

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB, HALL ROAD, WOOLSTON ON 17 JULY 2019**

**Present:** Councillor J Greenslade (Chairman)  
Councillors: M Banner, MH Greenslade, A Hill, D Hill, A McCarthy,  
D Nowell, M Pearce, S Rydzkowski

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors M Creaghan, B Maher, P Wright

### **C34 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**

No declarations were made at the opening of the meeting.

### **C35 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors M Creaghan and B Maher and P Wright who was recovering from illness:

Resolved,

That the apologies for absence be noted and the best wishes of the Council be sent to Councillor Wright for a speedy recovery.

### **C36 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2019 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### **C37 Matters of report from the previous meeting**

There were no matters to report.

### **C38 Representations from members of the public - Nuisance caused by Lesser Black-backed Gulls**

The Council gave consideration to written representations regarding the problems being caused by the large Lesser Black-backed Gulls that have been breeding for several years on the roof of units on the Grange Employment Area. These had been received from the Warrington Nature Conservation Forum and a local resident. Residents also attended the meeting to make representations in person. The points raised by them are summarised below:

- Concern over the lack of effective action by the Borough Council over several years to rid the area of the gulls.
- Numbers of nesting gulls is increasing year on year because of no effective control and this has increased the nuisance experienced.
- Lack of communication with residents by the Borough Council on what action is being taken to resolve the problem.
- Examples of nuisance caused included:
  - Noise nuisance, especially in the summer months from 4.00am disturbing the sleep of residents.

- Damage caused to homes, parked vehicles and washing put out to dry by droppings.
- Hazard to public health caused by the droppings.

Residents were informed by Borough Ward Councillors present at the meeting of the action taken by officers in seeking the support of occupiers and owners of the industrial units to prevent nesting. There appeared to have been little support to implement the recommendations regarding installing netting to protect the roofs from the gulls using them for nesting. It was stated that action was limited because of the gulls being a protected species; a position that may have changed because of the harm caused to birds on the Woolston Eyes SSSI site.

In view of this residents asked that measures known to be used by other local authorities be investigated e.g. a distress call from a public address system located in a multi-storey car park in Blackpool that appeared to be effective:

Resolved,

That support be given to the written representations made and the concerns expressed by residents and the Borough Council be asked to take urgent action to remedy the situation.

### **- nuisance caused by traveller encampments**

The Council heard representations from residents in respect of recent nuisance caused by unauthorised traveller encampments on land at the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub. They expressed their deep concern at the effect of these repeated encampments on the use of facilities at the Hub and on the area in general. Given the number of occasions when this has occurred residents requested that an explanation be supplied as to the lack of action when the likelihood of further incidents was known given the free access to the land that continued to be allowed.

Residents were also concerned at the repeated cost of clean ups and that of the administrative cost of the process involved in seeking removal of the encampments and loss of income to the Hub that by now could well have funded physical works to protect the site:

Resolved,

That the Borough Council and LiveWire CIC be asked to give urgent consideration to the installation of some form of physical barrier to prevent further unauthorised encampments at the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub.

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

The Council received a report on the policing of Woolston as set out below. PCSO Roberts had sent apologies for absence for the meeting:

#### **Woolston**

#### **July 2019 - Monthly Parish report**

**Beat Sergeant PS Stuart Gibbard**

**Beat Manager PC Alison Edwards**

**PCSO Bethan Roberts**

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

**14 Youths (3), environmental (3), personal (8)**

**Personal/environmental include neighbour issues, parking, domestic related issues**

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## **Burglary**

0 Dwelling

0 Other

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## **Criminal Damage**

3 1x vehicle, 1x business, 1x linked to another incident which has been detected

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## **Vehicle crime**

2 Theft of vehicle

0 Theft from vehicle

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## **OTHER**

- Detectives have appealed for witnesses to the armed robbery at One Stop, Dam Lane to get in touch if they have not done so already. They should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 453412, give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111  
<https://cheshire.police.uk/news-and-appeals/appeals/appeal-following-armed-robbery-at-warrington-convenience-store/>
- Parking around Woolston Park – Recently Monks Club held a charity rugby tournament & music festival whilst a football tournament was also held on Woolston Park – each arranged parking at local car parks, schools etc, marshalls to direct visitors and messages in advance about considerate parking. Officers were invited by organisers to attend and engage with youngsters at these events but spent most of the time dealing with parking – asking organisers to make announcements, talking with drivers/residents, issuing tickets. WBC Enforcement Teams were also asked to attend the area. Perhaps the Parish/Borough councils could ask organisers/club managers using Monks/Park to consider use of a pitch for overflow parking to reduce traffic congestion, and/or hire a field from the park like at Woolston Show?
- Shops – Patrols continue Dam Lane shops. Met with management agents and some of the business owners to discuss youth issues at location. Visibility to offer reassurance to staff and public following incident mentioned about

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5Cs guide to staying safe online:-

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/internet-safety-and-security/our-5cs-guide-to-staying-safe-online/>

Action Fraud

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Advice & information regarding risks of substance abuse available on FRANK:-

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

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## **Schools & other events**

Green Lane – visited Class 3 who have been learning about people who help them. Also attended parents evening to offer advice for anyone with concerns about internet safety

Woolston CE Primary – Summer Fayre; Yr5 have made bird feeders and distributed around the park to show they care about the park; invited to be a Secret Reader to Reception Class

Woolston CP – Summer Fayre

Padgate Walking Day – Woolston churches and schools were part of the procession

Warrington 10k Run – Approx 400 runners, well supported by all age groups around the course

Woolston Show – Pathways have confirmed attendance with their displays

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### **Surgery**

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at Woolston Hub – 18 Jul 11:00, 23 Jul 18:00, 2 Aug 18:00, 8 Aug 11:00, 13 Aug 18:00, 23 Aug 18:00, 28 Aug 11:00

Resolved,

That

1. the monthly report for July 2019 be noted;
2. given the serious nature of certain items contained in the report Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable be informed of the Council's concern at the lack of police attendance at the meeting.

### **C40 Borough Council business**

Borough Councillors Hill and McCarthy 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:

- Details of highway repairs as part of a 5 year programme.
- No waiting restrictions had been approved for New Cut Lane on the east side on the length approaching the household waste and recycling site.
- Following consideration of objections, the Development Management Committee had refused the planning application for a Sainsbury's local store on land at the junction of New Cut Lane and Hawthorne Avenue.
- Further representations had been made for the replacement of the waste bin on Dam Lane adjacent to the Church of the Ascension.
- The house owner had cut back the hedge adjacent to the highway at Dam Lane/Warren Lane.
- The Borough Council was to cut back the length of hedge along Gig Lane.
- Reports from residents of pot-holes in the highway and issues with trees had been reported to the Borough Council.

### **C41 Committee reports and recommendations** **- Environment and Amenities Committee**

Councillor MH Greenslade reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 17 July 2019 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That the recommendations be approved and the proceedings be noted.

## **- Finance and General Amenities Committee**

Councillor McCarthy reported on matters considered at the meeting held on 17 July 2019 and the Council gave consideration to the recommendations made:

Resolved,

That the recommendations be approved and the proceedings be noted.

## **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 reported on the work of the group. The group had held an event on 16 July 2019 to mark the completion of the flood defence scheme in Woolston and to celebrate the plaque sited at the Weir Lane viewing area to “Old Billy”.

Friends of Woolston Park – Councillor MH Greenslade reported on the draft minutes of the last Group meeting. A report had been given that the Neighbourhood Team was unable to support this year’s Show. This would result in the Group having to take on additional responsibilities for the event. The Borough Council officers had been asked to urgently clarify the situation. It was agreed that depending on the outcome of the discussions, representations be made to Councillor Higgins, Cabinet member for Leisure and Communities in support of the Group.

Public Rights of Way Forum – no report.

Summer Heritage meeting 11 July 2019 - Councillor J Greenslade submitted a report on the event.

## **C43 Correspondence – consultation and information** **– Royal British Legion lamp post poppies**

The Clerk reported a proposal from a resident to promote the use of poppies supplied by the Royal British Legion. It was noted that the approval of the Borough Council would be required to the siting of the poppies on their property and the resident had undertaken to consult local members of the Royal British Legion. Proposals were being considered for the funding of this scheme and the Council was asked to give its support:

Resolved,

That support be given in principle to the proposal subject to the comments of the organisations to be consulted.

## **C44 Planning Applications and decisions**

No relevant planning applications to consider.

## **C45 Business raised by Members**

No matters to report.

## **C46 Payment of 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>
4438	17/07/19	Warrington East Scouts	0.00	100.00	Grant - visit to Gdansk 2020	Yes
4439	17/07/19	Councillor J Greenslade	0.00	500.00	Chairman's allowance 2019/20	
4440	17/07/19	Employee 1	0.00	358.18	M4 July 2019	
4441	17/07/19	JDH Business Services Ltd	0.00	1194.00	Internal Audit 2018/19 and accounting services	
4442	17/07/19	Warrington Borough Council	0.00	2146.00	Warrington East by election	
4443	17/07/19	Information Commissioners Office (Clerk)	0.00	40.00	Registration fee 2019/20	
DD	17/07/19	British Telecom plc	0.00	47.16	Broadband service 4828 July 2019	

Chairman.....