

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 26 MAY 2021

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)
Councillors: J Dixon, P Eastty, D Nowell, J Greenslade, MH Greenslade,
AJ Hill, D Hill

Apologies for absence: Councillor Wright

C1 Election of Chairman

Resolved,

That Councillor Banner be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.
(*Councillor Banner completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office*).

C2 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed the new members to the Council and congratulated Councillors J Dixon, P Eastty and AJ Hill on their election as Borough Ward Councillors for Rixton and Woolston following the elections held on 6 May 2021.

The Council recorded their thanks to Councillor J Greenslade for the way he had undertaken the duties of Chairman during 2019-20 and in 2020-21 during the Covid 19 pandemic that had involved the introduction of virtual meetings.

C3 Election of Vice Chairman

Resolved,

That Councillor D Hill be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

C4 Result of elections – 6 May 2021

The Clerk reported that the Returning Officer had supplied the results of the elections held on 6 May 2021:

East Ward Mrs M Banner, J Dixon, P Eastty, Mr J Greenslade, Mrs MH Greenslade,
Mrs P Wright

West Ward Mr AJ Hill, Mrs D Hill, Mr D Nowell (three vacancies)

The members present had completed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the meeting:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

C5 Co-option of members to fill vacancies in the West Ward

The Clerk reported that the results provided by the Returning Officer required that the three vacancies in the West Ward be filled by co-option. Four written applications had been made to the Council by persons applying to be co-opted. The Council considered the procedure to be adopted in filling the vacancies, and it was

Resolved,

That the Council consider the four applications received and the vacancies be not advertised.

(In accordance with Standing Orders it was requested that the vote be recorded.

For: Councillors Banner, AJ Hill, D Hill, J Greenslade, MH Greenslade;

Against: Councillor D Nowell; Abstained: Councillors J Dixon, P Eastty).

The Council considered each application in accordance with the procedure reported by the Chairman, and it was

Resolved,

That

1. the procedure be approved;
2. the applications from Mr A McCarthy, Mrs M Pearce and Mr S Rydzkowski to be co-opted to fill the vacancies in the West Ward be accepted.

C6 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillor Wright who was currently in hospital recovering from an operation. The Clerk reported that Mrs Wright had been unable to complete her Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the meeting:

Resolved,

That

1. the best wishes of the Council be sent to Councillor Wright for a full recovery to good health;
2. approval be given to her Declaration of Office being completed prior to or at the next meeting of the Council.

C7 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C8 Minutes of the previous meetings

Resolved,

That

1. the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2021 be taken as read and signed as a correct record;
2. the signing by the Chairman of the minutes of virtual meetings held on 13 July, 19 August, 30 September, 4 November, 9 December 2020 and 18 January, 17 February and 23 March 2021 already approved by the Council be noted.

C9 Review of the terms of reference for committees 2021-22, including any delegation of powers, and to appoint the Chairman and members to serve on the under-mentioned committees (a) Environment and Amenities;(b) Finance and General

The Council considered a report of the Clerk on the terms of reference for committees 2021-22:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the report on the terms of reference 2021-22, as set out in the report of the Clerk, and the following committees be established consisting of all members of the Council and to the appointment of Chairmen as follows:

Environment and Amenities Committee – Councillor J Greenslade
Finance and General Committee – Councillor Banner

C10 Appointment of any new committees

Resolved,

That no new committees be appointed.

C11 Review of procedures

Resolved,

That the Finance and General Committee undertake a review the following:

- a. Review of arrangements (including legal agreements) with other local authorities, not-for-profit bodies and businesses;
- b. In an election year, to make arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future;
- c. Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment;
- d. Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks;
- e. Review of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies;
- f. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation;
- g. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- h. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;
- i. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.
- j. Review of the Council's complaints procedure;
- k. Review of standing orders, financial regulations and risk assessment;
- l. Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation;
- m. Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media;
- n. Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures;

- o. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.

C12 Review of representation on or work with external bodies and arrangements for reporting back to the council and appointment of representatives

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following appointments to outside bodies with reports being made to each meeting of the Council by the representatives:

New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group – Councillor J Greenslade
Friends of Woolston Park – Councillors Dixon and Pearce
Public Rights of Way Forum – Chairman or nominee

C13 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

Environment and Amenities Committee

1. Parish Path Warden scheme – appointment of Path Warden

Resolved.

That consideration of the appointment of a Parish Path Warden as part of the Borough Council's Path Warden be deferred.

2. Development of "Old Billy" scheme

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council is to submit a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund aimed to:

- Tell the story of "Old Billy" and promote him as a Heritage Mascot for Warrington;
- Support local heritage groups to attract new audiences, particularly young people and families;
- Attract new heritage volunteers and provide training for existing and new volunteers.

The Cultural Partnerships Development Manager for the Borough Council was to submit the bid and would like to support the scheme being developed through Culture Warrington by:

- Providing additional funding for the New Cut Canal Trail which will enable partners and Culture Warrington to develop engaging interactive content behind the QR codes to be sited along the trail;
- Funding some outdoor arts activity/event to mark the 200th anniversary of Old Billy's death;
- Provide training for volunteers around welcoming visitors, giving talks, events organising etc.

The Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council and New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group were to be invited to participate in the project.

It was noted that the Council had agreed to earmark funds for the scheme being developed in partnership with Culture Warrington and this would be reported as part of the bid:

Resolved,

That approval be given to support the bid by the Borough Council and the proposed partnership scheme.

3. Woolston Playing Fields – management arrangements with the Borough Council

The Council considered the continuation of the management arrangements for public use of the playing fields:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the continuation of the current arrangements with Warrington BC for the management of public use of Woolston Playing Fields for 2020-21.

Finance and General Committee

1. Revised Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported that the revised Code of Conduct from the Borough Council had been supplied to all members:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct.

2. Approval of changes to bank mandates

Resolved,

That approval be given to changes to the mandates with the National Westminster Bank plc and the Unity Trust Bank plc to reflect the membership of the Council.

C14 Calendar of Council and committee meetings 2021-22

The Council considered a report of the Clerk on the time and place of meetings of the full council and standing committees up to and including the next annual meeting of the full council. The dates avoided Development Management Committee meetings of the Borough Council in accordance with previous decisions.

The proposed meeting place was the Woolston Church of the Ascension to meet current guidance during the Covid 19 pandemic. The calendar identified the dates of meetings to be held and reserved dates for meetings. Remote access to meetings during the pandemic was to be provided to the public in accordance with Government guidance.

A report was to be made to the next meeting of the Council on the delegation of powers during the Covid pandemic where urgent decisions were needed before a council meeting:

Resolved,

That the report on the calendar of meetings for 2021-22 be accepted and consideration being given to the delegation of powers during the Covid pandemic at the next meeting.

C15 Adjournment of meeting

Resolved,

That the meeting be adjourned for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7 15pm and be reconvened at the rising of the meeting.

The Council meeting reconvened at 7.45pm.

C16 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters to report.

C17 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council received a report on the policing of Woolston for May 2021. PCSO Roberts had submitted her apologies for absence and would follow up on any matters raised. Members again referred to incidents of anti-social behaviour by youths in Woolston Park and noted the recent action taken by the Police. It was noted that this behaviour was occurring in other parts of the Borough:

Resolved,

That the report be noted, and the concern of members be reported to the Police on the acts of anti-social behaviour.

(Please see appendix for report).

C18 Borough Council business

No matters to report.

C19 Correspondence – consultation and information

No matters to report.

C20 Planning Applications and decisions

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

Applications for consideration at the 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: 2021/39431

Location: 371, Manchester Road, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4PY

Description of development: Householder - Proposed first floor Rear and side extensions over utility / dining / sitting and garage

Application reference: 2021/39419

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

Description of development: Discharge of Condition - Proposed discharge of condition 11 (Method Statement) on previously approved application 2020/38397 (Offices to apartments)

Application reference: 2021/39380

Location: 4, MANCROFT CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4DH

Description of development: Householder - Proposed Side and First Floor Rear Extensions, front canopy and rear pitched roof.

Application reference: 2021/39391

Location: 62, GIG LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4EE

Description of development: Householder - Proposed single storey ground floor front and rear extensions

Application reference: 2021/39369

Location: 129, HILLOCK LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4PJ

Description of development: Householder - Two storey side & rear extension

Application reference: 2021/39340

Location: 9, DAM LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4HH

Description of development: Householder - Proposed Two storey extension to side & rear

Application reference: 2021/39239

Location: 82, POULTON CRESCENT, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QP

Description of development: Householder - Proposed installation of a glass lean-to at the rear of property.

Applications to approve action taken:

Application reference: 2021/39274

Location: THE YARD, NEW CUT LANE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AG

Description of development: Full Planning - Erection of new unit

Woolston Parish Council supports the residents of Greymist Avenue, Bridge Lane and Manchester Road in objecting to planning application 2021/39274. The proposed workshop is considered to look unsightly and will increase noise from the site used for cleaning and maintaining the large grab wagons and concrete wagons that use the site which is meant to be for storage only. The local residents report that the owners of this site constantly blight their lives and working in breach of existing planning conditions for the site.

Resolved,

That

1. the objection submitted in respect of application 2021/39274, The Yard, New Cut Lane be confirmed;
2. no comments be made in respect of the other applications listed.

C21 Business raised by Council Members

No matters to report.

C22 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4549	15/5/21	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M2 May 2021	
4550	26/5/21	Max Spielman (Clerk)	0.00	15.20	Printing and frames recognition of service	
4551	26/5/21	Post Office (Clerk)	0.00	3.23	Postages	
4552	26/5/21	Microsoft Operations Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	79.99	Microsoft 365 2021-22	
4553	26/5/21	Amazon plc (Clerk)	0.00	85.44	Printing toner	
4554	26/5/21	Woolston Church of the Ascension	0.00	50.00	Hire of hall 26 May 2021	

APPENDIX

Woolston May 2021 - Monthly Parish report

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

17 Youths (8), environmental (5), personal (4)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic, Covid issues

Burglary

0 Dwelling

2 Other Business

Criminal Damage

3 1x attempt; 1x business related

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle Number plates

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
- 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 – week long 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 – 28 Apr Hillock Lane – No activations

- Speed monitoring – 8 May Gig Lane – 20 min period less than 20 vehicles, max 26mph
- Spate of window damages across Warrington, investigation includes locations in Woolston
<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/news/cheshire/news/appeals/2021/3/police-investigating-spate-of-damages-to-windows-in-warrington/>

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/>

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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/>

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

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.....