

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 11th March 2026

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

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

14. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A. Hay and L. Wright.

15. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th January 2026 were agreed as a true record.

16. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

17. Grant Application

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

D2 Youth Zone Ltd Easter Holiday Grant

An application was received requesting funding for £1,500 to support an activities programme across the School Easter holidays.
After a short discussion, the members voted in favour to grant the application in full.

18. Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Robinson advised that she had been quite busy with casework, and had also attended the International Woman's Day event at the Civic Centre.
Cllr Pattison advised that he had also been busy with casework and canvassing for the upcoming elections.

19. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Couchman provided an update
2 reports prepared and are available on request from the clerk

- Archie's Nature Trail – plans and budget update
- WPC response to proposals for Airport Freight storage facility

WPC Defibrillators Annual Maintenance requirements

Gary Wilson (Electrician has agreed to maintain all 6 defibrillators for £75.00 per unit per year. Gary did a repair inspection of Etal Lane site at no cost)
Biodiversity Project 25/26 since January meeting

Wards update

Bank Foot - Kingston Open Spaces

50 x Hardy Geraniums and 50 x Heuchera red, planted at the entrance area and opposite 60 & 62 Foxfield Close Kenton Bank Heath.

Ward Biodiversity work in general

Apart from Schools who remain proactive, proposal to change the Ward system to become `request led`.

There has been a lack of initiative shown from existing Community groups across the Parish Wards.

New housing communities are emerging as housing is built at a rapid rate.

Proposal that a request/grant system would be fairer and easier to manage, this was agreed commencing on 1 April 2026.

Schools update 25/26

Check required to see if all invoices & receipts have been submitted for 25/26.

Farne – Nature Trail planning in progress but is behind original schedule.

Special Projects update

Abbotswood

Wildflower turf (Patchwork Quilt) and seasonal bulbs planted by Pictorial Meadows awaiting results.

Members have written a three-page article on the NIA/WPC partnership work in Abbotswood (available with the clerk) a section of it will feature in the next publication of the Airport Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy.

Parish Ponds

NHSN Community Educational Events are booked in already for 2026

In partnership with the Ouse Burn Way

- Ponds by Night - Amphibian adventures two events arranged in March
- Dead Hedging arranged for April 12 and May 9, with coffee van to give out refreshments.
- Wildlife Walkies for dogs arranged for 22 March

Archie`s Trail continues to dominate a lot of the project work at the Ponds Anti-Social Behaviour, particularly motorbiking and quad biking, continues to be a problem. Fences and natural barriers surrounding the Nature Area being targeted.

The majority of offenders entering from Lowbiggin

Discussions with Police, Landowner and City Council being arranged to explore preventative measures for access

Concerns that this may blight Archies Nature Trail project. Members agreed to continue as planned

20. Archie`s Nature Trail

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

Designs by Pardue Art previously circulated with agenda.

Note sketch of family and quotes from classroom friends.

All outcomes have been agreed following discussions with

Archie`s family & the City Council on plans for Archie`s Trail event.

An itinerary of the day was provided for Friday May 29th.

21. Newsletter

The Clerk advised that further to his email request for items for the Parish Council's third newsletter, he had received some articles, however requested further input and updates on work around the Parish that could be used.

22. CIL Discussion

The Clerk provided a balance on the updated funding figures and welcomed suggestions and ideas on projects that are in the pipeline, a discussion took place on potential schemes.

23. Planning Applications / 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.

2025/2064/01/DET	39 The Oval, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AS	Objection
2017/0764/03/RVC	Redlands Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BW	No Objection
2026/0021/01/HOU	61 Woolsington Gardens, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AP	No Objection
2026/0005/01/TPO	Woodland to the Rear Of 6 South Drive, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AN	No Response / Clerk Sickness
2026/0108/01/HOU	1 Westgarth, Whorlton Grange, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 4NS	No Response / Clerk Sickness
2026/0112/01/HOU	3 Westgarth, Whorlton Grange, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 4NS	No Response / Clerk Sickness
2026/0123/01/HOU	38 Broadfield Meadows, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BB	No Objection
2026/0129/01/HOU	Peel House Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	Objection
2026/0062/01/DET	12 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	Holding Objection
2026/0218/01/TPO	14 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2025/1414/01/DET	Broom Hall Farm Callerton Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 1NS	No Objection
2026/0253/01/ADV	Land North of Brunton Road, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 2UY	No Objection

2025/2045/01/HOU	21 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2026/0260/01/HOU	9 The Crescent, Kenton Bankfoot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AE	
2026/0324/01/LBC	The Granary, Bullock Steads Farm Ponteland Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AH	

NIA Airlink Freight proposals

Cllr Littleton advised that Woolsington Parish Council made a very positive response to Newcastle International Masterplan 2040.

Members recognise the key economic benefits that will be delivered and unanimously welcome the overall contribution towards the growth and prosperity of the region.

Endorsing the Business Plan including those for Airlink Freight

However, from the information made available on Airlink, Woolsington Parish Council does not believe that the use of Middle Drive for access is a sustainable option for a 24 x 7 HGV service.

Members believe it will cause potential road infrastructure problems for the Metro crossing at Callerton Parkway

There is an already fit for purpose access at the Freight Road entrance.

24. 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 26	£ 1,054.40
HMRC	Jan/Feb 26	£ 263.80
St Wilfrid's Church (Jan)		£ 40.00
Forvis Mazars (Ext Audit)		£ 504.00
Cal Sherlock (Stabilizer Grids)		£ 99.98
Green Eagle Trees (To be reimbursed by NIA)		£ 580.00
Simonside Primary School (Grant)		£ 1,600.00
Cal Sherlock (Maintenance Dec/Jan) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 360.00
Cal Sherlock (Dead Hedge Materials)		£ 142.00
NCC (Bulbs/Bedeburn Road)		£ 1,125.32
NCC (Litter Bin Whorlton Lane) (Archies Trail)		£ 964.51
WI Consulting (Archies Trail)		£ 400.00
Cal Sherlock (Timber Reimbursement) (Archies Trail)		£ 109.80

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

25. Any Other Business

Cllr Thomas advised there was a vacant Governor space at Simonside Primary School if anyone was interested.

Cllr McGuinness advised that she had been looking into the idea of organising a Parish Parkrun. Following conversations with Parkrun, to get it up and

running it would require funding, a committee, and volunteers. Members agreed this was a good suggestion and worth looking into, it was mentioned that local builder Taylor Wimpey would be interested in supporting.

Councillor McGuinness agreed to make further investigations and hopefully return with a detailed proposal for the May meeting.

Cllr Sabarre declared an interest, then informed members of ongoing concerns regarding SMART Multi-Academy Trust's support for Farne Primary and Cheviot Primary, Cllr Sabarre advised that he had continually raised with the Trust various issues including the lack of progress on necessary refurbishments and lifecycle works, ongoing funding and resourcing constraints. Cllr Sabarre was informed that the Trust did not believe any further conversation or reset would serve a beneficial purpose, and his position as Chair and governor was then terminated. A lengthy discussion took place regarding this, and various suggestions were mentioned. Cllr Robinson advised that she would contact the Director of Education Cath McAvoy at Newcastle City Council for advice and possible actions.

26. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 13th May 2026, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church.

Chairman

Date