

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

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)
Councillors: M Czekalski, A McCarthy, P Smith, D Nowell, M Pearce,
S Rydzkowski, R Tynan

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

C60 Appointment of Chairman

Resolved,

That in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillor Banner be appointed as Chairman of this meeting.

C61 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting.

C62 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C63 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Greenslade, MH Greenslade, AJ Hill and D Hill through illness.

C64 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C65 Policing of Woolston

– Warrington Working Together event 2 November 2023

Neighbourhood Sergeant Gulam attended the meeting, with PCSO Roberts, and he gave a report on action arising from the Warrington Working Together event held on 2 November 2023 in the Woolston Church of the Ascension. Warrington Borough Council had also been represented at the event.

The event had been hosted by Cheshire Police in response to requests the community had made at a recent Working Together event held in Warrington convened by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The event had been publicised by the parish council and was well attended by residents. Officers from Cheshire Police and the Borough Council responded to

questions from residents regarding the use by the Home Office of the Holiday Inn for people seeking asylum in the country and other issues relating to Woolston.

Sgt. Gulam reported that over 80 people had given feedback on issues of concern and further reports had been received after the event. A response had been given to each incident reported. There had been an increase in the number of patrols in the area since the event.

The need to report incidents to the Police was emphasised to allow any necessary action to be prioritised. It was noted that following a request from the Council, Cheshire Police and Warrington BC had provided a joint response on how to report a crime, incident or suspicion together with other information. This had been published on the local media site and by the Council:

Resolved,

That Cheshire Police be thanked for their action in hosting the event and the action taken in response to incidents reported and the concerns of residents continue to be monitored by the Council.

– community liaison report

The Council considered the monthly reports for October and November 2023:

Resolved,

That the monthly reports for October and November 2023 be noted.

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

C66 Holiday Inn – use by the Home Office

Further to Minute C51 – 11 October 2023, the Clerk reported the responses from Warrington Borough Council, Charolotte Nichols MP (Warrington North), Andy Carter MP (Warrington South), the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and the Home Office to the questions raised by residents relating to the use by the Home Office for accommodating persons seeking asylum in this country.

The Borough Council's Head of Strategic Support and Communities had attended the event on 2 November 2023 hosted by the Police and reported the information provided to the Council in response to questions from residents in addition to other questions from the those attending. This included the representations and objections made by the Borough Council to the Home Office when consulted on the proposed use. The Borough Council liaised with both Members of Parliament, Cheshire Police and health agencies amongst others on the effects of the use made of the accommodation.

The Council noted the information in the national media on proposals by the Government relating to the use of hotel accommodation and generally on the issue of persons seeking asylum:

Resolved,

That the response be noted and the use made of this accommodation continue to be monitored in liaison with Cheshire Police and Warrington Borough Council.

C67 Matters of report from previous minutes

No matters to report.

C68 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

Councillor Tynan

1. The Borough Council had reinstated the bus shelter on the A57 Manchester Road, adjacent to the junction with Laburnum Avenue;

2. Representations had been to officers on the procedures for the installation of telecommunications masts.

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 roads adjacent to schools – no information to report.

Resolved,

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

C69 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

(1) Environment and Amenities Committee

1. Parish Path Warden scheme – condition report

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

- New Cut towpath – palisade fencing leaning over the path; wall of soil collapsing over the path. Noted that vegetation had been cut back on lengths of the path.
- Thelwall Lane to Woolston Eyes – that the Peak and Northern Footpath Society be requested to provide information on paths in this area.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

2. Martinscroft Green – recreational use and maintenance of trees

Further to Minute C54(1)2. – 11 October 2023 it was noted that a date had not yet been offered for a site meeting with the arboricultural consultant.

3. Development of “Old Billy” scheme

Further to Minute C54(1) 3. – 11 October 2023, the Clerk reported that work was proceeding with the illustrator of the Old Billy book in using images for the signs along the New Cut canal. These were expected to be received during December 2023 and the scheme could then proceed to approval by the Council for consultation with outside bodies to be partners to the scheme. Councillor Rydzkowski reported that information had been provided to the Poulton with Fearnhead parish council on the scheme. The Council considered action to avoid delay in the implementation of the scheme:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted;
2. details of the scheme and the proposed signs be supplied to members, the Poulton with Fearnhead parish council and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group;
3. to avoid delay, the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the implementation of the scheme in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance and General Committee, subject to there being no unresolved issues after considering the results of consultation.

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

4. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park – representations to the Borough Council

Further to Minute C54(1)5. – 11 October 2023, the Clerk reported that no further response had been received to the representations made to the Borough Council on the provision of a replacement facility.

A request had been received from the Friends of Woolston Park group to support the repairs proposed to the Ranger Cabin by allocating the grant from the Council for 2023/24 to this work. Councillor Smith gave details of the works proposed and the allocation of £500 of the Group's resources to assist in meeting the estimated cost of materials of £2000. Bruche Athletic JFC has set up a Just Giving appeal and further fundraising is planned. The current proposal was that members of both groups would combine to make the repairs. The Group had held a meeting on 20 November 2023 with the Environment Services Manager of the Borough Council also attended by the Chairman of Bruche Athletic JFC. Whilst being very sympathetic to concerns expressed it was requested that no work should proceed until internal discussions at the Borough Council had been held and a suitable solution agreed. The proposed repair programme was likely to extend into 2024/25 and a similar request for funding may be made by the FoWP group during the next financial year:

Resolved,

That

1. the report regarding the response from the Borough Council be noted and further consideration be given at the next meeting;
2. the request from the FoWP group for the budget provision in 2023/24 of £500 allocated to support their activities being applied towards repairs to the Ranger Cabin be approved and, if necessary, to this amount being carried forward and earmarked as a scheme in 2024/25.

5. Woolston Eyes Conservation area – access and facilities

No further information received (Minute C541(1) 6. – 11 October 2023).

6. Battery Lane Allotment site – entrance gate and site security

Further to Minute C54(1)7. – 11 October 2023, the Clerk reported on consultation with representatives of the Battery Lane Allotment Association on the information provided by Warrington BC. The representatives were satisfied with the options used by the Borough Council at their allotment sites and had requested that the new gate be installed as soon as possible:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be accepted;
2. to avoid delay the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance and General Committee, be authorised to proceed with the provision of a new gate using a contractor approved for this type of work by the Borough Council.

7. Christmas tree 2023

The Clerk reported on the provision of the annual Christmas tree to be sited on A57 Manchester Road/Weir Lane following notification from the Borough Council that this could not be supplied. An alternative contractor had been identified from those used by other parish councils:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted and approval be given to the appointment of an alternative contractor.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Covid 19 pandemic

The Clerk reported and the Council noted current Government guidance on the conduct of council business during the Coronavirus pandemic.

2. Management Accounts 2023/24 - April to June and July to September 2023

The Clerk submitted the Management Accounts for the quarterly periods ending June and September 2023:

Resolved,

That the Management Accounts for the quarterly periods ending June and September 2023 be accepted.

3. Development of Capital and Revenue Budget for 2024/25

The Council considered the development of the budget for 2024/25

Resolved,

That the budget for 2024/25 be prepared on a no growth basis.

4. Annual Service of Remembrance - review of arrangements for 2023 and planning of event in 2024

The Council reviewed the organisation and arrangements for the service held on Sunday 12 November 2023.

The Council had agreed to undertake the role of organiser for the service in consultation with the Woolston Church of the Ascension and the local Royal British Legion representative. The Council had also agreed to the continued use of the tiled surface for the event provided through the Borough Council for the area used by the public adjacent to the memorial. A review of this year's event was to be carried out with the Church and RBL representatives:

Resolved,

That

1. approval be given for the Council to undertake the role of organiser for the 2025 service in consultation with the Woolston Church of the Ascension and the local RBL representative;
2. approval be given to the continued use of the tiled surface or similar for the event area used by the public adjacent to the memorial;
3. a report be given following a review of the 2023 event including the type of public address system.

5. Register of Members' interests – publication of information

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had revised the form for the declaration of information and members were asked to consider if any changes were required to their current information:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

6. 2023/24 Local Government Services Pay Agreement

The Clerk reported notification from the National Association of Local Councils of the 2023/24 Local Government Services Pay Agreement effective from April 2023:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the implementation of the agreement.

7. Applications for grant aid **– provision of defibrillator**

Further to Minute C54(2)7. – 11 October 2023 the Council considered information provided by Councillor Smith on the location of defibrillators in Woolston with public access, using information obtained from the www.debfinder.uk website:

Resolved,

That, having regard to the information provided, support be not given at this time to the provision of further defibrillators.

– other applications

No further applications to consider.

C70 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 – 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:
Maintenance of the park environment
 - Regular Monday work days involving: litter picking, cut back of hedges, trimming of bushes, weeding and maintenance of flower beds
 - Cleaning and maintenance of bird boxes
 - Maintenance of the Jubilee Garden, including clearance of mud from paths and the cleaning of brickwork
 - Clearance of verges the full length of the park access road to Somerset Way by two asylum seekers (based at the Holiday Inn)Maintenance of Ranger Cabin
 - Repair to the front door of the Ranger Cabin to strengthen the lower quarter which had suffered damage from water ingress
 - Repair to one of the changing room windows
 - Assessment of the Ranger Cabin external condition and estimate of the cost of repairs
 - Meeting with Warrington Borough Council Environment Services Manager jointly with the Chair of Bruche Athletic on 20 November 2023 to discuss proposals to repair the Ranger Cabin. Details reported separately in a letter from the Chairman of the FoWP group.Engagement with young people
 - A Young Friends event was held on 14 October to make lanterns from pumpkins.
 - A Young Friends event was held on 18 November to make Christmas wreaths.
 - Weekly visits from students and teachers from Fox Wood special needs school to litter pick have continued

Anti-social behaviour

- There has been an increased use of waste bins in the park to deposit domestic waste
- Fly-tipping of paint and soil was discovered and recovered on 14 October
- Fly-tipping of a fridge freezer and a commercial safe was discovered and recovered/ reported on 27 November

Volunteer hours delivered in 2023

- A total of approximately 1770 hours were logged by the FoWP group and other contributing groups during 2023

Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell – no meeting held and no date announced..

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C71 Correspondence – consultation and information

- Identifying activities for vulnerable young people

The Council noted information from the Police and Crime Commissioner on an audit of community sport and physical activity provision for vulnerable young people in Cheshire who are at risk of exposure to violence and/or exploitation. The information would be used to map existing provision and to identify where gaps exist.

C72 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		
2022/41289	Land to rear of 48-58 Cliftonville Road	Change of use of land to enable the siting of storage containers to be used as self storage units. Please see details below.
FULL PLANNING-HOUSEHOLDER (HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT)		
2023/01262/FULH	3 Fitzwalter Road	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch

PART16(CLASS A) PRIOR APPROVAL FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2023/01106/PA16A	Grass verge at Holes Lane WA1 4NE	Proposed telecommunications and associated works
		To report an objection made by a resident.
SECTION 192 CERTIFICATE FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
2023/01220/CLDP	24 Dam Lane	Proposed rear dormer loft conversion and garden annexe
2023/01350/CLDP	138 Cliftonville Road	Proposed single storey side extension
PLANNING DECISIONS		
None to report		
PLANNING APPEALS		
None to report		

Details of the objection made by the Council to application 2022/41289 - Land to the rear of 48-58 Cliftonville Road were reported together with an amended drawing JG1C that had been submitted by the applicant to the Borough Council.

The Borough Council has asked if the Council intends to maintain the objection made; if so the application will be reported to the Development Management Committee for determination

The Council noted that Councillor Tynan was assisting a resident by contacting officers relating to proposed telecommunication and associated works in the grass verge at Holes Lane:

Resolved,

That

- 1.the Council's objection to application 2022/41289 - Land to the rear of 48-58 Cliftonville Road be maintained;
2. no comments be made in respect of the other applications listed.

C73 Business raised by Council Members **– Carbon Literacy Training**

Councillor Nowell reported that places were available for parish councillors and clerks for free training on carbon literacy:

Resolved,
That approval be given to the Council registering its interest.

– New Cut Lane – enforcement of waiting restrictions

Councillor McCarthy reported on the obstruction of the access to the Community Household Waste site by parked vehicles:

Resolved,
That Councillor Tynan be asked to request enforcement action by the Borough Council.

– Sainsbury's Local Store Manchester Road

Councillor Nowell reported on community safety issues relating to deliveries by HGV articulated vehicles to the store and considered that there was a need to improve signage:

Resolved,
That consideration be given to the need for additional signage.

C74 Accounts

Resolved,
That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4710	16/10/23	Employee1	0.00	517.16	M7 October 2023	
4711	16/10/23	Post Office Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	7.35	Certificate and posting Home Office	
4712	16/10/23	Amazon.co.uk	0.00	44.99	Toner cartridge	
4713	15//11/23	Employee 1	0.00	413.76	M8 November 2023	
4714	23/11/23	Evans Cycles (Clerk)	0.00	14.99	Chain gate lock – allotments	

4715	23/11/23	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (Clerk)	0.00	40.00	Wreath Remembrance Service	
4716	23/11/23	Costco Wholesale UK Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	20.38	Stationery	

APPENDIX

Woolston October 2023 - Monthly Parish report

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam
Neighbourhood Officer PC Anthony Murphy
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

Anti Social Behaviour

5 Youths (0), environmental (4), personal (1)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

1 Dwelling

0 Other

Criminal Damage

4 2x vehicle; 2x building/fencing

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle Business premises

0 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Speeding monitoring Gig Lane – 28/09/23 – 17 vehicles in 20min observation period, range 13 to 28mph
- Speeding monitoring Hillock lane – 28/09/23 – 37 vehicles in 15min observation period, range 18 to 32mph (2 vehicles above 30mph)
- Community Surgery held at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub 7 Oct
- 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)
- 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>
- 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

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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 fayre St Peters Primary; Summer safety input Woolston CE Primary

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

Face to face drop-in surgeries – dates to be confirmed

Woolston November 2023 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam

Neighbourhood Officer PC Anthony Murphy

PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti Social Behaviour

5 Youths (1), environmental (4), personal (0)

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

0 Dwelling

1 Other - attempt (out building)

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Criminal Damage

8 4x vehicle; 2x building/fencing; 2x fire

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

2 Theft from vehicle (parts/goods)

OTHER

- PCSO Mobile surgery with Safer Streets van 10 Nov
- Community Surgery/Op Sceptre held at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub 14 Nov
- St Peters Primary – Meet the Police with Foundation year group
- Op Sceptre week, we have conducted knife sweeps and taken the surrender bin out across Warrington East [Cheshire Police tackle knife crime and street robbery in national week of action | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- Speeding complaints Dam Lane, Berkshire Drive, Longbarn Lane – suggest Parish Council contact WBC Highways for review of signage/markings, consideration of speed monitoring ribbons and subsequent review of data/information
- Longbarn Lane/Kingsland Grange footpath – request review by WBC for barriers/signage

- For further information and how to download the Hollie Guard App [Cheshire Constabulary and The Hollie Gazzard Trust working together to keep people safe across Cheshire | Cheshire Constabulary](#)
- 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)
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Chairman.....