

Woolsington Parish Council

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

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Minutes of the Electronic meeting of Woolsington Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th July 2021

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk
V. Holland and S. Holland - Residents

38. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S. Pattison & J. Sabarre.

39. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 May 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

40. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Item 27: The clerk advised that since the last meeting, Cllr John Littleton had volunteered to represent the Parish Council at the Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee.

41. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Couchman provided a general update, and advised that plans are progressing well.

Bluebell Dene planting event planned for 4th October, subject to confirmation.

Newbiggin Hall D2 youth Community Centre planters scheme successfully completed.

It was agreed that the crocus bulbs for Newbiggin Lane would be a mixture of colours.

Site at Bedeburn was still on hold following discussions with Simonside school and Grounds Maintenance.

Crocus bulbs and shrubs for Callerton Village is in progress.

Cllr Littleton provided an update on the Ponds restoration project, which is to be carried out week commencing 26th July, a last-minute issue with the licencing agreement, however the clerk is liaising with Newcastle City Council Legal section, and expects this to be sorted by the end of the week.

Members thanked Cllr Littleton and Couchman for their hard work on this project.

42. Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Hay provided an update on ongoing work in the Kingston Park South and Newbiggin Hall Wards, particularly around anti-social behaviour (ASB), litter and fly tipping. Liaising with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the local police inspector and the local MP, with a view to reducing ASB, and speeding motorbikes in particular, identifying infrastructure that can be purchased to help. Notification received that Newbiggin Hall shopping Centre should start to be demolished within 6-8 weeks. Cllr McGuinness asked if the old clinic was part of the demolition, Cllr Hay advised it wasn't. Working alongside the Galafield Community Hub, to develop a new community-based Arts Project. A site visit was planned with the leader of the Council Nick Forbes to look at various issues, especially litter.

43. CIL Funding

Cllr Wright provided provided background on the Community Fibre Broadband Scheme for Callerton, this is a scheme involving iNorthumberland and Newcastle City Council, and involvement with community engagement with a view to connecting homes and businesses with gigabit capable fibre broadband. The majority of homes and businesses in the community can't get broadband speeds of more than 3-5 Mbps, and have lived through the disruption of construction traffic for two newbuild housing developments which will benefit from fibre broadband.

40 residents formed the basis of an application to Openreach to set up a Community Fibre Partnership to be funded via the Rural Gigabit Vouchers (at that time worth up to £1,500 per residential property and up to £3,500 per business) this was submitted in January 2021.

Openreach provided a quote for connection to 79 properties at an overall cost of £143,000. The deadline for the Rural Gigabit Voucher programme was 31 March 2021, the community were aware that they would not qualify as 'Rural' under the successor programme due to launch in April 2021.

A great deal of effort was put into organising the community to commit their vouchers and then validate the request from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) before the deadline.

By the deadline the community had managed to generate around £124,000 in registered vouchers. 1 business and 11 residents failed to complete their registration (£3,500 plus £16,500) which accounts for the shortfall in funds.

Openreach are still holding the project open but they would need to be able to complete the delivery by the end of March 2022 and that timescale is now very tight for them. If the £19,000 shortfall can't be found then the project will be closed.

Residents Viv Holland and Steve Holland expressed how poor the current connection is.

A discussion took place and it was established that the funding would help purchase a connection box cabinet.

Cllr G. Pattison advised that we would need to check if this is covered under CIL before deciding if the Parish Council could help with the

shortfall, Cllr Wright advised the deadline could be extended for a decision. The Clerk would also try to obtain the full specification and copy of quotation.

44. Website

The clerk provided an update on various new pages he had included on the website, and requested that members take a look and provide feedback.

45. Planning Applications/Matters

Cllr Hunter 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.

34 Woosington Park South – No objection.

Newbiggin Hall Shopping Centre – Objection issued.

Field House, Callerton – No objection.

79 Westgarth - No objection.

Land to the South of Airfreight Village - The Parish Council is supportive of the application in principle, but this support is subject to conditions being met by the Applicant.

172 Westgarth – No objection.

43 Woosington Gardens – No objection.

Peel House Main Road - WPC Supportive of the application subject to various points.

Ashlea Middle Drive – No objection.

18 Pinewood Close - WPC requests that the application is not approved until further clarification is given on: 1. Precise location of Pillars & 2. Details of the neighbouring properties consulted on this application.

11 Brunton Road – No objection.

2 Westgarth – No objection.

16 The Gables – No objection.

Former Chevyside School, Yetholm Place – No objection.

1 Prestwick Terrace – No objection.

2 Copper Beech Court – Ongoing.

1 The Oval – Ongoing.

46. Police Update

Due to Northumbria Police having a new system installed, they could not provide the crime figures for this meeting.

47. 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	June/July	£	842.98
HMRC	June/July	£	210.80

Royal British Legion	£	100.00
Andrew Richardson (Zoom 12-month Subscription)	£	143.88

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

Elizabeth Woodcock (Biodiversity)	£	50.00
John Littleton (Biodiversity)	£	517.36

For Information purposes only as agreed at previous meeting: -

Amberol Ltd (D2 – Biodiversity)	£	832.44
John Littleton (D2 – Biodiversity)	£	219.40

The Clerk also shared the financial statement document.

48. Any Other Business

Cllr Thomas provided an update on the new Simonside Primary School, as site visits aren't permitted due to covid, a video link will be provided.

49. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 8th September 2021 at 6.30pm.

Chairman

Date