

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

**Apologies for absence:** Councillor D Hill

### **C34 Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

### **C35 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C36 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor D Hill who was away on holiday.

### **C37 Minutes of the previous meetings**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C38 Matters of report from previous minutes**

No matters to report.

### **C39 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report**

The Council considered the monthly reports for July and August 2023. PCSO Roberts was unable to attend the meeting to present the report:

Resolved,

That the monthly reports for July and August be noted.

*(Please see appendix for a copy of the reports).*

### **C40 Borough Council business**

The Council received reports from Borough Councillors on matters under consideration by the Borough Council relating to the parish and on issues that they had acted on for residents since the last meeting and other issues relating to responsibilities of the Borough Council. (The Council noted that the reports related to the parish council area and not to the wider area of the Rixton and Woolston Borough Ward unless there was an issue of interest to Woolston).

## 1. Reports from Borough Councillors

### 1.2 Councillor Eastty had submitted a note for the meeting:

#### Unmaintained trees A 57 Manchester Road

A site meeting had been held with officers to discuss the complaints raised by residents who were adjacent to Manchester Road. There were no plans to carry out general maintenance to trees at the rear of houses. Individual responses had been made by officers to two residents.

#### Traffic safety Gig Lane – survey

A CCTV camera was to be installed to carry out a second survey in response to complaints about speeding traffic.

The Clerk reported representations from a resident of Gig Lane in respect of speeding vehicles and the high number of heavy goods vehicles using Gig Lane as a through route. The Council had previously supported the introduction of a 20mph limit and restriction on the use of the road by HGV's.

The results of the Borough Council's survey would be reported to the Council.

### 1.2 Councillor Hill

Maintenance had been carried out to the trees along Spittle Brook adjacent to Fox Wood School; a further request was to be made for tree maintenance along the length on the opposite side of Holes Lane leading into the park.

Maintenance work had also been requested along the footways in residential areas.

The footway at Monroe Close had been tidied.

### 1.3 Councillor Tynan

The trees along Gig Lane had been cut back.

Maintenance had been carried out to the gullies in Hillock Lane.

## 2. Matters raised with the Borough Council

2.1 Borough Council Review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane - Borough Ward Councillors were asked to raise again the request for 20mph restrictions on Hillock Lane, Dam Lane and in the roads adjacent to schools.

2.2 Surfacing of the path to Woolston Playing Fields – Councillor Tynan agreed to request a site meeting with officers.

2.5 The Director of Transport and Environment had been contacted regarding the replacement of the bus shelter on the A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the junction with Laburnum Avenue and at Holes Lane. The bus shelter at Holes Lane had been replaced. Councillor Tynan reported that an initial response from officers was that the Laburnum Avenue shelter would be replaced. Following a review of the number of passengers joining an outbound service at Laburnum Avenue a decision had been made that a replacement was not justified.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted, and the identified action approved.

## **C41 Committee matters**

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

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

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

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

- New Cut Lane – bridge over Spittle Brook – report made on an oil spillage. The Borough Council had responded by covering the area with sand. No information had been received on the cause of the incident.

Further to Minute C27(1)1.- 28 June 2023 the Borough Council had confirmed that the path leading from Woolston Weir was the Council’s responsibility and that an inspection would be carried out of the length of the path leading up the embankment and had agreed to inspect and carry out action to remedy the situation subject to funding being available:

Resolved,

That

1. the report and action taken be noted;
2. the response from the Borough Council and intended action relating to the path at Woolston Weir be noted.

## **2. Martinscroft Green – recreational use and maintenance of trees**

The Council considered representations from a resident relating to (1) reports of groups of men playing football on the Green and causing a nuisance to other users including littering. and (2) the nuisance caused by overgrown trees.

The Clerk reported on the regulations relating to the use village greens and on the results of the periodic survey of the condition of trees at the Green:

Resolved,

That

1. the Clerk be requested to obtain advice on a management survey of all trees at the Green;
2. further advice be obtained on the powers for controlling recreational use of the Green.

## **3. Development of “Old Billy” scheme**

Further to Minute C27(1) 4. - 28 June 2023, the Clerk reported that Culture Warrington (CW) had announced that the Old Billy book was to be launched at the Children’s Literature Festival at Warrington Library on Sunday 8 October 2023. CW were then intending to have a teacher training session on Monday 16 October 2023 at which all the primary schools in the Borough would receive a free copy of the book and a free session showing them how to use it in their local history classes.

Work was proceeding with the illustrator of the book in using images for the signs along the New Cut canal. This would involve further liaison with the Borough Council in approving the images for the signs to be sited along the canal towpath and at the Weir Lane viewing area that marked the start of the Old Billy trail.

The scheme could then proceed to approval by the Council for consultation with outside bodies to be partners to the scheme. Poulton with Fearnhead parish council would be invited to be a supporter of the CW outreach scheme for the length from New Cut Lane to Paddington Bank. The New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group were to be requested to support the scheme and to act as the Borough Council’s agent in siting the signage along the whole length of the towpath:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

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

#### **4. Hillock Lane amenity area – site entrance works**

Further to Minute C27(1)5. - 28 June 2023, the Clerk reported that Kings Leadership Academy had carried out maintenance to the area at the entrance and fencing. Kings LA had also agreed to instal a barrier on the footpath entrance to help prevent access by vehicles. The repair works to the entrance barrier had been completed:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

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

Further to Minute C28 - 28 June 2023 the Clerk reported that representations had been made to the Borough Council, in consultation with Councillor Smith, in support of the Friends of Woolston Park Group to secure the long-term provision of the facilities provided by the Ranger Cabin. Councillor Banner reported that Councillor Higgins, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Community, had been made aware of the Council's support for the representations made by the FoWP group and the need for a response:

Resolved,

That

1. the Clerk be requested to send a reminder to the Borough Council;
2. the Borough Ward Councillors be asked to support the representations made;
3. thanks be recorded to Councillor Smith for his work in preparing the submission.

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

Further to Minute C27(1)4. - 28 June 2023 the Clerk reported that the Woolston Eyes Conservation Group had been requested to provide information relating to the area included in Bed 4 and of assessments made relating to access for persons with a mobility or disability condition. An acknowledgment to the request made via the website had been received. The Clerk submitted a copy of information from the WECG website including the June 2023 Newsletter, Access and Permits for Woolston Eyes and access arrangements to Woolston Eyes No.4 Bed. In 2019 WECG, in collaboration with partners from the Manchester Ship Canal Company (MSC), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Natural England and the Carbon Landscape had raised £650k to create a large new wetland nature reserve on No. 4 Bed and construction had now been completed. It was a requirement of MSC that access was strictly private and by permit only:

Resolved,

That the report and information be noted.

## **7. Battery Lane Allotment site – management matters**

The Clerk reported on an incident involving unauthorised persons entering the site. A review of site security involving representatives of the Battery Lane Allotment Association (BLAA) was being undertaken. A request had been made by BLAA to site a waste skip at their expense for members to dispose of non-recyclable materials. BLAA had also requested following a review of the insurance cover provided for their members that the Council provide this facility for volunteers undertaking work on communal areas and untended plots until their new insurance policy commenced in January 2024. The Clerk reported information received from the Council's insurers on accepting this request:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted and

1. approval be given to considering options for a new entrance gate to improve site security in consultation with the BLAA;
2. approval be given to the temporary siting of a skip at the expense of the BLAA subject to details being agreed on its location and delivery/collection arrangements;
3. having regard to the information received from the Council's insurers, the request for temporary cover for volunteers be not approved because of the measures needed to be in place.

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

### **1. Applications for grant aid** **– Battery Lane Allotment Association**

The Council considered an application from the Battery Lane Allotment Association for a grant towards the replacement of a strimmer. The equipment was used for the maintenance of communal areas and by individual members on their allotment. The Association would meet half of the cost which was estimated to be in the region of £200:

Resolved,

That approval be given to meeting half of the cost subject to details of the equipment and its cost being provided.

### **– Woolston Church of the Ascension – provision of defibrillator**

The Council considered an application from the Church of the Ascension for the provision of a defibrillator in the vicinity of Dam Lane shops. This would serve the public in this area and be close enough for the congregations of St Martin's Methodist Church in Gig Lane and the daily users of Woolston Mission in Warren Lane. The Church would be willing to provide space for the training of users. The Council considered the provision of equipment in the parish and the cost and siting of additional defibrillators:

Resolved,

That the proposal be supported in principle and the Clerk be requested to obtain information on the location of and access to existing defibrillators and the cost of providing, installing and training in their use.

### **– New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – training of volunteers**

The Council considered an application from the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group for a grant to fund the training of four volunteers to ensure first aid cover at each of the Group's weekly work parties. Details were provided of the type of power equipment used by the Group when maintaining areas in the parish and other parts of the trail. The preferred provider was Lancashire First Aid Training Ltd and one of their volunteers had attended a course when a volunteer of the Carbon Landscape Project in 2021. The cost would be £520 for the four volunteers to attend a two-day course:

Resolved,

That approval be given to a grant of £520 to the Group.

### **2. Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2023** **– cleaning of cenotaph**

Further to Minute C27(2)3.- 28 June 2023 the Clerk reported a quote of £1120 excluding VAT from a specialist contractor for the cleaning of the cenotaph and its surrounds to be carried before the annual service of remembrance:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the acceptance of the quote from D&N Shotblasting Ltd of Smallwood, Cheshire.

### **– Event planning**

The Clerk reported that an Event Plan had been submitted to the Borough Council and that the Church of the Ascension was again leading the service on behalf of all faiths at Martinscroft Green. The Church would again provide the public address system for the event:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

### **3. Register of Members' interests**

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had reminded all parish councils of the need to publish the Register of each Member's interests. This was no longer included on the Borough Council's website. Arrangements were being made with the assistance of the Council's website provider where necessary. Members were asked to review and revise their information if needed:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

### **C42 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. Information was published by the group on their website.

- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Smith on activities by FoWP group since the last Council meeting and related information:
  - Litter picking by volunteers including asylum seekers residing locally.
  - Maintenance of the Ranger Cabin and storage – a report had been made to the Borough Council on the need for repairs to the Cabin. An offer of help had been made in undertaking some of the repair works.
  - Anti-social behaviour – the sun dial in the Jubilee Garden had been damaged, probably beyond repair.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – next scheduled meeting October 2023.
- Warrington Borough, Town and Parish Councils meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner – the Chairman reported on his attendance at the meeting held on 18 July 2023. Councils had been asked to give advance notice of questions and the issue of attendance of police representatives at parish council meetings had been raised. Mr Dwyer, PCC for Cheshire and the Cheshire police representative had responded that even with 122 different areas to cover across the county, they agreed with the sentiment of the Council’s concern and, subject to shift responsibilities, every meeting should be attended by a police representative. A note of the meeting had not been provided.

Resolved,

That

1. the reports be noted;
2. the Chairman's note of the meeting be supplied to members.

#### **C43 Correspondence – consultation and information – Safer Streets Fund**

The Council noted a letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner on the submission of schemes to the next round of the Safer Streets Fund.

#### **C44 Planning Applications and decisions**

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

Applications for consideration at the meeting:

PLANNING APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
FULL PLANNING		
2023/01043/FUL	Greywalls Investments, 15 Chesford Grange	Change of use from a used truck sales business (Sui Generis) to Use Class B2/B8/E(g)(iii)
2023/00945/FUL	31 Kingsland Grange	Erection of a new fence to secure the site. Installation of a new gate to existing south access.
FULL PLANNING-HOUSEHOLDER		

(HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2023/00656/FULH	20 Marshall Road	Single storey rear extension (amended description)
2023/00976/FULH	18 Manchester Road	Proposed single storey wrap around extension
2023/00827/FULH	10 Greymist Avenue	Part single storey and part double storey side extension and single storey rear extension
2023/00808/FULH	25 Hayfield Road	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension
2023/00806/FULH	17 Rosedale Avenue	Single storey rear extension
2023/00793/FULH	41 Lincoln Close	Part two storey and part single storey extension to side
SECTION 191 CERTIFICATE FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2023/00786/CLDE	Marks & Spencer, 48 Hardwick Avenue	Storage, distribution and warehousing (Use Class B8)
PLANNING DECISIONS		
None to report		
PLANNING APPEALS		
None to report.		

Resolved,

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

**C45 Business raised by Council Members**  
**– reports of anti-social behaviour**

Councillor Czekalski reported on concerns expressed on the local social media site relating to anti-social behaviour and it was

Resolved,

That the Clerk liaise with the site administrator on the concerns raised.



## **– incidents on Manchester Road**

Councillor McCarthy reported and the Council noted incidents against asylum seekers housed locally and the tipping of rubbish on the drive of a vacant property.

## **C46 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>
4695	15/07/23	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M4 July 2023	
4696	21/07/23	LiveWire CIC	0.00	42.00	Room hire 28 June 2023	
4697	21/07/23	Amazon (Clerk)	0.00	128.83	Printing and stationery	
4698	25/08/23	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M5 August 2023	
4699	6/09/23	Royal Mail Group Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	396.00	PO Box delivery annual fee 2023-24	
4700	6/09/23	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	0.00	1510.87	Annual fee 2023-24 (Replaces 4684)	
4701	6/09/23	JRS Fabrications Ltd	0.00	828.00	Hillock Lane amenity area barrier repairs	
4702	6/09/23	Councillor J Greenslade	0.00	500.00	Chairman's Allowance 2023-24	

## APPENDIX

### Woolston July 2023 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam  
Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor  
PCSO Bethan Roberts

#### **Anti Social Behaviour**

3 Youths (0), environmental (2), personal (1)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

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#### **Burglary**

1 Dwelling

Unoccupied building, unconfirmed

2 Other

1x damage to site under renovation; 1x trespassers

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#### **Criminal Damage**

3

1x report from County Fire; 2x property

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#### **Vehicle crime**

3 Theft of vehicle

2x subsequently reclassified as not stolen

1 Theft from vehicle

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#### **OTHER**

- Operation Guardian – conducted across Warrington 25-28 June. Joint operation of officers and partners including youth workers, range of activities including high visibility patrols of hot spot areas to engage with teenagers ([Police crack down on offenders targeting children and vulnerable people in Cheshire | Cheshire Constabulary](#))
- Delivery of fire safety and dangers input at Kings Leadership Academy by Birchwood Fire station crew in company with PCSO Roberts
- Woolston CP School fayre attended
- The new Warrington Youth Zone opened in Warrington town centre in July 2022, the website provides for further information about membership and sessions  
Website: <https://warringtonyouthzone.org>
- The Environment Agency have a 24hr hotline 0800 80 70 60 for members of the public to report matters such as flooding from rivers/streams, poaching/illegal fishing to them
- <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>
- 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).
- 24/7 mental health crisis lines free to call

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

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

The crisis lines provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week to people of all ages, including children and young people, who need urgent mental health support. You do not need to be known to our services to contact our crisis lines; they are available for patients and public.

Please be assured, anyone who dials the original local numbers will still reach our mental health crisis teams first time, without the need to be diverted

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

Online Reporting portal 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/>

Advice to help keep your bicycle safe

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

Whilst the majority of dog owners act responsibly, a few do not always pick up and bin their dog's mess. Residents can use the WBC online reports to provide them with information which could help to identify irresponsible dog owners

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/dog-fouling>

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

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

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**Schools & other events**

Schools – School fayres attended Woolston CP and St Peters RC Primary

Schools – Kings – Joint visit with County Fire for input on fire safety and dangers

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**Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub  
Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates to be confirmed

**Woolston  
August 2023 - Monthly Parish report**

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam  
Neighbourhood Officer PC Victoria Taylor  
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

**Anti Social Behaviour**

1 Youths (0), environmental (1), personal (0)  
Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

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**Burglary**

0 Dwelling  
0 Other

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**Criminal Damage**

1 1x vehicle

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**Vehicle crime**

1 Theft of vehicle 1x Business vehicle  
0 Theft from vehicle

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**OTHER**

- Woolston CE Primary – Yr5/6 summer safety input delivered
- School Fayre attended – 21 July – St Peters RC Primary  
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Chairman.....