

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, WARREN LANE, WOOLSTON ON 23 JUNE 2021

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors P Eastty, D Hill, AJ Hill, Wright

C23 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Councillors McCarthy, Pearce and Rydzkowski, the members who had been co-opted to the Council.

The Council noted that following a request by the Chairman, Councillor McCarthy had agreed to act as lead member on planning matters, along with the Borough Ward Councillors, to allow the Council to benefit from his many years' experience at the Borough Council whilst serving as a Borough Councillor.

C24 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C25 Apologies for absence

The Chairman reported further to minute C6 – 26 May 2021, that Councillor Wright had been given medical advice not to attend public meetings at this time and submitted her apologies for absence. Councillors Eastty and AJ Hill had submitted apologies for absence because of their attendance at a meeting of the Borough Council. Councillor D Hill was on holiday and had submitted her apology for absence:

Resolved,
That

1. the best wishes of the Council be sent to Councillor Wright for a full recovery to good health and her apology for absence on medical grounds be accepted and the matter be reviewed, if necessary, at the September meeting of the Council;
2. the apologies for absence from other members be noted.

C26 Declarations of Acceptance of Office

The Council noted that Councillors McCarthy, Pearce, Rydzkowski and Wright had completed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

C27 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2021 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C28 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters to report.

C29 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council received a report on the policing of Woolston for June 2021. PCSO Roberts had submitted her apologies for absence and would follow up on any matters raised:

Resolved,

That the report be noted, and the concern of members be reported to the Police on the speed of heavy goods vehicles the A57 Manchester Road that were accessing premises on Bridge Road.

(Please see appendix for report).

C30 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 report related to the parish council area and not to the wider area of the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward unless there was an issue of interest to Woolston).

Details of matters since the last meeting:

- the Woolston Social Club, Manchester Road, had agreed to Ward surgeries being held at their premises on a Saturday from 11am to 1 pm by Councillors Dixon and Eastty commencing in July. The Chairman agreed to represent the council at the surgery. Dates of future meetings would be published.
- liaison with the Friends of Woolston Park group.
- raised the issue at the Borough Council on investment in the outlying areas of the Borough.

C31 Committee matters

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

(a) appointment of Parish Path Warden

The Council, in accordance with Minute C13 – 26 May 2021, considered the appointment of a Path Warden. Councillor Nowell reported that he was willing to continue to undertake the role on the understanding that at this time he was unable to provide monthly reports on the condition of paths:

Resolved,

That Councillor Nowell be appointed as Parish Path Warden for the year 2021-22 on the basis proposed.

(b) Development of “old Billy” scheme

Further to Minute C 13 – 26 May 2021 the Council reviewed progress on the development by the Borough Council of a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund:

Resolved,

That approval be given to proceed with the scheme being developed in partnership with Culture Warrington for the area within Woolston and to liaison with other councils and groups as needed.

Councillor Banner declared an interest in the above item by reason of being Chairman of Culture Warrington.

(c) Woolston Playing Fields – application to site storage container

No further information to report (Minute C114(a) 29 April 2021 refers).

(d) Battery Lane Allotment site – management matters

The Clerk reported and the Council noted that a monthly inspection of the site was being held in liaison with the Battery Lane Allotment Association and action taken as required.

(2) Finance and General Committee

(a) Audit of Accounts 2020-21

The Council considered:

(a) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2020-21.

(b) (1) the Annual Governance Statements for 2020-21 and (2) the Accounting Statements for 2020-21; the Annual Internal Audit report 2020-21.

Resolved,

That

(1) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2020-21 be accepted, including the statement of accounts;

(2) approval be given to (a) the Annual Governance Statements and (b) the Accounting Statements for 2020-21;

(3) the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020-21 be accepted.

(b) Register of members' interests – completion of forms

The Council noted that the completed forms from members would be supplied to the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer.

(c) Use of the Conference Call system

The Council reviewed the use of the Conference Call system following the return to public meetings under the revised Covid 19 guidance issued by the Government. Current advice was that public access should be continued of a system to reduce the need for the public to attend in person:

Resolved,

That use of the system be reviewed at the next meeting.

(d) Delegation of business

The Council considered arrangements for undertaking business during the Covid 19 pandemic:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the delegation to the Clerk to the Council, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Chairs of the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee or their nominees, with authority to deal with any urgent matters arising before an ordinary meeting of the Council.

(e) Applications for grant aid

No applications to report.

C32 Reports from members appointed to local bodies

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

- New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor J Greenslade – No meeting held because of covid guidance. Information published by the group on their website.
- Friends of Woolston Park – report by Councillor Pearce:

24 May

There was an organised “Nosey Nature Walk & Talk” with Fungal Punk Dave. 123 species were recorded on the walk. Dave was certainly a very knowledgeable person, knew the names off the top of his head of wildflowers, wildlife, trees, insects and fungi. He even knew the spelling of words I’d never even heard before. Within minutes of starting the walk it rained non-stop, even thunder and lightened. There is to be a follow up walk later in the year.

9 June

Woolston 6th Form students and teachers came to work on the park as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. It covered a selection of activities including the planting up of cowslips, sowing wildflower seeds, weeding around the Jubilee Garden, lopping off hanging branches from trees, trimming some of the smaller bushes and brushing up afterwards. Several tools were in use and before work began the tools were demonstrated clearly showing correct use and what not to do. When these tools were used by students they were supervised at all times. The Vice Chair pointed out many various sounds and type of birds, butterfly’s, even names of plants, bushes, trees and flowers. Throughout the visit there was lots of chatter and smiles. From my point of view, I considered it to be a successful event.

In general chatting afterwards it became clear there is plenty of work still to do to keep the park in good condition. Looking towards the future of the park more volunteers will certainly be needed. I suggested trying to get an article printed. I have been in contact with the local Essential Guide, and they agreed the FOWP can have an article free of charge. The article will be in the next Essential Guide due out shortly.

12 June

Young Friends of Woolston Park (YFOWP) met up again. Attended by 10 students, 7 parents plus Alex, Jon and myself. It started with a bit of fun yet was educational. They had a board game with cards all about identifying birds. I was amazed how many of the YFOWP knew such a lot about types and sounds of birds. After the fun side came some jobs to do. Some did jobs in the Jubilee Garden and others tidied up the bridle path by cutting back overhanging branches from trees and bushes. Another successful event.

While the Young Friends were enjoying the morning a large party of adults from the Group Woolston Litter Network arrived to do a massive litter pick. I believe the Borough Council came to take it away. It was very well organised, and we did not know they were coming. Just a nice surprise. Many thanks go out to that group for their kindness and hard work. Much appreciated.

What spoilt the day was the presence of more fly tipping at the side of the car park. A large amount of rolled up very dry turf had been dumped. The Borough Council has been notified by the FOWP.

After the event there was a short discussion about the possibility of purchasing binoculars for the children to enable them to identify birds and other wildlife. The Friends do have the funds to cover these but are hoping to get some donated from anyone who has some that they no longer need.

- Public Rights of Way Forum – The Clerk reported that the Borough Council was planning to arrange a meeting of the Forum in September 2021.

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.

C33 Correspondence – consultation and information

No matters to report.

C34 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 meeting

Application reference: 2021/39252

Location: WILLIAMS TARR CONSTRUCTION, BRIDGE ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AU

Description of development: Class O Prior Approval - Proposed Change of use from Offices to 19 Apartments

Application reference: 2021/39083

Location: 10, MAPLE ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4DP

Description of development: Householder - Proposed Two storey wrap around extension

Application reference: 2021/39561

Location: Land at Woolston Deposit Ground No 1, South Of The River Mersey, Manchester Road, Woolston, WARRINGTON

Description of development : Variation of conditions: Proposed variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 4(waste management operations - time), 6 (Phase 2 operations), 7 (Commencement of operations in Phase 3), 8(commencement of operations in Phase 4), and 14 (HGV traffic & movement) attached to planning permission 2005/04988 (reactivation of deposit ground no 1 for recovery of dredged material and to construct a nature park using dredged material and demolition, excavation and construction wastes).

Application reference: 2021/39538

Location: 10, EDWARD GARDENS, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QT

Description of development: Householder - First floor side extension and rear single storey extension

Application reference: 2021/39558

Location: LAND BETWEEN THE RIVER MERSEY AND MUSCRAT MANOR OFF MANCHESTER ROAD, WARRINGTON, WA3 6DR

Description of development : Variation of Condition - Proposed variation of Condition 4 (Development Cease) and Condition 5 (Compound Infrastructure) on previously approved application 2009/15390 (site cabins, weighbridge, wheel wash, car park and proposed creation of landscape bund) to allow the development to remain in place until 15 June 2024 and acknowledgement that the 1 year period would begin later than the original permission anticipated

Application reference: 2021/39532

Location: WILLIAMS TARR CONSTRUCTION, BRIDGE ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AT

Description of development: Full Planning - Proposed External Works to building pursuant to Class O resubmission application reference 2021/39252 (Change of use from Offices to 19 Apartments)

Application reference: 2021/39514

Location: 14, HICKORY CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4EQ

Description of development: Householder - Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension, Front Extension and Reroof of Garage

Application reference: 2021/39252

Location: WILLIAMS TARR CONSTRUCTION, BRIDGE ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AU

Description of development: Class O Prior Approval - Proposed Change of use from Offices to 19 Apartments

Applications to approve action taken

None.

Resolved,

That no comments be made in respect of the applications listed subject to any further comments received from members.

C35 Business raised by Council Members **- Grange Employment Area**

Councillor Dixon reported that in response to issues raised relating to Hardwick Grange he was hoping to have the support of businesses for the introduction of No Waiting restrictions to control nuisance including litter.

Councillor Nowell reported complaints regarding the dumping of rubbish in the land to the rear of St Martins Methodist Church.

Councillor McCarthy reported on the issue of overnight parking of heavy goods vehicles on Chesford Grange that had been reported to previous meetings. The Borough Council had responded to requests to clear litter, but a permanent solution was needed:

Resolved,

That the reports be noted and Councillors McCarthy and Nowell be asked to liaise further with Councillor Dixon on progressing this matter with the Borough Council.

- A57 Manchester Road – major incident

Councillor McCarthy reported on the recent fire at a house on Manchester Road resulting in the closure by the police of the length of Manchester Road from the northbound roundabout exit of the M6 motorway to Weir Lane whilst the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service dealt with the blaze. This had caused major disruption to a principal traffic route, and it was hoped that a full investigation would be carried out to identify the cause.

C36 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4555	15/6/21	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M3 June 2021	
4556	15/6/21	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	304.80	PAYE Months 1 to 3 2021-22	
4557	23/6/21	JDH Business Services Ltd	0.00	1194.00	Yearend internal audit fees 2020/21	
4558	23/6/21	The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd		586.80	Tree risk inspection 2021 Martinscroft Green and Hillock Lane	
4559	23/6/21	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	69.88	Stationery and supplies	
4560	23/6/21	Woolston Church of the Ascension	0.00	50.00	Meeting room hire 23 June 2021	
4561	23/6/21	Councillor M Banner	0.00	500.00	Chairman's allowance 2021-22	

APPENDIX

**Woolston
June 2021 - Monthly Parish report**

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

5 Youths (0), environmental (2), personal (3)
Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic, Covid issues

Burglary

2 Dwelling
0 Other

.....
Criminal Damage

2

Vehicle crime

2 Theft of vehicle Business vehicles
2 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Patrols continue covering various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car Park, Woolston Eyes & New Cut Canal Path
- Dam Lane Shops – The area continues to be patrolled and monitored, and link in with shop staff
- Woolston Park – Bins fires and ASB – Officers from across other areas of Warrington (including other beat areas, Response, Specials) have been supporting us with patrols of the park. High schools across Warrington have been contacted to remind pupils/parents regarding youths congregating on parks across Warrington
- Local shops visited regarding ID checks for sale of alcohol, WBC Licensing contacted
- Licensing visits – Officers have visited pubs and licensed premises across the area
- Warrington Youth Club – outreach teams, continue to work on our areas
- Operation Stay Safe – safeguarding operation across Warrington visiting parks and open spaces – officers patrolling areas in partnership with social care, health, outreach workers
- Motorcycle Unit involved in an operation across Cheshire aimed at reducing the injuries and collisions of motorcycle users on our roads, to educate and encourage motorcyclists to ride safely and drivers to THINK BIKE
- Operation Sceptre – weeklong nationwide campaign to tackle knife crime, knife surrender bins across Warrington (over 200 surrendered), KS2 and above pupils at schools offered crime and consequences presentation; Knife sweeps conducted across parks including Weir Lane and Nottingham Close play areas

- Speed enforcement Hillock Lane – 20 May, 14 June – No activations; 30 May – 1 activation
- Speed monitoring Gig Lane – 20 May, 24 May and 4 June – max speed observed during these periods 34mph, however the vast majority of traffic was travelling below speed limit

The Environment Agency have a 24hr hotline 0800 80 70 60 for members of the public to report matters such as flooding from rivers/streams, poaching/illegal fishing to them

- <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>
- To tackle nuisance off-road motorbikes, we need the following information – detailed descriptions of the bikes and riders, where the bikes are kept (lock-ups, garage locations), names if possible. Please quote ‘Operation Scrambler’ when you call Cheshire Police on 101. We continue our patrols and appeal for anyone with information to help us identify these individuals to get in touch (Crimestoppers 0800 555 111).
- Coronavirus Pandemic – Up to date guidance/advice on social distancing and social interactions is available on the Government website: - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- 24/7 mental health crisis lines now free to call

North West Boroughs Healthcare has upgraded its existing 24/7 mental health crisis lines to Freephone numbers. This means they are now free to call from both landlines and mobile phones.

The new dedicated phone numbers are:

- 0800 051 3253 for people living in Wigan
- 0800 051 1508 for people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington

The crisis lines provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week to people of all ages, including children and young people, who need urgent mental health support. You do not need to be known to our services to contact our crisis lines; they are available for patients and public. Please be assured, anyone who dials the original local numbers will still reach our mental health crisis teams first time, without the need to be diverted. However, calls made to the original numbers will be charged.

Please advise people reporting an incident/crime to ring Cheshire Constabulary on 101 (999 in case of emergency) so it can be recorded correctly - not via Facebook/twitter/email

Online Reporting is available via the Cheshire Constabulary website to report certain crimes, incidents, issues: -

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

.....
Useful Links offering advice and information: -

Online safety and advice

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/useful-contacts-for-fraud-cyber-crime-advice/>

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children/>

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK
<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Home/Business safety and security information

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/non-residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-from-a-vehicle/vehicle-safe-and-sound/>

Advice to help keep your bicycle safe

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

If you or someone you know needs advice and support regarding domestic abuse

<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/>

.....
Schools & other events

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

Schools – Countryside Code presentation sent to schools

Kings – staff spoken to regarding local ASB issues, liaised over identification of youths

Patrols when other commitments permit in vicinity of schools start/dispersal times

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face surgeries cancelled until further notice, in meantime host virtual surgery

Chairman.....

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

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/>

.....
Useful Links offering advice and information: -

Online safety and advice

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/useful-contacts-for-fraud-cyber-crime-advice/>

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children/>

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Home/Business safety and security information

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/non-residential-burglary/>

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-from-a-vehicle/vehicle-safe-and-sound/>

Advice to help keep your bicycle safe

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

If you or someone you know needs advice and support regarding domestic abuse

<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/>

.....
Schools & other events

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

Schools – Countryside Code presentation sent to schools

Kings – staff spoken to regarding local ASB issues, liaised over identification of youths

Patrols when other commitments permit in vicinity of schools start/dispersal times

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face surgeries cancelled until further notice, in meantime host virtual surgery

Chairman.....