

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE WOOLSTON CHURCH OF ASCENSION, WARREN LANE, WOOLSTON ON 28 APRIL 2026

Present: Councillor C Wilcock (Chairman)

Councillors: M Banner, N Khan, H Klein, D Nowell, G Rushby, S Rydzkowski, L Sheridan, D Warren

Apologies for absence: Councillors C Kilgannon, R Tynan

C149 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Councillor Tynan was away on holiday and had submitted his apologies for absence.

C150 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C151 Apologies for absence

The Council noted the apologies for absence from Councillors C Kilgannon and R Tynan.

C152 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2026 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C153 Policing of Woolston

The Clerk reported that for operational reasons an officer could not attend the meeting. The Council considered the monthly report for April 2026:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

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

C154 Co-option of members

Further to Minute C139 – 31 March 2026, the Clerk reported that no applications had been received by the closing date of 24 April 2026:

Resolved,

That notice be given of the vacancy in the East Ward and applicants be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council.

C155 Matters of report from previous minutes – Bus Service No.4

Further to Minutes C130 24 February and C146 31 March 2026 the Clerk reported the response from Warrington's Own Buses to concerns raised in respect of Bus Service 4 (Town Centre to Dam Lane). The company advised that a Sunday Service 4 had not operated for a number of years and confirmed that there were currently no plans to withdraw the service:

Resolved,

That the response be noted and shared with those who had raised concerns.

C156 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
No items to report.
2. Matters raised with the Borough Council
 1. Borough Council review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane – no further information to report.
 2. A57 Manchester Road – construction of a new pedestrian island on Manchester Road just to the west of the junction with Weir Lane and request to remove the tactile surface from the dropped crossings on A57 Manchester Road on the grounds of road safety. These indicated a crossing point for persons with disabilities and the proposed improvements had not been implemented. The introduction of a pedestrian island was under consideration by the officers – Councillor Sheridan reported that the Borough Council officers had informed him that the scheme had been added to the list of Risk Assessments.
 3. Consultation by the Borough Council on the future of Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
 - 3.1 Progress report on consultation with the Borough Council – no information to report.
 - 3.2 Asset of Community Value nomination – The Borough Council had confirmed that the application had been received and that the officers were in the process of reviewing it. In terms of timescales, if after the initial review it was deemed to be a valid application, the Council had 8 weeks from that date in which to decide whether to nominate the land / property as an asset of community value.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

C157 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 inspections made of public footpaths including:

- Giant Hogweed had been sprayed to clear it from the path by Peel Holdings on the route from Woolston Weir to the Manchester Ship Canal. It was noted that the areas adjacent to the path were not treated.
- Repair works had commenced to the path on the New Cut Trail with the provision of replacement timber edging baton on some lengths.
- Giant Hogweed was identified on the New Cut Trail and the adjacent public open spaces.

Resolved,
That

1. the report be accepted;
2. Councillor Sheridan be requested to make representations to the Borough Council on the need to clear Giant Hogweed from the New Cut Trail and adjacent public open spaces.

2. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park

The Council noted that there was no further information to report on repairs to the Ranger Cabin.

3. Woolston Playing Fields – proposed improvement scheme

Further to Minute C142 (1) 1. - 31 March 2026 the Clerk reported that the developer, DW Homes had agreed to convene a meeting on 8 April 2026 with the Borough Council to discuss the implementation of the proposed S106 works to create additional spaces on the car park. The Borough Council's representative had agreed in principle to include the car park works with those to be carried out at Woolston Playing Fields as part of the proposed development scheme. This was subject to further consultation with other officers and DW Homes. In the event that agreement was not reached on this preferred arrangement, DW Homes had undertaken to complete the scheme in accordance with the planning conditions:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted and further consideration given following the determination of the planning application and related conditions.

4. Battery Lane Allotment Site – management matters

The Council noted that the Battery Lane Allotment Association had requested the installation of boundary fencing at the entrance to the site to improve security following the installation of replacement entrance gates. A further report would be made on proposed works:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Banking arrangements – introduction of online facilities

Further to Minute C142(2) 1. – 31 March 2026 the Clerk reported that National Westminster Bank had advised of additional information needed from each signatory for the online application. The current authorised signatories were requested to provide the required information:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

2. Implementation of the new Council website

Further to Minute C142(2) 3. – 31 March 2026, the Clerk reported that the company were providing support for the website until the administration training was provided:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

3. Parish Council initiative – liaison with local schools – presentation to Woolston Community Primary School

Further to Minute C142(2) 4. – 31 March 2026, Councillor Rushby reported on the presentation to Years 5 and 6 on 16 April with Councillor Banner. A copy of the slide presentation was provided to members. This gave information on the Borough of Warrington and the roles of the two Members of Parliament, the Borough Council and Borough Councillors and the 18 parish and town councils. This also included details of the involvement of the Council with local bodies in Woolston including the provision of sports pitches at Woolston Playing Fields and allotments.

Both members were impressed with the good behaviour shown by the children and the interesting questions from them. Children from the school had been involved in the campaign to save Woolston Neighbourhood Hub. They were sorry for the loss of the visits to the library and for having to travel to Orford Neighbourhood Hub for their swimming lessons. A number had taken part in the presentation of their representations for the centre to be reopened made to the Borough Council at the Town Hall. Details were given of the representations made by the Council and the liaison with the Save the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub group in their valuable work. The Headteacher, Mr. C Burgess, had given his full support to the initiative:

Resolved,

That Councillor Rushby be thanked for proposing the initiative and his work in creating the presentation and to both members in making the presentation.

4. Applications for grant aid

No applications to consider.

C158 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 Rydzkowski reported that no monthly meeting had been held. Monthly surveys were continuing. Details were provided about coming events on the website.

Friends of Woolston Park group – Councillor Klein reported that the Chair of FOWP group was to provide a report on recent activities. It was agreed that this be included as an Appendix of the minutes.

Public Rights of Way Forum – Councillor Nowell. No meeting held.

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C159 Correspondence

–Cheshire and Warrington Combine Authority event 21 April 2026

The Council noted details from the Borough Council of an invitation to all parish councils to an event on 21 April and the Town Hall. This was to provide information on the Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority that was now formally established.

C160 Planning Applications and decisions

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

Application No: 2026/00421/FULH, the details of which are below:

Application Type: Full Planning (Householder) (Householder Development)

Location: 10 Battery Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4QF

Proposal: Conversion of Detached garage into Granny Annex Living Accommodation

Application No: 2026/00442/DISCON, the details of which are below:

Application Type: Discharge of Condition

Location: 38 Dam Lane, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4ER

Proposal: Discharge of condition 5 (Parking) on application 2026/00060 (House extension)

THIS NOTIFICATION IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Application No: 2026/00477/FUL, the details of which are below:

Application Type: Full Planning

Location: Wind In The Willows Childcare, WIND IN THE WILLOWS CHILDCARE

Gordon Avenue, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 3UJ

Proposal: The proposed change of use (with no building operations) of an existing building from Children's Day Nursery (Class E(f)) to Educational Use (Class F1) for a specialist provision supporting young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Application No: 2026/00483/FULH, the details of which are below:

Application Type: Full Planning (Householder) (Householder Development)

Location: 76 Linden Close, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4EW

Proposal: Proposed Two-Storey side extension to an existing semi-detached property

Notification of the following application was received on 28 April 2026 with a closing date for comments of 19 May 2026. The applicant has requested that the Council receive a presentation on the development.

Application No: 2026/00518/FUL, the details of which are below:

Application Type: Full Planning

Location: Land Adjacent Bridge Road, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4AT

Proposal: Construction of stand alone Industrial building, use class B8 of 530sq.m GIA, localised raising of site levels with associated hard and soft landscaping works and creation of turning head and shared cycle and pedestrian pathway linking Bridge Road and towpath.

Resolved,

That

1. consideration of Application No: 2026/00518/FUL and any representations be given at the meeting on 12 May 2026.
2. no representations be made in respect of the other applications listed for consideration at the meeting;
3. the report on changes announced to the consultation process on planning applications be noted.

C161 Business raised by Council Members – Borough Council expenditure on schemes

Councillor Klein reported on examples of expenditure by the Borough Council in a report to the Cabinet meeting on 13 April 2026 and in notice of road schemes instead of spending money on repairing the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub that provided benefits to residents. Members noted the process for the preparation of the Borough Council's budget for 2026-27, including the Envoys appointed by the Government:

Resolved,

That the Chairman, Borough Councillor Tynan, be requested to consider raising this matter with the Borough Council, including the Envoys.

C162 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount	Purpose	S137
4909	17/04/26	Zurich Municipal	0.00	1795.75	Annual premium 2026-27 (replaces 4879)	
4910	17/04/26	Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council	0.00	500.00	Grant in support of Padgate & Woolston Walking Day 2026	Yes
4911	28/04/26	Amazon.co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	70.89	Printing Toner 207A	
4912	28/04/26	Employee 1	0.00	462.43	M1 April 2026	
4913	28/04/26	Church of the Ascension	0.00	50.00	Meeting 28 April 2026	

C163 Date and venue of next meeting

The Council considered the venue for the next meeting given the continued closure of Woolston Neighbourhood Hub:

Resolved,

That the next meeting be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at the Church of the Ascension.

APPENDIX

Woolston March 2026 - Monthly Parish report

Neighbourhood Sergeant PS Ryan Cunliffe
Neighbourhood Officer PC David Reddington
PCSO Bethan Roberts

Anti Social Behaviour

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

Personal/environmental include neighbour, parking/traffic

Burglary

0 Dwelling

2 Other Business

Criminal Damage

1 Vehicle

Vehicle crime

1 Theft of vehicle

2 Theft from vehicle Business - HGVs

OTHER

- Speed enforcement – 14 Feb Gig Lane, observed 17 to 29mph
- Speed monitoring – 21 Feb Hillock Lane, observed 19 to 25mph
- Speed monitoring – 26 Feb Gig Lane, observed 18 to 30mph
- Speed monitoring – 4 Mar Hillock Lane, observed 19 to 26mph
-
- Operation Lawmaker rolls into Warrington and sees further arrests and illegal bikes seized | Cheshire Constabulary
Man charged in relation to vehicle thefts across Cheshire and Staffordshire | Cheshire Constabulary
- 50 wanted criminals rounded up as part of force-wide operation | Cheshire Constabulary
- Safer Internet Day 2026 - UK Safer Internet Centre
-
- 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)

- 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>
[What's On - Warrington Youth Zone](#)
- 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

.....

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/email

Online Reporting portal is available via the Cheshire Constabulary website to report certain crimes, incidents, issues:-

<https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

..... **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>

[Leave only pawprints | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/leave-only-pawprints)

WBC online reporting portal to report various issues including littering / flytipping:-

[Report and Apply | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/report-and-apply)

If you or someone you know needs advice and support regarding domestic abuse

<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/>

.....
Schools & other events

Woolston CP – Internet Safety

Foxwood School – Would You Risk It input

Surgery

Rixton & Woolston PCSO Surgery at St Martins Methodist Church, Gig Lane, Woolston
(car park if premises closed)

Dates/times subject to change due to operational commitments

Face to face drop-in surgeries – 14 Apr 1800 – 1900; 21 May 1130 – 1230; 10 Jun 1200 – 1300; 17 Jul 1500 – 1600

At Rixton with Glazebrook Community Hall community coffee morning

PCSO Surgery 1030 – 1130h on 20 Apr, 11 May, 22 Jun, 3 Aug

FRIENDS OF WOOLSTON PARK

MARCH AND APRIL REPORT

FOWP

Many of our members now have new fleeces and polo shirts. The support of the Parish Council is very much appreciated as this enabled us to purchase the quantity required to meet the needs of our membership.

Since January 26th we have now collected up until Monday 13th April 134 bags of litter as we have now started keeping records on what we have collected. This does not include any large items found on the Park. We have informed the Council when we have removed any fly tipping and they have been good enough to support us

Bird boxes made following us securing CAWOS (Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society) funding last year and these have been used to replace old worn out bird boxes that are fastly becoming unrepairable. We are currently completing a report for CAWOS to update them on our progress

We are now using "What three words" to locate damaged and dangerous trees found on the park by our volunteers or members of the public; to notify Warrington B C. This method of communication has greatly helped us all by removing the trees much more quickly.

The Friends group supported by the Young Friends and despite the rain held a very successful Easter Eggstravaganza on Thursday April 9th. Over thirty children with their Parents attended and each child was given a donated Chocolate Egg. These were given freely by Tesco on Winwick Road. All had great fun making Easter craft items, Decorating hats, going on a Easter Egg Hunt and Egg rolling. Money raised from the raffles and the items on sale will go towards the FOWP and Bee Conservation (which is the chosen Young Friends Charity for this year).

The Friends ran a "Bat Walk on the Park on the 10th April which was attended by twenty plus members of the public. Raised donations support Billinge Bat Rescue. The talk proves very popular and lower attendance numbers benefits all attending. This years bat numbers before it went too cold and started raining included the following species;

Noctule 12

Brown Long Eared Bat 1

Common Pipistrelle 4

Serco volunteers have now attended three sessions. These are part of their new employee induction programme. Serco have also supported us with a grant application to their company for additional funding. We hope that with their support they will fund a new shipping container for our stored equipment.

Woolston Rovers Rugby under 7s have also picked litter on the Park and we currently have booked in volunteer sessions with Stantec, The Environment Agency, 12th Warrington East

Cubs and Beaver sections. 27th Beaver Colony from Woolston as well as confirming the Warrington 10k on the 16th June

We held a Members Bird Walk on Monday 13th and recorded 138 Birds from 25 Species as well as recording a number of butterfly sightings

The Friends have also carried out some external repairs on the cabin as well as doing some internal painting in the cabin

YFWP

The Young Friends have made bee key rings in preparation for the Easter Eggstravaganza and sold raffle tickets on the day. One Young Friend seized the initiative and sold these themselves in the run up to Easter raising £69 individually for Bee Conservation. We have also completed a litter pick as well clearing the Limetree playground of moss and leaves and have also completed a bird walk and they recorded 65 birds from 25 Species

It has been a very busy time but full praise must be given to all our young or older volunteers who give up their time to work on the Park as with their support our local community benefits

Best wishes

Jon Davies
Chair,
Friends of Woolston Park

Chairman.....