

Kept 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.....