

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 26 JULY 2017

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)
Councillors: M Creaghan, A Hill, B Maher, A McCarthy, D Nowell,
S Rydzkowski, P Wright

Apologies for absence: Councillors J Greenslade, MH Greenslade, D Hill

C34 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors J Greenslade, MH Greenslade and D Hill who were away on holiday.

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

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

C36 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C37 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters to report.

C38 Presentation on the work of the East Neighbourhood Team

The Chairman reported that the officer to make the presentation had given apologies for being unable to attend the meeting:

Resolved,

That the presentation be re-scheduled for the October meeting of the Council.

C39 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council received a report from the Police Community Support Officer on the policing of Woolston as set out below:

Over the past month:-

There had been 9 Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, these related to neighbour issues, travellers (3 were youth related).

Two attempted burglary incidents, one of which related to the New Cut Heritage Trail shed (no further lines of enquiry). There had been numerous suspicious activity reports, from suspicious vehicles/males, adults purchasing alcohol for under age youths.

There had been 2 theft from motor vehicles (fuel) and 2 theft of motor vehicles (one was a caravan, the other vehicle was located).

5 thefts, 3 of which related to locked bicycles.

The police had worked alongside the Warrington BC Enforcement Teams around the schools, attended various school summer fayres/events and also delivered talks on keeping safe over the summer holidays.

Over the holidays we will continue to check the shop areas and Woolston Park regarding youths.

C40 Borough Council business

Borough Councillors Hill, McCarthy and Wright reported on 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:

- Officers had reported that the unauthorised encampment at the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub was to end on the Monday following the previous council meeting. This had been delayed until the Thursday of that week because of the legal process.
- A replacement bus shelter had been installed on A57 Manchester Road opposite the junction with Grey Mist Avenue.
- Pot holes had been repaired on the road surface in Hall Road. Maintenance work for the road was programmed for 2018-19.
- Representations had been made to the owner of the premises at Dam Lane Shopping Precinct because of the amount of litter in public areas. The owner had agreed to make arrangements to remedy the matter.
- A report on works planned at Somerset Way had been made to the Environment and Amenities Committee.
- Following representations to Borough Council officers the trees and bushes alongside alleyways in the Monmouth Close area had been cut back and tidied. Similar works had been carried out to the hedgerow on A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the Woolston RBL premises and at Gig Lane.
- Enforcement Officers had moved persons from land on A57 Manchester Road adjacent to the roundabout on the eastern side of the M6 motorway. The buildings were also to be removed.
- The Executive Director, Growth and Environment had supplied the following information to clarify the position relating to consultation on the Warrington Local Development Plan:
- “The Local Plan Preferred development Option (outlined on page 47 of the Local Plan document) is not suggesting any development in Rixton and Woolston. A suggestion of a small extension of 40 homes at Hollins Green is suggested, but that is all. The National regulations state that we should publish the sites landowners and developers have suggested to us (at page 11 of the plan) – but we are not accepting any of those put forward in your Ward and they therefore do not feature as part of our Preferred Development Option.

We are not undertaking consultation events in all wards - instead we are holding events in places where the Plan is suggesting major development and change, e.g. South Warrington (6000 new homes and a large employment area) – again we are not suggesting any development in Rixton and Woolston.

The Executive Board, when they approved the plan and its consultation process, reflected on the meeting times of Parish Councils over the summer period and agreed to extend the consultation timescale until the end of September 2017 for Parish Councils to cater for those Councils who didn't meet within the original consultation period. My team would be quite happy to meet the Parish Council should they wish this.”

The Council noted that an assurance had been given that in the event of any change consultation would be held.

- Representations had been made on the need for the collection of litter along the A57 Manchester Road and this work was being carried out.

- A request had been made for the cutting back of the hedgerow to the rear of a property on Hillock Lane adjacent to the Hillock Lane Amenity Area.
- A meeting was to be held with officers to discuss their proposals for waiting restrictions on Epping Drive.
- A report had been given at a voluntary sector meeting on proposals relating to the changing facilities at the Ranger Cabin in Woolston Park. It was agreed that the Borough Council should be asked to provide details of any proposals.
- Representations had been made regarding overgrown bushes on Longbarn Lane at Woolston Park.

C41 Committee reports and recommendations

- Environment and Amenities Committee

Councillor Banner reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 26 July 2017 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That

1. it be noted that there were no matters to report relating to the development adjacent to the Thelwall Viaduct;
2. the report from the Parish Path Warden be noted;
3. a request be made to the Borough Council for a presentation to be made on the work of the Environmental Crime Unit to the next Council meeting;
4. approval be given to the continuation of the current arrangements with Warrington BC for the management of public use of Woolston Playing Fields for 2017-18.
5. approval be given to consideration to the development of an improvement scheme for the Hillock Lane amenity area at the next meeting;
6. advice be requested from the police on measures to improve the security of the entrance to the Hillock Lane amenity area;
7. support be given for the proposed no waiting restrictions on Somerset Way and the development of a low cost scheme to protect the grassed areas;
8. the draft design for the “Old Billy” scheme highway sign be circulated to all members for their comments;
9. approval be given at the next meeting to consideration of the action to be taken following a request made for the Council to consider extenuating circumstances relating to the condition of a plot;
10. the report on work to be carried out by the Borough Council to maintain the surface of Battery Lane be noted together with the provision of stone to the Allotment Association for their volunteers to carry out repairs to the surface of the track leading to the site;
11. the report on the work of the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group be noted and:
 - a. the issue relating to the grant made by the Council be considered at the October meeting of the Committee when the decision of the Group is known on provision of insurance cover by the Borough Council. In the event of the grant made not being required, consideration be given to the reallocation of this to other activities by the Group.
 - b. support be given to the two locations suggested for the provision of public seating on the canal towpath (Nottingham Close and Timberscombe Gardens opens spaces) and the outcome of discussions by the Group with the Borough Council and the Environment Agency be awaited.

- Finance and General Committee

Councillor McCarthy reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 26 July 2017 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That approval be given to consideration being given by the Committee to assistance with the provision of the defibrillator at St Peters RC Church when further information is received.

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 – the minutes of the group meeting and other information had been provided to members.
- Friends of Woolston Park – notes from the meeting held on 10 July 2017 by Councillor Pearce had been provided to members.
- Public Rights of Way Forum – the next meeting of the Forum was to be held on 3 August 2017.
- Other bodies – no reports.

C43 Local Plan – Preferred Development Option

The Council gave consideration to consultation on the Local Plan – Preferred Development Plan:

Resolved,

That having regard to the report from the Borough Ward Councillors and the response made by the Executive Director, Growth and Regeneration, no comments be made at this time.

C44 Correspondence – consultation and information **- Neighbourhood Bulletin**

The Council noted that the March/May Bulletin had been issued to members.

- Flood defence works in Woolston

The Council noted the following details provided by the Project Engineer on the progress of the flood defence works being carried out by the Environment Agency:

Upstream of the lock

The footpath is largely finished with brickwork now complete on the transition wall that links the lock wall with the piling. After consultation with Warrington BC we will be installing 'kissing' gates at either end of the footpath to prevent access by motorbikes. In the next week we will be civilising the area we have been using as a compound on the lock structure and installing a timber fence to prevent access. This will be until the negotiations between Warrington BC and Peel Holdings plc are concluded. If there is a positive outcome we will develop this to a 'viewing' area which we have been discussing with you and others for some time. Unfortunately, at this stage I cannot put a timescale on this. We have a significant amount of fencing to complete also at various points along the footpath. This has been cause of delay to the works and the contractor has had trouble appointing a suitable fencing sub-contractor up until now. The fencing works are due to commence next week.

Once the fencing works are complete and the kissing gates are installed the footpath can be opened. We are aware that entry is being gained onto the footpath by the public so we do want to open this up formally. As you will appreciate we cannot do this until the security provided by the fencing and gates is in place. I estimate this to be 3 more weeks but please note this is an estimate and I cannot be held to this until I have a confirmed programme from the contractor.

Downstream of the lock

We are currently completing the works to install kerbing which is set at the height of the flood defence level. The kerbing starts at the viewing area and continues around the boundary of Lock Cottage until it meets the wall between Lock Cottage and Weir Lodge where ground levels reduce. As a result of the installation of the kerbing we have had to raise the levels of the ground outside Lock Cottage so that the residents can access their driveway. The levels have been raised by placing tarmac planings which are then compacted to form a smoother road surface. As Peel Holdings plc are the landowner we are obliged to return this area to its original condition which was a compacted stone surface.

We have other works in this area which include remedial works to the flood gate at Weir Lodge and also fencing around this property. We will also be replacing the main gate at the bottom of Weir Lane. The remedial works to Weir Lodge may take some time as the floodgate will be removed and reinstalled and, as such, we are reliant on the efforts of a specialist supplier.

Again, I apologise for not being more forthcoming in updating the residents on progress. We have had difficulties in appointing the right resources and suppliers to complete the works which we have now overcome. Because of this it has been very difficult to provide an estimate of when the works will be completed.

- Warrington East phase 2 consultation feedback and project update

The Council noted information from the Borough Council on the above scheme. This included confirmation that the proposed bus gate at Gig Lane was not to proceed.

C45 Planning Applications and decisions

No items to report.

C46 Recess Committee

Resolved,

That approval be given to the appointment of a Recess Committee with a membership of the Chairman, Councillor M Banner, Vice Chairman, Councillor J Greenslade and the chairs of the Environment and amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee, Councillors MH Greenslade and A McCarthy with authority to deal with any urgent business arising before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

C47 Business raised by Members

No business raised.

C48 Payment of Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4272	26/7/17	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	Month 4 July 2017	
4273	26/7/17	Live Wire CIC	0.00	33.60	Meeting room hire	

4274	26/7/17	Office Outlet (Clerk)	0.00	98.72	Printing and stationery	
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Chairman.....