

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 21st May 2025

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk
Tom Hutchinson – Newbiggin Hall Football Club

30. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A. Hay, J. Sabarre, L. Spencer and L. Wright.

The Chair advised that he had been informed by Cllr S. Pattison that she had made the decision to step down as a Parish Councillor. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Cllr S. Pattison for her long service to the Parish.

31. Report of the Parish Council

The Chair read out a report of the Parish Council's activity for the previous 12 months

32. Election of Chairperson

Resolved that: Councillor G Pattison be appointed Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year

33. Election of Vice Chairperson

Resolved that: Councillor J. Robinson be appointed Vice Chair of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year.

34. Appointment of representatives on other bodies

Resolved that: the following appointment be made -
Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee -
Councillor J Littleton will attend as required

35. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th March 2025 were agreed as a true record.

36. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

37. Newbiggin Hall Football Club

Tom Hutchinson attended from Newbiggin Hall Football Club. Tom provided an overview of the club, how it was run, the groups of teams involved from

little dribblers up to under seventeens, anti-social behaviour issues encountered at the moment, and also the financial constraints. Tom inquired whether the Parish Council would be interested in supporting the club in some capacity. The members welcomed this suggestion and it was agreed that a meeting would be convened with the club and the Parish Clerk to discuss this further.

38. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman provided a detailed progress report. Financial Statements for Wards & Schools and Special Projects are available on request from the clerk, both dated May 2025.

Ward update End of year summary

Bedeburn Ward, no progress this year due to the flower bed project for Bedeburn Road being delayed due to illness.

Excellent work undertaken in all other Wards. Members are delighted with the Sovereign Lodge flower bed and the excellent work by local gardener Arthur Robson.

Schools Update

Schools now really getting up to speed with their biodiversity projects and outdoor learning. Members are delighted with the progress made this year especially the pupil involvement. Even had children watering plants in the drought. In summary funding has been spent on:

Edible Gardens at Cheviot and Hawthorn Hedging (under a separate grant) Wildflower Turf (lessons learned at Farne, fantastic idea, almost immediate results, but, for future reference, this type of project needs commitment to continually water during dry spells. Farne also introduced water butts & planters.

Excellent work done by staff and pupils at St Marks & Simonside with well thought out use of Plants, soils and equipment

Special Projects

Ponds project:

Really gathering momentum and a Community Steering Group has been established. This includes membership from the Parish Council, Landowner & Police.

New gating system introduced and so far preventing motor bikes getting access to the designated Nature Area.

Some vandalism to fences, (which has since repaired) Wildlife cameras have been stolen (organised crime). Crime incident numbers have been allocated.

Other main problem is with fishing. Discarded lines and litter. Anti-social behaviour in small pond (which is owned by Northumberland Estates)

Plan to prevent fishing in the Nature Area (Main Pond) and look into discussions with Angling Clubs to teach good practice, particularly to youths Steering group is now formulating priorities based on LEMP and plans for site improvements

Health and Safety issues continually being reported at the A696 layby

Abbotswood

Pictorial Meadows consultancy. Plans for large scale wildflower meadows opposite Bellway Headquarters.

Meeting planned with the Chair on site to discuss.

Plan to ring fence more W&BF CIL to match Airport funding in Trust budget for this purpose (£5k), this was agreed.

Discussions planned with Bellway to secure more investment.

Millennium Seat, work carried out by Marmax, a site visit with the Chair followed and an article has been written for WPC website.

Milton Beattie Memorial occasion, event organised for 12.30 on August 6th, all Members invited. Airport Management and Woolsington Residents who knew Milton & Sylvia will be invited. Chair to say a few words and family to bring plaque followed by some refreshments.

39. CIL Discussion

Cllr Kennedy raised concerns about the condition of the footpath leading from Lowbiggin to the wider bridlepath network to the Parish Ponds, and enquired about the prospect of using CIL funding to restore the footpath back to the desired standard. Cllr Littleton advised caution as this was part of the developer's proposals, and enquiries had already been made with the Planning Authority on the Parish Councils behalf, however volunteered to look into this on behalf of Cllr Kennedy and provide an update once he had one. Members agreed that funding could be used to renew signs in Callerton Village. Also, Cllr Wright had advised by email that they were hoping to install some public waste bins in Callerton using CIL funding, and a meeting would be scheduled with Mick Murphy in due course.

40. Defibrillator Project Update

Theft from St Wilfred's, another Defib has been installed inside the premises. New Defibrillator has been installed outside Falcons RFC. Falcons staff are to manage information on the NHS Site the Circuit.

New Defibrillator has been installed outside shops on Etal Lane (funded by Ward Committee). The Parish Council is to manage information on the NHS Site the Circuit.

Propose to pay Electrician from WPC funds and recover from Ward Committee.

41. Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Robinson provided an update.

Ward Committees had been held in three different locations which had been very well attended, including the Police and Newcastle City Council. The Police were requested to provide the stats from the Mobile CCTV camera that the Parish had funded, with a view to it being relocated. It was advised that Paul Angus that left NCC who had been the Parish Council's contact.

The Police to be invited to an upcoming Parish Council meeting.

The number six and seven bus service had been withdrawn, Kim McGuinness had been alerted.

The trees outside of D2 have been the subject of vandalism.

42. 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.

2025/0211/01/TPO	Trevelyan Court Trevelyan Drive, Newbiggin Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne,	No Objection
2025/0262/01/TPO	36 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2025/0362/01/TPO	4 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2025/0286/01/DET	Newcastle International Airport Ltd, Newcastle International Airport Newcastle Airport, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	No Objection
2016/0643/67/RES	Woolsington Grange Phase 2a, Brunton Road, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AX	No Objection
2024/1614/01/ADV	Budgens, Skyway Filling Station Newcastle Airport, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	Objection
2025/0450/01/TPO	2 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2025/0448/01/ADV	Land Adjacent to The A696 And Approximately 150m South West of Bank Foot Metro Station, Ne13 8bd,	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	No Objection
2025/0474/01/HOU	5 Carnation Way, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 1DH	The proposed work was completed without consultation on 28.04.2023.
2025/0530/01/HOU	Riftswood Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	No Objection
2025/0618/01/HOU	Broadfield Meadows, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BB	

2025/0675/01/TPO	37 Station Road, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AG	
2025/0678/01/TPO	37 Station Road, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AG	
2025/0702/01/TPO	38 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	

Cllr Littleton provided an update on the PAS Peer Challenge Team 1 meeting in which he had attended along with Cllr Couchman with Newcastle City Council.

It was noted that Woolsington Parish Council appear very well organised in responding to planning applications in comparison to other Parish Councils in attendance.

Concerns were raised on behalf of WPC regarding the following

- the 21 days response time,
- no concessions for Statutory Consultees being able to make informed judgements and making detailed comments for Planning Committee in that time
- the amendment process, reissue of all documents, and therefore being unable to judge the changes made/difference to the previous application (everything has to be re-read)
- lack of responses from Case Officers to requests for clarification or further information
- learning about the outcome of the Application

43. Financial Matters / Accounts for Payment

The Clerk provided an update to Members with regard to the 2024/25 Annual accounts.

43a. The members approved the Annual Governance Statement, and

43b. The members approved the Financial Statement.

The Chair thereafter signed the AGAR documents.

43c. Approval was given to the following payments, itemised in the Report of the Clerk circulated with the papers for the meeting –

Clerk Salary	Mar/Apr 25	£ 1,021.46
HMRC	Mar/Apr 25	£ 255.40
St Wilfrid's Church (Mar)		£ 40.00
CA Accountancy		£ 294.00
John Littleton (Litter Pickers)		£ 24.48
D2 Youth Zone Ltd (Grant)		£ 1000.00
NCC (Highways) (CIL - Bedeburn)		£ 48,636.19
Marmax Products Ltd (CIL-W&BF)		£ 300.00
Callerton Residents Ass (B&Q)		£ 498.50
Green Eagle Trees (CIL-W&BF)		£ 3,687.60
Sparkie Electrical Services (Misc)		£ 306.00

Marmax Products Ltd (CIL–W&BF)	£	480.00
Marmax Products Ltd (CIL–W&BF)	£	558.00
HFF Garden Services (CIL – Cheviot School Bio)	£	266.00
Green Eagle Trees (CIL–W&BF)	£	382.40
John Littleton (Begonia Paints)	£	24.50
Green Eagle Trees (CIL – Woolsington Wards Bio)	£	780.00
The Green Estate (Pictorial Meadows) (CIL – Farne School Bio)	£	1,328.17

43d. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

44. For Consideration and Agreement

The Clerk shared the following documents and requested Members approval;
 Financial Regulations 2025-26
 Standing Orders 2025-26
 Statement of Internal Control 2025-26
 Risk Assessment 2025-26
 Asset Register 2025-26
 These were all agreed.

45. Any Other Business

The Clerk read out an email from Callerton TARA committee, informing that the association will be officially disbanding by the end of May 2025, and advised that they were planning to rebrand as Friends of Callerton, the members agreed that they would still support as previously and qualify for Biodiversity funding.
 The Clerk provided an update on a meeting which had been requested by the Lib Dems leader Cllr Colin Ferguson, in which he had attended along with Chair and Cllr Littleton.

46. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 9th July 2025, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church, however has since been moved to 16th July.

Chairman

Date