

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs B. Hunter & S. Pattison.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 November 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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

Item 65: The Clerk advised that NCC Grounds Maintenance will carry out the maintenance to the flowerbed outside Sovereign Lodge.

Item 69: The Clerk advised that a completed grant application form had been received from Callerton Tenants and Residents Association.

Item 69: The Clerk advised that all four schools had accepted the offer of a real Christmas Tree and had since provided their thanks and photographs.

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

Cllr Couchman provided an update on the Biodiversity project.

Spring bulbs have been planted on Newbiggin Lane and Bedeburn Road, Ground's Maintenance recommended the bulbs (crocus and mini daffs) and also carried the work.

Bank Foot, an area of public grass adjacent to busy public footpath has been planted up by local residents with spring bulbs, residents are very happy and appreciative of the Parish Council funding.

Ongoing progress in the four Primary Schools.

Confirmation that NCC Ground Maintenance will maintain the Sovereign Lodge flowerbed on a monthly basis, thanks to the Chair George Pattison for his help clearing the flowerbed of litter and weed ready for the maintenance to begin.

Good news to report from the Ponds, since clearance of the water soldier in July 21 there are more water birds visiting, last weekend there were 11 mallards and a cormorant.

A fallen tree which is blocking the Ouseburn has been reported to the Environment Agency

The first volunteer session was held at the Main Pond, 14 adults, 3 children worked very hard for over 4 hours, clearing a non-native shrub called snowberry, this will allow wildflowers to have more space to grow. 4 bin liners of rubbish was also collected and thanks to Councillor Wright for arranging its swift collection from Woolsington.

A second session to continue this work is planned for 5 March. All are welcome to come along, not necessarily to do any physical work, but just good to see people from all areas of the Parish coming together to enjoy and care for our lovely environment.

Work is currently ongoing organising another exciting project at the Main Pond, this is to create some scrapes, slightly deeper pockets in the water, in part of the pond that dries out in the summer months, this is on the recommendation of professional ecologists, as it will really help the amphibians that breed there, but who suffer massive losses when it dries out.

Permission to do this work is needed from the EA as the Main Pond is connected to the Ouseburn and is part of the river's flood management scheme. The scrapes need to be done by the end of February to avoid the breeding season – hopeful that this will happen, but if not, possibly in the autumn instead.

A specialist environmental contractor will do the work, which is funded by the money from VAT returns on previous biod work (huge thanks to the Clerk for pursuing this) and also from a grant from Callerton and Throckley Ward Committee – thanks to Councillor Wright and her colleagues for that investment for people and wildlife.

Abbotswood is a natural area of woodland and grassland in Woolsington village – it is part of the airport's landholding and for the past 20 years or so has been part of their mitigation for development. Discussions have been held with Graeme Mason (Newcastle International Airport) about site improvements, linking with wildlife corridors and its future management, as a result, and by working together, a Management Plan is being drafted. Cllr Littleton and Couchman thanked members for their ongoing interest and support.

## **5. Ward Councillor's Update**

Cllr Hay provided an update on ongoing work in the Kingston Park South and Newbiggin Hall Wards. The CCTV Camera, which was joint funded by the Parish Council has now been fitted and is operational. Demolition of Newbiggin Hall Shops should commence in January, with construction to commence soon after. The Play Area plan is due to commence. Storm Arwin had caused lots of damage to the area, and had an impact on City Council Services, Covid is also having an impact on City Council Services.

## **6. CIL Funding**

Cllr Wright suggested that the CIL funding could be allocated out on a percentage basis via the four wards within the Parish boundaries. Following a lengthy discussion, the members agreed this was a good idea in principle. The Chair proposed this was rolled over to the next meeting to give members the opportunity to reflect and propose on how to take this forward.

## **7. Grant Applications**

The Clerk advised that three grant applications had been received.

### **D2 Youth Zone Ltd Xmas Grant**

As this application was received after the last meeting in November for £1000 towards Xmas activities, and no meeting was held in December, members had agreed to grant this funding via email circulation.

### **D2 Youth Zone Ltd Hardship Fund**

An application was received requesting funding for £1000 to support young people and their families with vouchers for foodbanks, food parcels, and other miscellaneous items.

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

### **Healthworks**

Cllr Sabarre declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

An application was received for £20,000 to provide out of school and holiday activities for families in the local community and surrounding areas.

Following a discussion, and queries raised, it was agreed to liaise with Healthworks for more information to enable members to make a decision.

## **8. Planning Matters**

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

The Jangling Gate – No objection.

6 Woolsington Park South – No objection.

41 Station Road - The Parish Council objected to the proposal for retrospective planning permission until concerns have been addressed.

Hollywell Reins Woolsington Park South – Ongoing.

Orchard Cottage Main Road - Ongoing.

8 Woolsington Park South – Ongoing.

37 Station Road – Ongoing.

45 Woolsington Gardens – Ongoing.

## **9. Police Update**

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

**10. 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	December/January	£	843.18
HMRC	December/January	£	210.60
George Pattison (Donation of flowers)		£	39.00

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

M.P. Thompson (Bankfoot)	£	502.68
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For Information purposes only as agreed at previous meeting: -

Callerton TARA	£	250.00
Simonside Primary School	£	786.99
Andrew Richardson (Northern Xmas Trees)	£	258.00
John Littleton (Cowells)	£	108.98
D2 Youth Zone Ltd	£	1000.00

The Clerk shared the financial statement document and estimated budget to enable members to set an appropriate precept.

It was Resolved: That the Precept for the financial year 2022/2023 be set at £20,000

**11. Any Other Business**

Cllr Sabarre advised he hasn't had the opportunity to take forward a request for IT Equipment at the Galafield.

The Chair asked Cllr Hay if he could investigate the infrastructure around the GalaField.

Cllr Thomas thanked the Parish Council for the Xmas tree donation to Simonside Primary School, and also advised that due to covid restrictions easing, there will be a grand opening of the school in May.

The Clerk and Cllr McGuinness updated the members with regard to the meeting arranged by NALC with the other parish councils.

The Clerk updated the members with regard to the Deed of Surrender relating to Land at Newbiggin Lane.

**12. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 6.30pm online via Zoom.

Chairman .....

Date .....