

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON MISSION, WARREN LANE, WOOLSTON ON 2 MARCH 2022

Present: Councillor M Banner (Chairman)
Councillors: J Dixon, D Hill, D Nowell, J Greenslade,
M Pearce

Apologies for absence: Councillors MH Greenslade, AJ Hill, A McCarthy,
S Rydzkowski

C78 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman expressed her sincere sympathy for the people of the Ukraine at this time and members joined in giving their support.

C79 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C80 Apologies for absence

The Clerk reported and the Council noted apologies for absence from Councillor AJ Hill, from Councillors MH Greenslade and McCarthy through ill health and Councillor Rydzkowski on Borough Council business.

C81 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C82 Matters of report from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

C83 East Ward – casual vacancies

- recognition of service

Further to the resignation from the Council reported to the last meeting members agreed to record their appreciation of the many years service given by Mrs P Wright as a member of the parish council and the wish that she continues her recovery to good health. The Chairman reported that she had presented a gift to Mrs Wright on behalf of the Council.

The Council also recorded their thanks to Mr P Eastty for his service as a member since May 2021 and noted that he would continue in his role as a Borough Ward Councillor for Rixton and Woolston.

- filling of casual vacancies by election

The Council noted that a request had been received by the Returning Officer of the Borough Council for the two vacancies in the East Ward to be filled by election. Notice of Election was to be given by the Returning Officer on 3 March 2022.

The Returning Officer had approved a change of polling place from the mobile unit at Runnymede to Woolston Social Club at Manchester Road for polling district NVD.

The Borough Ward Councillors had been consulted and no objections were raised. Notice was to be given to each household in the polling district of the change. The Council was asked to consider the issue of poll cards to electors at these elections. At programmed elections these were usually a combined poll card with the Borough Council elections and the cost would be shared. The Council noted details of the draft fees and that agreement had previously been given to the option to repay election costs over a four-year period:

Resolved,

That

1. the filling of the vacancies by election be noted;
2. no objection be made to the change of polling place to Woolston Social Club having regard to the reasons provided including the notice to be given by the Returning Officer in advance of the elections;
3. approval be given to the issue of poll cards to electors for these elections;
4. the option to repay the Borough Council the election costs over a four-year period be accepted.

C84 Policing of Woolston – community liaison report

The Council received a report on the policing of Woolston for February 2022. The Council had been informed by the Police that an officer was not available to attend the meeting and had requested that any comments or questions be reported to them for action:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

(Please see appendix for reports).

C85 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 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).

Details of matters since the last meeting:

- Assistance to residents of Hillock Lane was continuing on management issues with Torus, the landlord.
- Dam Lane – assistance to residents was continuing on the matters raised at the Council meeting held on 26 January 2022.
- Gig Lane – issue raised with officers regarding the concrete triangular barriers at the entrance to the Grange Employment area. It was noted that a scheme drafted by the Borough Council to improve this route had not been implemented.
- Bowfell Grove – request from a resident to support the relaxing of a Tree Preservation Order relating to a tree in the rear garden. It was suggested that background information be sought from Councillor McCarthy on this request.
- Complaints had been made by residents of Poulton Crescent regarding the lack of maintenance to the former play area and for the hedges to be cut down.
- Abingdon Avenue – the Borough Council had been requested to give an explanation why some parts of the highway had been resurfaced and others in a poor condition not.

C86 Committee matters
(1) Environment and Amenities Committee
(a) Parish Path Warden scheme

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

- Fallen trees had been removed from paths.
- Unrecorded rights of way – the government had announced that the deadline of 1 January 2026 to formally register on the definitive map unrecorded rights of way over private land created before 1949 was to be removed.

Resolved,
That the report be noted.

(b) Facilities for Young People – development of scheme

Further to Minute C72(b) – 26 January 2022, the Council received reports from Councillor Dixon and the Clerk on a meeting held on 2 March 2022 at Kings Leadership Academy with the Bursar and Operations Manager to discuss the request to the school for assistance in progressing schemes to provide facilities for young people in the community, including consultation with young people.

The Clerk reported the response from the Bursar and Operations Manager on the outcome of the meeting:

I would just like to summarise the school's potential involvement in your plans.
- once questions have been received we would carry out a survey with our years 7-9, the results of which would be passed to yourself/Councillor Dixon.
- from the outcome of the survey a small number of suggested activities would be offered to children in years 7 -9 which live in Woolston and/or attend King's Leadership Academy. Potentially at the May half term.
- King's Leadership Academy would provide the use of the premises for activities during times when they are currently not in use by the school or other organisations who hire the facilities. This could be evenings or daytime during school holidays.
We are keen to be involved in this initiative as we recognise that there is a distinct lack of facilities and activities for children in the Woolston area.

Resolved,
That,

1. the very positive response from you setting out the school's potential involvement in the initiative for young people be welcomed;
2. approval be given to the proposed way forward as outlined and details of the draft survey questions be sent to the school for comment;
3. a copy the final draft be sent to the Council members for their information/comments;
4. contact be made with the Police, initially through PCSO Bethan Roberts, and the Borough Council's Outreach Team so that both bodies are aware of the initiative and to allow them the opportunity to comment or make an input;
5. the aim be to report the survey results and options for schemes to the next Council meeting on 27 April 2020.

(c) Woolston Eyes – viewing platform

Councillor Nowell reported the construction of a viewing platform on the Woolston Eyes and asked that the Borough Council be requested to advise if planning permission was required for the structure:

Resolved,

That the Borough Council be asked to advise on this matter.

(d) Woolston Weir – Hydropol scheme, Weir Lane - update

The Clerk reported further to Minute C72(e) – 26 January 2022, that the Project Coordinator for Hydropol had been asked for a progress report on the reinstatement works to the viewing area and generally on the completion of the scheme but that no reply had been received:

Resolved,

That a further request be made for an update.

(e) Development of “Old Billy” scheme – design and cost of interpretative signage

Further to Minute C72(f) – 26 January 2022, the Clerk reported that Culture Warrington had provided a progress report on the scheme. A designer/illustrator was working on a draft for the interpretive signs to be sited on the towpath and the information sign to be sited at the Weir Lane viewing area. Consultation on the scheme would proceed when further details were received from Culture Warrington on the cost and design of the signage.

No further meeting of officers had been convened by the Borough Council to discuss a revised bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund relating to “Old Billy”:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

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

No further information to report. (Minute C44 1(d) 8 September 2021 refers).

(g) Battery Lane – repairs to surface by the Borough Council

The Clerk reported and the Council noted that the Borough Council had undertaken repairs by filling potholes to the road surface and confirmation had been received that further work was to be carried out.

(2) Finance and General Committee

(a) Conduct of council meetings and business during the period of the Coronavirus pandemic

The Council reviewed the arrangements for meetings having regard to current Government Covid 19 guidance. Consideration was given to a suitable venue for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the same date as the next Council meeting:

Resolved,
That the Clerk review the options for holding meetings in consultation with the Chairman.

(b) Annual review of procedures and documents

The Clerk reported on the annual review of procedures and documents:

Resolved,

That the following procedures and documents be approved:

- a. Financial Regulations.
- b. Standing Orders.
- c. Risk Assessment.
- d. Review of adequacy of insurance arrangements
- e. Fixed Asset Register.
- f. Complaints procedure.
- g. Procedure for handling complaints under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the General Data Protection Policy.
- h. Procedure for dealing with the press/media.
- i. The Code of Conduct.
- j. Rates of pay and review of employee contract.
- k. Retention of documents and combined data protection and security policy.

(d) Applications for grant aid

Councillor J Greenslade reported on the activities and assistance given by local bodies during the Covid pandemic and asked that recognition be given by making a grant:

Resolved,

That a grant of £50 be made to the following - Woolston Church of the Ascension, St Martin's Methodist Church, SS Peter and Michael RC Church, the Friends of Woolston Park and the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail group for their work in supporting the community during the covid pandemic.

(e) Report on action under the scheme of delegation

The Council noted that no decisions had been required under the scheme of delegation approved for undertaking business during the Covid 19 pandemic since the last meeting (Minute C31(2)(d) refers).

C87 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 – a meeting of the group had been held on Monday and information would be sent to members. Information was published by the group on their website. Future meetings would be held quarterly.
- Friends of Woolston Park group – report by Councillor Pearce:

24 January 2022 - Work Day

The work was mostly litter picking and generally tidying up around the car park and other areas.

31 January 2022 – Work Day

More litter picking throughout the park with our dedicated volunteers who we should all thank very much; not just for litter picking, they cover endless tasks. We couldn't manage without them.

At most work days we try to discuss what can be achieved in the months ahead. One idea discussed was how to make the Young Friends monthly visit interesting and a suggestion was put forward for our regular FOWP handyman to teach them how to make individual walking sticks from scratch using wood already in the park. Another idea discussed previously was to have a safer bird feeding area close by. One of the new volunteers has donated a nice squirrel proof bird seed feeder. This is now in use.

7 February 2022 – Work Day

As usual each Monday the usual weekly tasks our volunteers do regularly was litter picking, clearing up broken glass, weeding to mention a few went ahead.

Since the meeting last week, the Chairman has provided a good strong post, now installed by our FOWP handyman. I'm pleased to say that post is the beginning of a bird feeding table. Bit by bit, the bird feeding area is coming along nicely.

12 February 2022 – YFOWP

The YFOWP project for this week certainly was something not attempted by them before. It was for them to make a walking stick. Fortunately, one of the FOWP volunteers is an excellent joiner. He attended this meeting and explained to the Young Friends in detail all the various stages beginning with choosing suitable wood. The wood used is Willow.

They were taught how to straighten the wood pieces in preparation of making the walking sticks. With help they cut their stems into the correct length and steamed them in a steamer, learnt how to straighten them, covering several stages. Once done they were ready to leave them to dry out completely for about a year. Their tutor had kindly brought enough sticks already fully dried out for them to be able to finish at their next meeting. They were asked to try and find a round coin preferably with their year of birth on it. The coin will be inserted in the wood handle next month. There were lots of smiling faces that morning and some photos were added to the Friends Facebook website.

14 February 2022 – Work Day

General regular tasks around the park as usual. I was very pleased to be involved with others to put up a lovely new bird feeder made by our excellent joiner who made it and put it up. It looks really nice and is complemented with snowdrops dotted around the area and other plants slowly coming up, so we need to watch where we walk so that they don't get trodden on.

21 February 2022 – Work Day

After the terrible strong gale-force winds over the last few days several of us walked around the park looking for damaged trees and shrubs. There's lots of debris throughout the parkland, several trees have torn branches but had mostly fallen where they can naturally rot down. One tree had fallen across a path, and we were able to cut back most of the branches and put the trunk out of harm's way. There is still one tree lodged across another tree in quite a dangerous position. This has been reported to the Council. It was still there on Saturday 26 February as I walked past it.

- Public Rights of Way Forum – no meeting held. Meeting expected to be held in April 2022.

Resolved,
That the reports be noted.

C88 Correspondence – consultation and information

– Police and Crime Commissioner – Stakeholder Bulletins

The Council noted the January and February 2022 bulletins from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

C89 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: 2022/40847

Location: 10, WESSEX CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4DD

Description of development: Retrospective change of use of land to garden and new fence.

Application reference: 2022/40976

Location: SUBWAY, 41, MANCHESTER ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4AE

Description of development: Retention of signage

Application reference: 2022/40963

Location: 6, KINGSLAND GRANGE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4RW

Description of development: Erection of new external lift shaft to front elevation.

Application reference: 2022/40901

Location: 29, Timberscombe Gardens, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4LT

Description of development: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH PITCHED ROOF

Application reference: 2022/40869

Location: 23, NOTTINGHAM CLOSE, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4QY

Description of development: Proposed part first floor side extension and part single storey, part two storey rear extension

Application reference: 2022/40914

Location: 191, MANCHESTER ROAD, WOOLSTON, WARRINGTON, WA1 4HL

Description of development: Proposed single storey rear extension measuring 4.613m to extend beyond the rear wall, height of 3.371m and height of the eaves to be 2.644m

Applications - update

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).

Update provided by the Borough Council on 22 February 2022

The application is still under consideration and will be reported to a future meeting of the Council’s Development Management Committee for decision. Further information has been requested from the applicant, in terms of the likely appearance of the proposed finished landform at the site and the need to raise the approved level of the site, so that we can complete our assessment of Green Belt impact.

Applications to approve action taken

None to report.

Resolved,

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

C90 Business raised by Council Members – Woolston Park – car park maintenance

Councillor J Greenslade reported on the need for maintenance of the car park to fill potholes:

Resolved,

That this be reported to the Borough Council.

C91 Date of next meeting

The Council considered the date of the next Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting:

Resolved,

That the meetings be held on Wednesday 27 April 2022, with the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7.30pm and the Council meeting at 7 45pm, or at the rising of the Annual Parish meeting, whichever is the later.

C92 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4588	8/02/22	Zurich Municipal	0.00	1396.91	Insurance renewal 2022-23	
4589	15/02/22	Employee 1	0.00	406.48	M11 February 2022	
4590	15/02/22	Timpson (Clerk)	0.00	30.00	Gate keys Allotment site	

4591	16/02/22	Church of the Ascension	0.00	40.00	Woolston Mission– room booking 2 March 2022	
4592	16/02/22	Amazon (Clerk)	0.00	92.97	Printing and stationery	
4593	16/02/22	Warrington BC	0.00	722.81	May 2021 elections - First annual payment of four	
4594	16/02/22	Church of the Ascension	0.00	50.00	Room hire 26 January 2022	
4595	02/03/22	Warrington BC	0.00	1914.00	Provision and installation of Christmas tree 2021	
4596	02/03/22	Clerk	0.00	3.29	Reimbursement of test payments – Unity bank	

**APPENDIX
Woolston**

February 2022 - Monthly Parish report

**Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Nathan Gulam
Neighbourhood Officer PC Naomi Burnell
PCSO Bethan Roberts**

Anti Social Behaviour

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

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

Burglary

1 Dwelling Reclassified not a burglary

2 Other Business premise (duplicate incidents)

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Criminal Damage

1 1x vehicle

Vehicle crime

0 Theft of vehicle

1 Theft from vehicle

OTHER

- Patrols continue covering various parks, shops, Woolston Hub Car park, Woolston Eyes & New Cut Canal Path
- Warrington Youth Club – outreach teams continue to work on our area particularly the park
- Operation Stay Safe – safeguarding operation across Warrington visiting parks and open spaces – officers patrolling areas in partnership with social care, health, outreach workers
- Operations conducted across Warrington in relation to retail and licensing premises.

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/>

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

Where commitments/shifts permit high vis patrols during start or dispersal periods around the various schools on our beat

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

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

Chairman.....

