

# Woolsington Parish Council

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

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Woolsington Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

### **70. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A. Hay, L. McGuinness, S. Pattison, and L. Wright.

### **71. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were agreed as a true record.

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

Item 68, the clerk advised that the local schools had taken up the Parish Council's offer of a real Christmas Tree and wanted to pass on their sincere thanks to all members.

### **73. Correspondence**

An email requesting a donation had been received from Wag & Company North East Friendship Dogs, this is a charity which creates lifelong friendships enabling isolated older people to re-engage with their community by matching volunteers with older dog lovers close to their homes, the clerk advised members that he'd replied informing them that they would need to complete a grant application form to enable us to gather more information and determine where in the Parish would be targeted.

### **74. Grant Applications**

The Clerk advised that there was one grant application to be considered, however another one had been received after the agenda had been circulated. As it was an application for Christmas funding, the Chair agreed it could be included.

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

An application was received requesting funding for £3,864 looking for the Parish Council's support to buy a sturdy greenhouse that will be installed by experts, and come with manufacturers guarantee to replace the current greenhouse which is flimsy and has blown down three times since it was installed. The greenhouse will be used by young people to grow from seed, fruit, vegetables, herbs and plants for the garden in spring and summertime.

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

**Callerton Tenants and Residents Association**

An application was received requesting funding for £360.00 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.

**75. Woosington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan**

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman provided a detailed progress report.

Latest budget statement available with the clerk

Maintenance agreement with Arthur Robson to carry out work on the Sovereign Lodge flower bed is progressing well, he is doing an excellent job, photographs have been circulated amongst Members.

Request for Bedeburn Road barrels will cause Grounds Maintenance grasscutters some difficulties to mow around them, met up with Andrew Haigh from Network Management in November, he recommends a small flower bed, subject to check for underground cables, there will be no charges for these checks and a decision will be made in March 25.

Discussions to be held with Simonside School in November to progress their biodiversity plans.

There are plans to introduce a Willow Sculpture (tunnel or maze) at St Marks School, plus more Wheelie Planters for the Edible Garden project, including materials.

For information, Farne and Cheviot Schools have the same Executive Head Lee Gallon, however they are still independent schools but are now under the joint Newbiggin Hall Governing Board as part of the Smart Academy.

Cllr Littleton, Cllr Couchman and Cllr Sabarre declared an interest as all are school governors.

Following two meetings with senior staff, Farne School have decided to introduce five information boards for its Nature Trail and strips of wildflower turf. Cheviot School have decided to undertake some improvements in its Forest School and Edible Garden.

Cllr Robinson inquired if the issues with the cameras for the birdboxes ever got sorted, Cllr Littleton advised it didn't as the links couldn't be established and there were some lessons learned from it, no fault could be attributed to the contractors Wild Intrigue as problems were purely associated with the Academy Firewall system.

**76. Cheviot Primary Hedgerow**

Cheviot Primary School have excellent plans this year for its biodiversity work, with some regeneration with its Forest School and/or improvements for the Edible Garden are scheduled. However, following the approved development work at the Chevyside grounds for football pitches, which sit along the school boundary, there is a need to make the school more private and secure. The access road to the school via Yetholm Place normally closes after school, however it will soon need to remain open in the evenings and at weekends. With a lot more visitors passing the grounds during school hours. The Executive Head Lee Gallon wishes to line the existing fences which surround

the school with Hawthorn hedgerow on the school side which is in similar fashion to that Farne School. This makes perfect sense as it will greatly increase privacy during school hours and especially at break times. There are also many positives for biodiversity gain. The cost of this requirement for materials and planting would be £2002.38. Members were asked to approve this so planting work can begin this winter, as it takes up to 3 years to be effective. Cllr Robinson queried who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance, it was advised that the way they would be planted wouldn't require much looking after other than the school watering in dry spells. Cllr Littleton, Cllr Couchman and Cllr Sabarre again declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. The remaining members agreed to this proposal.

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

Cllr G Pattison and Cllr Robinson provided a brief update following the recent changes within the Labour Party, Parish Councillor Alex Hay is now the Deputy Leader within the Cabinet Office. Some Labour Councillors have become independents however Labour still holds the majority overall. Ongoing meetings regarding antisocial behaviour and still unclear when the new houses at Newbiggin Hall will start to have residents.

#### **78. CIL Discussion**

The clerk provided a balance on the updated funding figures and welcomed suggestions and ideas on projects that are in the pipeline.

Bedeburn Ward members approved Cllr Robinsons request that funding could be used from Bedeburn CIL for resurfacing works to three car parks in Hareydene to be progressed.

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman advised on the following Road Safety measures on Ponteland Road and following meetings with Traffic Management, work on dropped kerbs in Woosington to commence in November. Speed checks have been undertaken and a Highway's Engineer to write to the Parish Council with results to determine if VAS signs are justified, in any event speed limit to be reduced to 30mph from 40mph along the length of the new housing on Ponteland Road as a result of KBH and WG housing developments. Red Squirrel signs to be replaced by Deer warning signs and two new street signs to be introduced in Bank Foot. The total cost of these works will be in region of £4,560.

Cllrs Littleton & Couchman recorded their thanks to Sarah Thompson of Traffic Management for the excellent service received.

A request was received from residents to re-instate the veteran farmer's gate at Bullocksteads, but was not in the original planning application (suspect an oversight), discussions with NCC Planning who have been very helpful, but it will need a non-material amendment submitted by landowner (Taylor Wimpey). In partnership, Taylor Wimpey will provide resources to deal with revised plans (subject to final approval) and Parish Council will fund the cost of gate and installation estimated to be in region of £2,000.

Abbotswood / Beattie family memorial tree and plaque, two marmax Picnic tables now installed in Abbotswood and a new surface on part of footpath.

Request from family of Milton Beattie to plant a tree in Abbotswood in loving memory of Milton and Sylvia. Liaisons have taken place with the Chair on this

request, the plan and type of tree. The latest position is a Sycamore tree will be planted facing their former house, Bee Cottage, this winter.

The cost will be joint funded by Newcastle International Airport and the Parish Council £215 each, and the family will fund a plaque. All involved will be invited to help plant the tree, at a date to be decided. The family will travel from Arizona next summer to install the plaque and a ceremony will be arranged with the Parish Council and Airport to join them.

Update on the Parish Ponds & Upper Ouseburn, four marmax seats and a waste bin have been installed at Ponds site, all proving extremely popular, there has been some fantastic feedback via facebook page.

Landscape and Ecology Management plan completed by OS Ecology (funded by Taylor Wimpey and the Parish Council, £750 each). It also features annual maintenance requirements.

Following advice received from Northumbria Police on types of camera and locations around the bridlepaths three budget wildlife cameras/installation on order from Wild Intrigue, security tickers and signs bought. Total cost £536. The Police also advise the installation of a gate and fencing to prevent further quadbike damage at the Main Pond. Quotes are being sought for this work. Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon Homes (Joint Landowners) would like to have a publicity event, on site, with Parish Council Members to celebrate all the achievements the partnership has made, Members agreed this was a good idea.

Upper Ouseburn testing. The Ponds form part of the Upper Ouseburn catchment, to date the Parish Council has cleared the water soldier from the main pond, thus re-oxygenating the water flowing back into the Ouse Burn and to date is still clear of water soldier after three years.

Working with/taking advice from the Tyne Rivers Trust and the Ouse Burn sub catchment partnership, the Parish Council has also dredged the wetland to enable the water to flow freely between the river inlet and outlet; been keeping the ponds and river tidy, by removing litter, and keeping the inlets and outlets free of leaves, all regarded as important tasks by the various agencies in the partnership.

The Environment Agency has since chosen the Ponds site as one of its five monitoring points for river quality sampling on the Ouseburn.

Newcastle University continue to test the water quality for the Partnership checking the nutrient levels, the results from the Spring and Autumn tests in our zone (zone 1) are very good, findings can be circulated if Members wish to see them.

Ouseburn Festival, the Parish Council has had an approach from organisers to host pop up event at Woolsington Village or Parish Ponds.

Bedeburn Ward members approved Cllr G Pattison's request that some funding could be used from Bedeburn CIL to progress the installation of traffic lights outside Farne School on Trevelyan Drive.

## **79. Planning Matters**

Cllr G Pattison declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the meeting for the following planning items.

Cllr Robinson took the Chair, the Clerk provided an update on planning applications received which had previously been circulated to members.

2024/1318/01/TPO	North And South Banks of Harey Dene, Bordering Brunton Mill Farm, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BQ	No Objection
2024/1352/01/DET	Land To South Of 39 Westgarth, Whorlton Grange, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 4NS	No Objection
2024/1402/01/TPO	35 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2024/1398/01/HOU	39 Woolsington Gardens, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AP	No Objection
2024/1507/01/HOU	Emblehope Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	No Objection
2024/1579/01/HOU	32 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2024/1614/01/ADV	Budgens, Skyway Filling Station Newcastle Airport, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	Objection
2024/1705/01/HOU	47 Foxfield Close, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AY	No Decision

**80. 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	Sept/Oct 24	£	982.90
HMRC	Sept/Oct 24	£	245.60
St Wilfrid's Church (April/May)		£	40.00
Andrew Richardson (Stationary, Printer Cartridges, etc)		£	81.46
Cheviot Primary School (Grant)		£	768.50
Marmax		£	2,049.60
Marmax		£	2,674.80
John Littleton (Lock)		£	9.50
Tyne Rivers Trust		£	425.00
John Littleton (Stickers)		£	59.70

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

**81. Any Other Business**

Cllr G Pattison advised members that the defibrillators obtained via the community defibrillator scheme were due to be delivered, locations for fitting still to be determined and requested Cllr Littleton's help and advice regarding fitting and maintenance.

**82. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church.

Chairman .....

Date .....