

Woolsington Parish Council

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

woolsingtonpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting of Woolsington Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th September 2023

Present: Councillor G. Pattison (Chair)
Councillors L. Kennedy, J. Littleton, J. Robinson and L. Wright.

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

60. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J. Couchman, A. Hay, L. McGuinness, S. Pattison, J. Sabarre, L. Spencer & A. Thomas

61. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th July 2023 were agreed as a true record.

62. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

63. Grant Applications

The Clerk advised that there was one grant application to be considered.

Callerton Tenants and Residents Association

An application was received requesting funding for £280.00 to contribute to the Callerton Village Christmas trip to the Pantomime.

After a short discussion, the members voted in favour to grant the application in full.

64. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton provided a general update and progress report.

Nothing new to report on Ward activity.

Bird boxes & cameras to be installed at Cheviot School on 20th October.

Due to a misunderstanding on the contract with NCC grounds maintenance section, the flower bed at Sovereign Lodge hasn't been maintained since January. Following communications this has been rectified with a new maintenance schedule agreed, and reported back to the Parish Council monthly.

Update on Abbotswood, a meeting took place on site with Trust members (Cllr G Pattison and Cllr Wright) Graeme Mason and Adam Ewart (Planner) from Newcastle International Airport to review work done and future plans.

Abbotswood is part of the Airport's Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy and Graeme Mason confirmed that the WPC/NIA partnership will be featured in the next CSR report, they also plan a press release to support this.

Pond Project, Bluespace's due for completion in October with landscaping work on the banks improving habitat. The next phase of conservation work will follow a baseline Ecology survey being undertaken following agreement between the landowner and OS Ecology.

Cllr G Pattison & Cllr Wright recommend that MARMAX seating is introduced at some stage, similar to those introduced at Abbotswood.

65. Ward Councillor's Update

Cllr Robinson provided an update with regard to ongoing work in the Kingston Park South and Newbiggin Hall Ward.

Meeting held with Newcastle City Council regarding issues with Newbiggin Hall Shopping Centre, awaiting feedback, however informed that newbuild houses should be completed next April.

Cllr G Pattison and Cllr Wright left the meeting at this point, as the Mast proposal near Cheviot School was to be discussed.

Cllr Wright advised that lots of casework was being undertaken due to the new developments in Callerton.

66. Defibrillators Update

Cllr Littleton provided an update following a decision to explore the installation of defibrillators in the Parish, CURAE have now visited the three sites - Poachers, Twin Farms & Haircraft, measured up, checked locations, electrics etc. Defibrillators and external locked cabinets ordered and due to be installed in October, free tuition is likely to be provided by a local charity.

Suggested that given the importance of external defibrillators in Newcastle, an elected Member(s) to visit each one, take a couple of photos with the hosts, and do a press release.

67. CIL Funding Discussion

The Clerk asked members for suggestions on potential projects that the Neighbourhood Portion could fund, with a view to drawing up a list, members agreed to this.

Cllr Littleton advised that at the Woolsington Residents Association AGM, it was highlighted that there has been a significant increase in traffic, speeding, and roadkill as result of all the local development. In light of this, residents have requested the introduction of vehicle activated signs on Ponteland Road, which it was proposed that CIL could fund.

It was agreed that the percentage split of the CIL funding amongst the four wards would be recalculated in April 24.

68. Planning Matters

Cllr G Pattison and Cllr Wright 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.

2023/0879/01/DET	Low Luddick Farm Callerton Lane	Holding Objection
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2023/0917/01/TPO	6 South Drive	No Objection
2023/1050/01/TPO	Moorcroft Main Road	No Objection
2023/1053/01/TPO	The Stead Main Road	The Parish Council supports the request to fell the Horse Chestnut Tree for the reasons stated in the application. Members do not support the request to remove the Ash Tree at this stage. There does not appear to be any clear signs of die back and the overhanging branches have no impact on the slip road nor the public footpath
2023/1051/01/TPO	Riftswood Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	The Parish Council were not formally consulted on this application. No Objection
2019/1287/14/RES	Land West of Bedeburn Road, Including Simonside Primary School and Former Simonside Community Centre Sites, Newbiggin Hall, NE5 4LG	No Objection
2023/1130/01/HOU	4 The Gables, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AQ	No Objection
2023/1076/01/DET	Callerton Station Callerton Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BP	No Objection
2021/1622/01/DET	Phase 2b and 3b, Land East of A696 And West of Station Road	The Parish Council were not formally consulted on this application. No Objection
2023/1051/01/TPO	Riftswood Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	As above, No Objection
2023/0269/01/DET	Land to the South of A696, West of Newbiggin Lane and North of Hareydene (upper Callerton), Newcastle Upon Tyne,	

2023/1343/01/HOU	36 Station Road, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AG	
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Cllr Littleton advised that it is a major concern that the Parish Council has recently been omitted from being consulted on three applications, especially if there is a risk of the Parish Council not replying, therefore leading to a perceived view that the Parish Council is not interested on potentially contentious applications. Also, a re-release of applications which contain amendments, in particular a 100-page document, however the amendments aren't highlighted, and despite requests to the case officer, no response was received, fortunately the information was obtained by liaising directly with the applicant.

The Clerk advised that as he was previously aware of these issues, he had raised it with the Head of Planning, Louise Sloan who advised that she has addressed these issues with the officers and also mentioned it may have been due to problems with the ICT system, which should be now resolved.

69. Financial Matters / Accounts for Payment

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

Clerk Salary	Aug/Sept 23	£	920.50
HMRC	Aug/Sept 23	£	230.00
St Wilfrid's Church (June & July)		£	60.00
George Pattison (Chair Honorarium, RBL)		£	100.00
Zurich (Insurance)		£	379.46
Wild Intrigue CIC		£	660.00
D2 Youth Zone		£	1200.00
John Littleton (EA Bluespaces)		£	170.00
Tyne Rivers Trust		£	736.00
Tyne Rivers Trust		£	315.00
Curae-Group		£	5,900.40

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

c. The Clerk provided an update on the audited AGAR for 2022/2023, which has now been completed.

70. Any Other Business

The Chair and the Clerk provided an update on the joint meeting of the Parish Council's that they had attended.

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council were willing to offer the four local schools a donation of a real Christmas Tree like the previous years, the members thought this was a good idea and agreed.

71. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 8th November 2023, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church.

Chairman

Date