

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, WARREN LANE ON 23 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillor C Wilcock (Chairman)
Councillors: MK Aswani, M Banner, N Khan, H Klein, D Nowell,
R Tynan, S Rydzkowski, G Rushby, L Sheridan

Apologies for absence: Councillor Warren

C21 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of the Save Woolston Hub Group. The Council agreed to bring forward the agenda items relating to the current closure of the centre by the Borough Council. The Council noted that the Chairman had completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office on 14 May 2026.

C22 Code of Conduct – declarations of interest

Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

There were no declarations of interest.

C23 Apologies for absence

The Council noted apologies for absence from Councillor Warren.

C24 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2026 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

C25 Woolston Neighbourhood Hub – application for Listing as an Asset of Community Value

The Clerk reported further to Minute C122 – 24 February 2026 (Borough Council business – Woolston Neighbourhood Hub) that the Borough Council had notified the Council that on 22 June 2026 Woolston Neighbourhood Hub was included on the List as an Asset of Community Value (Application Number:2026/00559/AOCV) pursuant to the Asset of Community Value Localism Act 2011 and The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.

Representatives of Save the Woolston Hub Group reported on their recent activities in supporting the re-opening of the centre. Councillor Matthews (Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Investments) and Councillor Flaherty (Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Leisure) had met the Group on 23 May 2026 and gave details of action including detailed costings for repair works. No provision was included in the current budget for repair works. The role of the parish council was also discussed. No date was given for the publication of the results of consultation.

The Group welcomed the decision of the Borough Council to List the centre as an Asset of Community Value and was currently exploring the potential viability of establishing a Community Interest Company (CIC) to support the future operation and development of the centre.

As part of this process, it was essential that any proposals were based upon accurate

information, realistic financial assumptions, and a clear understanding of the building's condition and future liabilities. Before any responsible assessment can be undertaken, a thorough due diligence exercise was required. The Council was asked to support their request to the Borough Council for the necessary information

The Group were consulting with existing bodies where a CIC management arrangement was in operation:

Resolved,

That

1. the decision of the Borough Council to approve the application for listing be noted;
2. the Save the Woolston Hub Group be thanked for their presentation and approval be given to support their request to the Borough Council for information to explore the potential viability of establishing a Community Interest Company for the future operation and development of the centre.

C26 Co-option of member – East Ward

Further to Minute C11 – 12 May 2026, the Clerk reported that one application had been received and the applicant had completed the form approved by the Council to provide details in support of their application for co-option. This included a signed declaration that the legal qualifications for becoming a parish councillor had been met.

The Council then invited Mr Aswani to speak in support of his application and to answer questions from members, and it was

Resolved,

That Mr MK Aswani be co-opted to the Council for the East Ward.

(The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed, and Councillor Aswani joined the meeting)

C27 Matters of report from previous minutes – planning application

No.2026/00518/FUL – land adjacent to Bridge Road

The Council noted further to Minute C5 - 12 May 2026 that the applicant had confirmed that the following works would be included in the development:

1. People with disabilities (kissing gate)
2. Cyclists (kissing gate & platform)
3. HGV access at ingress
4. Speed regulation (bridge lane if agreed)
5. Lighting and ecology

C28 Policing of Woolston

– community liaison report

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 the report).

– Woolston Grange – proposed Business Improvement District

The Clerk reported that Cheshire Constabulary were working with Groundworks on the feasibility of a Business Improvement District for the Grange Employment area. This may assist in the provision of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at each entrance and a full CCTV system for the area. An approach had been made to Warrington BC and the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding and the Council was requested to consider contributing to the cost. Details had been requested of the overall cost and level of contribution from the Council:

Resolved,

That consideration be given when further information is provided in support of the application.

C29 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 – complaint from a resident regarding damage caused to footpath by parked vehicles.
2. Liaison with the Save Woolston Hub Group
The Chairman and Vice Chairman were invited to attend to meet members of the Group on 27 May 2026 to be made aware of current and planned activities.

Topics discussed

- Testimonials requested via Facebook of the experience of people since the centre was temporarily closed. Intention to send these to the Borough Council as evidence for the Envoys.
- Information also sent to C Nichols MP, NHS Trust, Cabinet Members and the Chief Executive.
- Point made that the whole of Warrington and especially Warrington East suffering from the closure.
- Email sent to the Borough Council requesting date for publication of the consultation results – answer Summer.
- Request made for partial opening of the Hub – dry side only.
- Detailed costings needed from the Borough Council to make plans in expectation of ACV being approved.
- FOI requested on all centres – Woolston Hub second lowest deficit.
- Cost of operating the Hub could be mitigated if charitable status established and by increasing income eg Learn to Swim

Both parties agreed that the liaison had been beneficial.

2. Matters raised with the Borough Council

- Borough Council review of road safety on Holes Lane, Hillock Lane and Gig Lane –
no further information to report.
 - 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. The introduction of a pedestrian island was under consideration by the officers – no further information to report.
3. Removal of School Crossing Patrol at Hillock Lane – the Borough Council had Acknowledged receipt of the representations made by the Council.

Resolved,

That

1. the reports be noted;
2. approval be given to further liaison meetings with the Group being held by the Chairman and Vice Chairman as required.

C30 Committee matters

The Council considered matters relating to the undermentioned committees:

1) Environment and Amenities Committee

1. Parish Path Warden scheme

1.1 report on condition of paths

Councillor Nowell reported on inspections made of public footpaths including:

- Vegetation on a length of the path alongside the river from the Edward Gardens access to the Battery Lane picnic area had been cut back.
- Car parking had been noted on the access road to Woolston Park from Somerset Way.

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

1.2 Peak and Northern Footpath Society – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Councillor Nowell reported on his attendance at the AGM of the Society held in Oldham on 16 May 2026. During the event he had raised with an officer of the Society the issue of the public right of way at Moss Brow that had been reported to the Borough Council. An inspection had been carried out by the Society several years ago when the path at that time was noted as difficult but passable:

Resolved,

That the report be noted.

2. Ranger Cabin, Woolston Park

The Council noted that there was no further information to report from the Borough Council on repairs to the facility.

3. Battery Lane Allotment Site – management matters

The Council noted that there were no matters to report.

(2) Finance and General Committee

1. Introduction of online banking

Further to Minute C12(2) 2. – 12 May 2026 the Clerk reported that the process was proceeding on the introduction of online banking:

Resolved,

That the report be accepted.

2. Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Further to Minute C12(2) 1. – 12 May 2026, the Council noted that the revised versions would be submitted to a future meeting before online banking facilities were used.

3. Accounts 2025-26

The Council considered: (a) the accounts for January to March 2026 (b) the accounts for the year 2025-26:

Resolved,

That the accounts be accepted.

4. Audit of Accounts 2025-26

The Council considered: (a) the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2025-26;(b) the Annual Internal Audit report 2025-26 and (1) the Annual Governance Statements for 2025-26 and (2) the Accounting Statements for 2025-26:

Resolved,

That

1. the report and recommendations of the Internal Auditor on the accounts for 2025-26 be accepted, including the statement of accounts;
2. the Annual Internal Audit Report 2025-26 be accepted;
3. approval be given to (a) the Annual Governance Statements and (b) the Accounting Statements for 2025-26.

5. Applications for grant aid – Padgate and Woolston Walking Day

Councillor Rydzkowski reported on the success of the new arrangements introduced for the 2026 annual event and that the contribution of £500 had been appreciated:

Resolved,

That

1. the report be noted;
2. approval be given to £500 being included in the draft budget for 2027-28 as the Council's contribution to the event.

6. Remembrance Sunday 2026 – event planning

The Clerk reported on the arrangements for the annual Remembrance Sunday event to be held at Martinscroft Green. It was expected that an Event Plan would have to be submitted to the Borough Council and that the Church of the Ascension would again lead the service on behalf of all faiths:

Resolved,

That approval be given to the organisation of the event.

C31 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. No meeting held.

Information was published by the group on their website.

Friends of Woolston Park group - Councillor Klein reported that the Chairman of the FoWP group had provided a report on work undertaken by the group. *(Please see Appendix)*.

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

Resolved,

That the reports be noted.

C32 Correspondence – consultation and information

No items to report.

C33 Planning Applications and appeals

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS		
APPLICATION NO.	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
2026/00579/FUL	24-25 Rufford Court WA14RF	Mixed employment led use comprising light production/cold bakery, storage/distribution, office/admin accommodation, with café and wellbeing facilities
2026/00660/FUL	Green Lane Community Special School WA14LS	Proposed part single storey/part two storey extension to accommodate lift
2026/00727CDLP	44 Manchester Road WA14AD	Proposed garage conversion
INFORMATION ONLY		

2026/00666CDLP	26 Somerset Way WA14LP	Front Porch
2026/00687/FULH	104 Epping Drive WA14QN	Single storey rear extension
2026/00688/NMA INFORMATION ONLY	26 Somerset Way WA14LP	Application to amend the external facing materials on Application 2026/00206(House extension)

Resolved,

That no representations be made in respect of the applications listed for consideration at the meeting.

C34 Business raised by Council Members

No items of business raised.

C35 Recess Committee

Resolved,

That approval be given to the appointment of a Recess Committee with a membership of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and the Chairs of the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Committee, or their nominees, with the authority to deal with any urgent business arising before the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

C36 Accounts

Resolved,

That approval be given to the following payments:

Cheque No	Date expenditure incurred	Payee	VAT not recoverable	Amount £	Purpose	S137
4915	14/05/26	Costco Ltd (Clerk)	0.00	31.75	HP printing paper	
4916	14/05/26	HM Revenue and Customs (Clerk)	0.00	289.80	NI payment 2025/26	
4917	22/05/26	Employee 1(Clerk)	0.00	462.43	M2 May 2026	
4918	23/06/26	Amazon.Co.uk (Clerk)	0.00	122.86	Printing toner and stationery	
4919	23/06/26	Employee 1	0.00	462.43	M3 June 2026	
4920	23/06/26	JDH Business Services Ltd	0.00	1296.00	Internal Audit fees 2025/26	

C37 Date and venue of next meeting

The Council considered the date of the next ordinary meeting:

Resolved,

That the next meeting be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15 September 2026.

APPENDIX



Woolston

Sergeant Ryan Cunliffe– Ryan.cunliffe@cheshire.police.uk

PC- David.reddington@cheshire.police.uk

PCSO- Tom.palfrey@cheshire.police.uk

Parish council report for April 2026

Anti social behaviour –

1x Bank street- Electric bike

1x Woolston park- intoxicated male

1x Woolston park- Youth Related

Burglary dwelling – 2

Epping drive

Edward gardens

Burglary others – 3

1 shop

1 Unit

1 the grange

Vehicle crime- 3

Bridge lane

Dam lane

New Cut lane

Criminal damage- 5

Hall road

Longbarn lane

Greymist

Gig lane

FOWP Report April to June 2026

CABIN UPDATE

No further news relating to the upkeep of our Rangers cabin.

The internal holes on the roof are now dry and aren't currently leaking

Some of the members have been doing some more small external repairs by refitting new wood after some top wood had been weather damaged over the preceding years. It has also been undercoated and top coated. We have also

painted the entrance hall external changing room corridor, indoor corridor, small toilet and gents toilet

FOWP

Our members continue to meet on a Monday morning doing litter picking, path clearing and cutting back bushes around the Part. Cutting bushes is reduced greatly during the nesting season Much of this work is ongoing

After an initial discussion with a representative of Serco who has been really interested in supporting us on the Park in the work that we do, things have moved forward greatly as we have had three small groups of volunteers working on the park as part of their Serco Induction and these will continue through the year ahead.

They have also helped us to put together a powerpoint presentation resulting in a £5000 funding success from Serco. This will help fund a new container for storage, purchasing tools, litter picking equipment, a laptop and internet access for the YFOWP and the construction of planters, bird boxes and bug hotels.

We have held the following

- Made new bird boxes prior to the breeding season so that old and weathered stock could be replaced (Part of our CAWOS Funding Application agreement
 - A Bat Walk in April for 20 members of the public, Proceeds donated to Billinge Bat Rescue
 - Ran an Easter Eggstravaganza event on the 9th April, donating Easter Eggs freely given by Tesco to local children, whilst also holding an Easter Egg Hunt and Egg rolling and basket making. The rain did not stop us as thirty to forty children attended with either their Parents or Grandparents. This was supported by YFOWP and FOWP Members
 - Carried out our own Bird watching walk around Woolston park for our members
 - Carried a bird Survey over a recognised transept in response to our CAWOS grant success and the required feedback
 - Organised three evening litter picks for 12th Warrington East Beaver and Cub Sections and the 27th Squirrel Section
 - Assisted with help and equipment on a litter pick organised by Woolston Rugby Under 7's
 - Two successful Stantec volunteers sessions in the park in mid June where they opened up the Bridal path, cleared brush in preparation for a new container and improved the edging on one of the main paths. Sadly a third visit was rained off due to heavy volunteers. On each of the visits they provide 15 staff for these volunteer sessions
 - On June 16th helped support Warrington Roadrunners 10km race, by doing course preparation work beforehand and opening the cabin to assist staff organising the race, as well as raise funds from selling drinks for ourselves and Bruche JFC
- Worked

And help arrange;

- Free Bike repairs event with Cheshire cycles on the 1st July
- Organised for our members a chance to go Gliding In Lancashire on the 14th July
- a FOWP butterfly count in late July in response to the Big Butterfly Count starting on the 19th July by butterfly Conservation

- Environment Agency Staff volunteer day on the 28th July
- A Fundraising event for the FOWP on Monday afternoon 17th August in Woolston Park
- A second Bat walk in September

YFOWP

Litter picked, cleared paths near the Longbarn Road entrance and removed moss, litter and leaves from the surface of the Lime tree playground. They have also started to remove Himalayan Balsam

Carried out a Bird Walk on Woolston Park

Taken the Young Friends on a visit in May to Woolston Eyes to do Bird watching

The Young Friends have also raised some funds for Bee Conservation after choosing this charity themselves

We have also recruited another new member

Chairman.....