

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 15th September 2021

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

50. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J. Sabarre & A. Thomas.

51. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 July 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

52. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Item 43: Cllr Wright advised that Openreach had reviewed their quote and reduced the cost so that installation could be entirely covered by vouchers already committed, therefore funding was no longer required from the Parish Council.

Item 44: Cllr Couchman asked if there had been much feedback from Members regarding the website, the clerk advised that he had received a few emails with constructive ideas and also his future plans for various pages.

Item 48: Cllr Couchman requested that information regarding the new Simonside School could be passed to the clerk to be uploaded to the website to promote the new build. Cllr Robinson also advised that an open day was planned for November.

53. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

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

Newbiggin Hall D2 youth Community Centre planters scheme successfully completed, positive feedback from Angela Smith. Woolsington complete.

Bluebell Dene planting event planned for 4th October, 1pm start, Costain Jacobs attending with 10 volunteers, all Parish Council members welcome.

The bulbs are on order for Callerton, and local volunteers to plant.

A commitment from Grounds Maintenance to supply and plant crocus bulbs on Newbiggin Lane, date to be confirmed.

A meeting is being arranged with local representative to discuss Kenton Bank Foot preferences. Progress has been delayed because of disruption caused by the prolonged housing development on both sides of Ponteland Road.

The Parish Council Biodiversity stall at the Galafest was very successful and received a lot of interest, featuring various projects and conservation plans. ID charts for butterflies, moths and dragonflies were handed out. Activities including making dragonflies, sowing wildflower seeds and colouring competition was organised, many thanks to Cllr Pattison for judging the 17 entries, all receiving a £5 Tesco voucher, and the 2 winners, under 5s and over 5s received a £10 voucher.

Plants supplied and a equipment purchased for St Marks School.

A range of ID sheets and equipment purchased for Simonside School. There are slight delays with Farne and Cheviot due to relocation of teachers.

Outline proposals for year 22/23 will be brought to November's meeting, member input and advice was requested.

A request has been received from Caroline Herbert to discuss requirements for the Galafield Café.

Cllr Littleton advised that Aquatic Solutions cleaning of the ponds was now complete, exceptional feedback received from the local community in recognition of WPC commitment to improving this area for nature and residents. Tyne Rivers Trust helped clear remaining water soldier from shallow waters.

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman attended the Upper Callerton site visit in August. Northumberland Estates have offered access to ecology surveys of the site and access to Ecologists at BSG, with no cost to the Parish Council, next steps to include scoping study based on input from Ecologists, WPC Members, community feedback and various agencies. Cllr Littleton shared his views on the challenges linking up the wildlife corridors, and how exchanging thoughts, ideas and plans with neighbouring councils would help.

54. Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Hay provided an update on ongoing work in the Kingston Park South and Newbiggin Hall Wards, and in particular a busy month of August. The launch of the Galafest at the Galafield was well attended and successful. Tackling litter has been a top priority and the purchase of extra bins should help reduce the litter. Cllr McGuinness asked who would fund the emptying of the extra bins, Cllr Hay advised that the ward budget would contribute.

A meeting was held with NCC regarding the poor road condition.

The old Newbiggin Hall shopping centre should close the footfall through the site by the end of October.

The new Doctors surgery was now open on Trevelyan Drive, Cllr McGuinness expressed concerns regarding the old closed buildings, Cllr Robinson advised that clarification has been sought on the plans for the old buildings.

55. CIL Funding

The Clerk highlighted the good work done so far with the CIL funding, and suggested that to build on that, the next step is community engagement by way of the website, newsletter, etc. Cllr Couchman advised that the residents would need clear guidance on what CIL is and how it can be spent, Cllr Littleton agreed and recommended guidance could be sought from NCC on the format.

56. CCTV Problem Solving Group

Cllr G Pattison advised that the CCTV Camera would be discussed at the SAPs meeting which is attended by the Police and Ward Councillors, the Police provide the stats on where ASBO is happening, and recommend where they feel the camera should be positioned. Cllr S Pattison, Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Littleton volunteered to attend these meetings to represent the Parish Council, and agreed to consult with other members before and after the meetings. The clerk provided an update on timescales for delivery of the camera.

57. 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.

2 Copper Beech Court – No objection issued.

1 The Oval – No objection issued.

Land to the North of Stamfordham Road – Holding objection requested.

Land North of Brunton Road – Holding objection requested.

Orchard House – Objection issued.

Highway at Newbiggin Hall – Proposed Stopping Up.

14 Davison Court – Ongoing

11 Woosington Gardens – Ongoing

58. Police Update

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

59. 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	August/September	£	842.98
HMRC	August/September	£	210.80
Zurich Municipal Insurance		£	374.53
Andrew Richardson Stationary/Printing		£	27.10

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

Stretton's Spreading (Biodiversity)	£	9,408.00
Joanne Couchman (Biodiversity)	£	60.59

The Clerk also shared the financial statement document.
The Clerk also advised that the 2020/21 accounts had been signed off by the external auditor PKF Littlejohns.

60. Any Other Business

A discussion was held regarding the NALC email around potential collaborative work and issues of mutual concern, it was agreed that Cllr McGuinness and the Clerk would attend if a meeting was convened.

61. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 10th November 2021 at 6.30pm.

Chairman

Date