

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 12th March 2025

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk
Noel Hanlon – Newcastle City Council
Steve Mitcheson – Newcastle City Council

15. Apologies for absence

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

16. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th January 2025 were agreed as a true record.

17. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

18. Galafield MUGA

Noel Hanlon (NH) and Steve Mitcheson (SM) from Newcastle City Council joined the meeting to provide an update regarding the Playzone scheme and the proposed upgrade of the current MUGA pitch near the Galafield Centre. NH advised that the Playzone scheme is now withdrawn due to several factors, mainly the proposed changes to design from the original specification. In light of this, NH advised there was a consultation ongoing with a view to a proposed upgrade of the current MUGA which would include resurfacing, new lighting, hedge removal, etc. So far, the consultation had highlighted safety concerns, infrastructure, staffing, equipment and landscaping as priorities that must be addressed. NH advised that a consortium including the police had been formed, and invited Woolsington Parish Council to be part of it. A long positive discussion took place including funding, management of the MUGA, ecology issues, and community engagement. Members advised NH and SM that the Parish Council would be interested in considering support of the project once proposals had been firmed up.

19. Bullocksteads Parking on Neighbouring Estates

Cllr Littleton informed members of parking issues that had been brought to his attention by residents on the Woolsington Grange Estate, and neighbouring areas that are regularly affected by event day parking caused by Bullocksteads

centre's car park not having sufficient spaces. Cars are parking in dangerous places blocking footpaths for access, as well as on the double yellow lines directly outside the Bullocksteads access road.

The current enforcement rules are for a permits' only system which covers events at Kingston Park stadium only and not for Bullocksteads events.

Residents have had verbal abuse from some of the people parking when challenging them, but have felt the need to challenge due to lack of action over this issue. The common response by those parking vehicles is that there is no available parking in the area, though is not the responsibility of the local estates to accommodate the overflow and suffer the consequences if Bullocksteads chooses to run events past it's capacity.

Cllr Littleton advised that he has already sent an email to Parking Control requesting that Parking Control officers monitor this this area on match/event days when it is at its worst.

Noel Hanlon had remained at the meeting for this item as he had knowledge of this issue having been involved in the Parklife Project, he advised that he would email Leisure United's Community Engagement Manager about the resident's concerns. (Leisure United are the operator for Bullocksteads) Noel Hanlon and Steve Mitcheson then left the meeting.

20. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman provided a detailed progress report.

Latest budget statements are available with the clerk

Not a lot of activity since the last meeting with regard to the Ward Biodiversity projects.

Woolsington Ward: Maintenance work in Bluebell Wood, carried out by Green Eagle Trees in March 25 is nearing completion. As the budget was £500, Members approved a request for additional cost of £220 to come out of Woolsington & Bankfoot CIL.

Callerton Ward: No update.

Bedeburn Ward: No final decision on the Flower bed. Still awaiting on results of underground wiring checks by Newcastle City Council, this may have to be delayed until next financial year.

Newbiggin Hall Ward: Local gardener Arthur Robson doing great work on the Sovereign Lodge Bed, and it's looking fantastic.

Schools:

Farne: Wildflower turf planned, discussions being held with Pictorial Meadows - awaiting costings.

Cheviot: Supply of plants, preparation and maintenance of the Edible Gaden by Nick Craigs, another excellent gardener, school very happy.

Simonside & St Marks: no progress to report since January still waiting for final costings.

Other Projects: With regard to special projects, an update was provided:-

Parish Ponds: Gate and fencing at entrance to Main Pond due to be installed on March 24th/25th, Gate at access to A696 parking bay same day.

Waste Bin destroyed - burned out after dark on Sunday, cause unknown, wildlife cameras didn't pick up any activity. The Fire Service were called to put out the fire (which was caught on camera)

Community Meeting was held on March 10th, good turnout of thirty plus, including representatives from Northumbria Police, the Landowner and the

Chair of the Parish Council. A special thanks the Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Pattison for his help & support. Very constructive and positive meeting, excellent feedback received from those present.

A Community Steering Group is to be formed to include members of the public, the landowner and the Parish Council.

An update will be sent out in due course to those who volunteered to be on the Steering Group. In the meantime, a community litter picking/light site maintenance event is arranged for Saturday 22nd March at 10am until noon.

Abbotswood

Waiting costings from Pictorial Meadows consultancy services for options on the supply and planting of wildflower belts

21. Grant Applications

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

D2 Youth Zone Ltd Summer Easter Holiday Grant

An application was received requesting funding for £1000 to support an activities programme across the school easter holidays.

Cllr Wright queried the cost of the breakdown, which the clerk advised he would query with D2 and circulate response.

Cllr Robinson suggested that the grant should still be considered in advance of a response as the funding was required for the Easter holidays, and the Parish Council's next meeting wasn't until May. After a short discussion, the members voted in favour to grant the application in full pending clarification.

22. Anti-Social Behaviour on Land Owned by Northumberland Estates

Cllr Littleton advised that he was receiving many complaints from residents about the missing gate to the farmers field in Woolsington, as is attracting motor biking/quad biking to this field and the surrounding area. Having quad bike access anywhere in this area is clearly not acceptable to local people and is damaging to the landscape.

Cllr Littleton informed the meeting that he has previously written to the land owner Northumbrian Estates regarding the policy for the replacement of this gate, however received no response. Following a discussion on this issue, Cllr Pattison requested that the Clerk sends a letter on his behalf to Northumberland Estates and asks for a definitive response, one which provides an explanation as to whether, or not, Northumbrian Estates plan to restore this gate.

23. Ward Councillor's Update

Cllr Robinson provided a quick update, mentioned the success of the International Woman's event which had been held at the Newcastle Civic Centre.

Issues with parking around Bedeburn Road and surrounding areas where the new Callerton School is being built, tickets are now being issued following an email from Cllr Robinson to Parking Enforcement, Cllr Thomas also provided further update on this issue.

Cllr Pattison provided an update on the Defibrillator being installed on Etal Park.

Cllr Robinson advised that the resurfacing at Hareydene was now complete.

Cllr Wright advised that the Coop shop in Callerton had eventually begun to be built.

24. CIL Discussion

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

Cllr G Pattison advised that he was in discussions of possible resurfacing at Langleeford Road.

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman’s had previously proved a CIL update for Woolsington & Bank Foot under the Biodiversity plan item. They advised Members that further funding will be ring fenced for the Parish Ponds and Abbotswood and that this would be outlined at the next meeting.

25. For Consideration and Agreement

The Clerk shared the following documents and requested Members approval;

Financial Regulations 2024

Standing Orders 2024

Statement of Internal Control 2024-25

Risk Assessment 2025

Asset Register 2024-25

Following slight amendments proposed, these were all agreed.

26. Planning Matters

Cllr G Pattison and Cllr L. Wright 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.

2022/1135/01/DET	Car Park and Adjoining Land, Callerton Parkway Metro Station, Callerton Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8DF	Holding Objection
2025/0069/01/ADV	Land to the North of Stamfordham Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne	No Objection
2021/1363/03/RVC	Land to the North of Stamfordham Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne	No Objection
2025/0137/01/HOU	Peel House Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	Objection
2025/0150/01/TPO	38 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	Objection
2025/0211/01/TPO	Trevelyan Court Trevelyan Drive, Newbiggin Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne,	
2025/0262/01/TPO	36 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	

27. 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	Jan/Feb 25	£ 1,021.46
HMRC	Jan/Feb 25	£ 255.40
St Wilfrid's Church (Jan)		£ 40.00
Andrew Richardson (Site 123 - Domain)		£ 25.24
Andrew Richardson (Site 123 – Website)		£ 251.82
Andrew Richardson (ID Cards)		£ 39.96
Arthur Robson (Sovereign Lodge)		£ 100.00
Wild Intrigue (CIL – W&BF)		£ 479.99
John Littleton (CIL – W&BF)		£ 31.78
HFF Garden Services (Grant)		£ 310.00

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

28. Any Other Business

Cllr Littleton advised that an agreement had been reached with Newcastle Falcons to install external defibrillator.

Cllr Thomas mentioned that there were governor vacancies at Simonside Primary School if any members knew of anyone who may be interested.

Cllr Littleton had been liaising with Cllr Ged Bell regarding various matters, the Clerk advised that he had addressed the querie with Cllr Bell regarding a resident's association, and Cllr Littleton would address the Defibrillator query.

29. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 14th May 2025, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church, however has since been moved to 21st May.

Chairman

Date