

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 14th January 2026

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk
Gavin Jordan - Resident

01. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L. Kennedy, L. McGuinness, and L. Wright.

02. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

03. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

04. Defibrillators

Cllr Littleton advised that to have the annual maintenance of all the six Parish defibrillators carried out by Curae Group, (the company who had installed and currently maintain three of them), it would be approximately £660.00 in total. Following a benchmarking exercise, and quotations received, it was proposed to utilise local electrician Gary Wilson who had quoted £450.00 in total for all six. Members agreed to this proposal.

05. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton provided an update

2 reports were prepared in January and are available on request from the clerk

- Woolsington Parish Council Biodiversity Project 25/26 to date
- Special Projects CIL expenditure 2025/26 to date

Sovereign Lodge flower bed, local gardener Andy Mackenzie doing good work NH and Bedeburn Wards.

- It was confirmed that the work was carried out to plant spring bulbs in the verges on either side of Newbiggin Lane on the 19/11/2025 by Newcastle City Council's Ground's Maintenance section.

Schools update 2025/26

- St Marks - Members visit taken place - Agreed to order plants and equipment for outdoor learning, to be bought throughout the season.
- Simonside - visit not yet arranged

- Farne – Nature Trail being Planned (£6,000 of W&BF CIL ring fenced as agreed)
- Cheviot – repairs to hawthorn hedgerow have been made as a result of dry spring/summer plus ongoing work to Edible Garden allotments is due (Contracted to Nick Craigs)

Cllr Thomas suggested that the Parish Council approach Callerton Academy to inquire if they wish to be involved in our Biodiversity scheme.

Special Projects update

Abbotswood

- Wildflower turf (Patchwork Quilt) and seasonal bulbs planted by Pictorial Meadows
- A section of the Newcastle Airport/WPC partnership work in Abbotswood will feature in the next publication of the Airport Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy,

Parish Ponds

- Environment Agency contacted Parish Council and asked for help to secure the small woodland next to the Lily Pond from motorbikes. This woodland is to be part of the Nature Area and occasionally motorbikes are gaining access in between the trees on the bridlepath. Plans afoot to create a long dead hedge along the perimeter line of the bridlepath. This will be a Community Educational Event on Saturday February 21 10.00-12.00, with coffee van to give out refreshments. Other Ponds project tasks are assigned to Archie's Trail.

06. Archie's Nature Trail

Cllr Couchman provided an update on Archie's Nature Trail, this is to commemorate the life of Archie York.

Been assigned as a special project as it has been allocated a separate budget. It is now gathering momentum under the stewardship of the City Council. Newcastle Airport have approached the Parish Council and have offered support for litter bin & seat.

Project Plans so far are for:

- Signpost on Whorlton Lane
- Litter bin on Whorlton Lane (now in place)
- New metal seat and litter bin by Duke's Pond

Permissions given by landowner (Northumberland Estates), but they require indemnity against third party injuries), and have drawn up a license agreement for NCC to sign.

- New metal litter bin with nature Trail logo by Lily Pond
- Nature Trail posts/way markers around Main Pond
- Maintenance work on island to encourage breeding wildfowl (Swans, Geese, Ducks) and Kingfisher perches in the Pond itself. Work to be carried out by Wild Intrigue
- Archie's Wildlife Observation Point on Main Pond
- Kissing Gate at west end of woodland (not costed, subject to budget)
- Ongoing maintenance support from Cal Sherlock for emptying litterbins and keeping nature trail tidy until project complete.
- MAY 29 launch all Members invited

07. Newcastle International Airport ACC Update

Cllr Hay declared an interest.

Cllr Littleton provided an update on Newcastle Airport’s unveiling of a new free waiting zone for taxis and the public. The facility is called Fastned, and is at Callerton Parkway. This provides a safe area for vehicles to wait before picking up passengers, offering up to 90 minutes free parking for taxis, minibuses and public vehicles. Fastned will also replace the current 15-minute free drop off period in the Short Stay 2 car park. With an electric shuttle bus service, which will initially run every 30 minutes and transport passengers between the waiting zone and the terminal front entrance. This decision to replace the Short Stay 2 car park in the terminal facility has caused some controversy. Following some concerns re potential traffic congestion, Members have liaised with the Airport. The Airport have advised they are keen to support potential Biodiversity Net Gain BNG projects in the Woolsington Parish.

Members have asked for further details on the hours of the bus service, facilities for Blue Badge holders and review of operations, discussions on BNG are ongoing.

08. Ward Councillor’s Update

Cllr Hay advised that although it had been a quiet few weeks for casework, any that was required was being dealt with quickly. Cllr Pattison advised that the resurfacing to Langleeford Road had been secured following ongoing dialogue with Newcastle City Council. Discussions taking place and a petition to be raised to Nexus due to their proposal to withdraw the M71 bus service.

09. CIL Discussion

Cllr Pattison advised of talks with Samantha Ross from Newcastle City Council with a view to obtaining quotations for new kerbs etc around Newbiggin Hall. Cllr Sabarre informed members that he was still waiting on a costing’s update from Cheviot and Farne following discussions at the previous meeting that both of these schools were in need of refurbishment, and that a sensory room would be ideal for the children with special needs.

10. 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.

2025/1737/01/HOU	54b Watson Road, Callerton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 1BU	No Objection
2025/1719/01/HOU	87 Broadfield Meadows, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BB	No Objection
2025/0831/01/DET	20 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	Holding Objection
2025/1752/01/DET	Shell, Skyway Filling Station Newcastle Airport, Woolsington,	Holding Objection

	Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	
2025/2064/01/DET	39 The Oval, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AS	
2017/0764/03/RVC	Redlands Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BW	

11. 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	Nov/Dec 25	£ 1,054.60
HMRC	Nov/Dec 25	£ 263.60
St Wilfrid's Church (Nov)		£ 40.00
D2 Youth Zone Ltd (Grant)		£ 1,000.00
George Pattison (Buxton Green) (CIL – N/B Hall)		£ 458.58
Tyne Rivers Trust (691) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 591.60
Tyne Rivers Trust (690) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 356.60
Andrew Richardson (Xmas Trees)		£ 615.00
HFF Garden Services (CIL – Cheviot)		£ 640.00
Cal Sherlock (Maintenance) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 360.00
HFF Garden Services (CIL – Cheviot)		£ 320.00
NCC (Woolsington Notice Board) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 204.00
Andy Mackenzie (Sovereign Lodge)		£ 100.00

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

c. The Clerk provided an estimated budget to enable members to set an appropriate precept, following a discussion, it was resolved, that the Precept for the financial year 2026/2027 be set at £20,000

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Sabarre informed members that Callerton Academy had again suggested a tour of the premises for Parish Councillor's, date and time to be arranged.

Cllr Couchman advised that a change in the speed limit at Bank Foot is causing issues, and requested assistance from Ward Members, Cllr Hay to make enquiries.

The Clerk advised that a grant application form had been received from Simonside Primary School after the agenda had been circulated, the Chair agreed it could be considered under any other business. Cllr Thomas declared an interest at this point, and took no part in the discussion. The application received was requesting funding for £1,600 to purchase new reading books for pupils. Members agreed to grant the application in full following a short discussion.

Cllr Sabarre agreed to assist with the design on the next newsletter.

Cllr Spencer informed members that residents on the Gables had raised issues with their road surfacing, also parking issues and advised he will pursue with Newcastle City Council on their behalf.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 11th March 2026, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church.

Chairman

Date