

# **Woolsington Parish Council**

Chairperson of the Council: George Pattison  
Clerk to the Council: Andrew Richardson

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## **Minutes of Electronic meeting of Woolsington Parish Council held via Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Present: Councillor G. Pattison (Chair)  
Councillors J. Couchman, A. Hay, B. Hunter, L. Kennedy, J. Littleton,  
J. Robinson, A. Thomas and L. Wright.

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

### **10. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J. Sabarre, S. Pattison and L. McGuinness.

### **11. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 January 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **12. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

Item 4: Cllr Littleton updated the members with regard to the Parish Ponds, the subcontractor has appointed with the work to be carried out in July.

### **13. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan**

Councillor Couchman thanked all Members for their support of the PC Biodiversity Project.

The end of year summary document had been circulated prior to the meeting, further information featuring detailed breakdowns by ward and school are available from the Clerk.

Despite COVID, it has been a very positive year and the planned biodiversity work has been successfully undertaken in our 4 primary schools and wards across the parish.

The only deferred scheme has been Bedeburn due to Grounds Maintenance being deployed elsewhere, discussions will resume with them about suitable plants sometime in the coming months. Due to this, there had been a £409.65 underspend against £3500 budget, and too late in season to allocate to other initiatives.

Councillor Couchman requested Members' approval to carry the underspend forward into next year's budget, this was agreed.

Cllr Littleton raised the ongoing issue with litter in the parish, and how all the good work on Biodiversity is wasted when it's surrounded with lots of litter.

Cllr G Pattison pointed out Newcastle City Council's cuts and lack of resource has hasn't helped, where previously proactive, they are now a reactive Council. A discussion took place around various incentives, strategies and what the City Council's obligations were to picking up litter. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services and an officer from the Council was to be invited to the next Parish Council meeting.

**14. Grant Applications/CIL Funding – Feedback/Monitoring**

The Clerk provided an update with regards to Grants previously agreed, PLAYinNEWCASTLE, now known as INSPIREYOUTH TYNE & WEAR have been delivering services for the young people including detached sessions, specialised mentoring, inters outdoor sessions and advised that the project had been a success.

There has been a slight delay on the Galafield Cafe Project due to Covid, however they have advised that a Cafe Manager has been appointed and progressing with equipment and refurbishment.

Feedback and receipts have been provided by Simonside Primary School for items for Biodiversity.

St Marks RC Primary School unfortunately hadn't received the cheque issued for Christmas activities, another one has been raised and sent. Simonside Primary School still to provide feedback on the book grant issued, Cllr Thomas has undertaken to chase this up.

**15. Planning Applications/Matters**

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the meeting for the following planning items.

The Clerk provided an update on planning applications received which had previously been circulated to members.

10 Woolsington Park South – No objection.  
Peel House Main Road – Objection issued.  
High Beeches, Middle Drive – No objection.  
Land to the North of Ponteland Road – No objection.  
33 Woolsington Park South - Ongoing

**16. Website**

The Clerk provided an update with regards to the new website, pages still to be developed and added include Grant Applications, BioDiversity, News Page, Planning Matters, plus anything further the members wish to add.

**17. Newsletter**

The Clerk shared some ideas on the content of what the first newsletter should have. The members agreed and also provided further suggestions, the aim is for the newsletter to be distributed in the summer. Cllr Thomas inquired if the newsletter would also be added to the website

in electronic form, the clerk advised it would. The size of the newsletter would be determined once all the content was agreed.

**18. Correspondence**

Letters of thanks were received from ETHOS, for the report Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman had carried out for the Newcastle Green Infrastructure Strategy and also from the Environmental Agency for Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman's involvement in the Citizen's Jury process.

**19. Police Update**

The Chair read out a written update around crime and anti-social behaviour which had been provided by Northumbria Police for the month of February.

27 incidents in the Callerton Ward.

39 incidents in the Woolsington & Bankfoot Ward.

224 incidents in Bedeburn/Newbiggin Hall Wards.

**20. Financial Matters / Accounts for Payment**

Approval was given to the following payments, itemised in the Report of the Clerk circulated with the papers for the meeting –

Clerk Salary	February/March	£	748.80
HMRC	February/March	£	187.20
Site123 Website Subscription (24 Month)		£	151.09

For Information purposes only as already approved via Biodiversity Project: -

N/A		£	0.00
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For Information purposes only as agreed at previous meeting: -

PFK Littlejohn's – External Audit		£	360.00
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The Clerk also shared the financial statement document.

**21. Any Other Business**

Cllr G Pattison raised the subject of the Clerks annual salary increment, Cllr Robinson proposed that he should go to the top of the Spinal Column Point (SCP) in line with the previous clerk, this was seconded by Cllr Thomas and Cllr Couchman. It was agreed that from 1<sup>st</sup> April the Clerk would move to the new SCP 20.

Cllr Kennedy highlighted the poor accessibility to the parish ponds and advised that improvements to path ways would need investigating, this was agreed.

**22. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting to include the Annual General Meeting was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6.30pm online via Zoom.

Chairman .....

Date .....