

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 8th July 2026

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk
Councillor John Mansfield (Kingston Park & Dinnington)

45. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G. Jordan, L. McGuinness and J. Sabarre.

46. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th May 2026 were agreed as a true record.

47. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

48. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman provided a detailed progress report.

Wards – request from Cllr Hay for Bedeburn Ward for a creation of a new floral feature on the corner of Bedeburn Road. Biodiversity team are waiting for further information on exact location and contacts from Cllr Hay
Farne School - discussions still ongoing with contractor on Nature Trail specifications, but plans won't be finalised until later this year

Special Projects - Abbotswood Trust (NIA/WPC)

Images of the fantastic results of the current phase, the Patchwork Quilt Wildflower scheme, have been circulated.

Plans for a community event to cut down and rake off the summer growth are being arranged for late Autumn/ early Winter. This is necessary to get the best results next year. Members will be kept informed of the dates.

The next phase of the project and any further investment will be considered by the partnership (WPC/NIA) next year

Special Projects - Parish Ponds

Work continues on site maintenance, removal of litter and habitat improvements.

The project continues to gain momentum, visitor numbers increasing, wildlife is thriving, the free community events being hosted by the NHSN are proving very popular.

Discussions have taken place with the Landowner (TW&PH) to discuss their commitments on Biodiversity Net Gain these were very productive. With

commitments by the landowner to make site improvements over the next 25 years in the woodland and surrounding area.

Maintenance agreement with Cal Sherlock

Mr Sherlock's efforts have been invaluable in light site maintenance, repairs, and litter removal for both Ponds and the Nature Trail projects, his presence on site has also helped in minimising anti-social behaviour. At a previous meeting Members agreed to extend this maintenance contract work (6 hours per week until Dec 31st 2026) funded jointly from Archie's Nature Trail and W&BF CIL. Members agreed that it is essential that this work will need to continue, especially in maintaining Archie's Nature Trail. Therefore, it was further agreed that the Parish Council will hold meetings with the City Council (for Archie's Trail) and the Landowner (for general Parish Ponds work) on the ways in which they can work with the Parish Council on these projects.

Archies Nature Trail – reflection and next steps

The Parish Council Ponds Project (in essence the planning and delivery of habitat & leisure improvements and maintenance) is a different project to Archie's Nature Trail.

Archie's Nature Trail turned out to be a massive project with many challenges resulting in many demands on Members' time.

The inaugural event on Friday 29 May was a great success, many thanks to all Members involved. Waymarker Posts, a new bench, litterbin, a log wall and metal gate were all funded and installed in the days leading up to the event (with financial support from Newcastle Airport for the bench and many thanks to Michelin for their very kind donation towards the event).

Future policy: Members recommend discussions must take place with the City Council, the Landowner, Northumbria Police and the Parish Ponds Steering Group regarding longer term sustainability. Agreements also need to be reached on 'ownership' of Archie's Nature Trail:

How the maintenance of infrastructure, challenges of Anti-Social Behaviour and funding will be managed going forward

Re the production of a photo album of Archie's Nature Trail, primarily as a gift from the Parish Council to the York family.

It is an excellent piece of work, put together by Sue Owens our photographer for the day.

Three copies have been ordered

- 1 x for the York family (we suggest that George presents this to them)
- 1 x for the Parish Council to keep
- 1 x spare copy

As a thank you to Sue who did all the photography and also the design work, the Parish Council agreed to buy her a £30 gift voucher from Cowells Garden Centre.

49. Airport Update

Airlink Response, The Planning Application has not yet been issued because the City Council decided to issue a request for a Scoping Opinion on Outline Application. I.e. What should be included in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Parish Council has responded positively to this.

The Parish Council has written to the Planning Authority (Louise Sloan) to request clarification of the timescales for the NUFC training ground plans in

Woolsington Park as they may have an impact on `means of access` for Airlink. Members are still waiting for a response.

During public consultation the Airport declared that the access route would be through Woolsington Village via Middle Drive and across the Metro Lines at Callerton Parkway. Whilst supportive of Airlink as a facility, Members are opposed to this route in principle as use of the existing Freight Road would avoid further congestion, and passage of HGVs in Woolsington 24 x7 – it is acknowledged that use of the Freight Road would incur alterations to its route in places and therefore there would be cost implications.

Dangerous parking in the northbound carriageway of the A696 Layby continues to cause concerns and Members have written to the Airport about the failure of airport-related traffic to use the free parking facility in Callerton Parkway.

A temporary sign has been installed by Highways but appears to have had little impact so far.

New contacts at the Airport

Janine Lamb Communication Manager is the first point of contact for Abbotswood, and A696 parking problems

Matthew Foreman Planning Manager is the first point of contact for Planning and Development

Katherine Smith Environmental and Sustainability Advisor is first point of contact for the Airport Consultative Committee

50. Parish Ponds Parkrun

Cllr Couchman read out an update provided by Cllr McGuinness.

We had a very positive response to the volunteer appeal, so confident we now have enough people in the pool to support the events.

The main thing we need now is written permission from the landowner, or whoever is responsible for the bridleway, confirming they're happy for a Parkrun event to take place there.

It was suggested that the £4k start-up fee could be funded from CIL, as it fits the criteria well, it supports community engagement, health and wellbeing, showcases the Ponds area, and encourages more visitors, which also helps protect the local environment. Member agreed to this in principle.

The clerk advised that a meeting can be arranged with a committee member from the Herrington Park Parkrun if required to gain further information and any valuable advice.

51. Newsletter

The Clerk requested any further items / articles for the Parish Council's third newsletter, a few other suggestions were also put forward, it is intended to finalise in the next few months, have printed and distribute.

52. CIL Discussion

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

Cllr Robinson mentioned a requirement for a handrail on Bedeburn Road. Cllr Littleton proposed to ring fence funding from the W&BF CIL for allocation for Abbotswood (the actual amount will be determined following discussions with the Airport), and £25,000 for the Parish Ponds this was agreed by Members.

It was also agreed to continue funding Archie's Nature Trail costs from all 4 Wards

53. Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Mansfield provided an update around on-going casework, a litter bin for bank foot was mentioned as an outstanding requirement.

54. Planning Matters

The Clerk provided an update on planning applications received which had previously been circulated to members.

2026/0377/01/HOU	25 Crane Street, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8DD	No Objection
2025/1951/01/HOU	10 Woolsington Gardens, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AR	No Objection
2024/0689/02/RVC	6 South Drive, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AN	No Objection
2025/2056/01/HOU	38 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	Holding Objection
2026/0679/01/SCO	Land Known as Airlink to the South of Newcastle International Airport, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	
2026/0959/01/TPO	Bullock Steads Farm, No 2 Cottage Ponteland Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AH	No Objection
2026/1009/01/DET	Skyway Service Station Newcastle Airport Roundabout, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	

55. Financial Matters / Accounts for Payment

55a. Approval was given to the following payments, itemised in the Report of the Clerk circulated with the papers for the meeting –

Clerk Salary	May/Jun 26	£ 1,054.60
HMRC	May/Jun 26	£ 263.60
St Wilfrid's Church (May)		£ 40.00
Gordon Fletcher (Internal Auditor)		£ 125.00
HFF Garden Services (CIL-School)		£ 540.00
John Littleton (Reimbursement) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 100.00

NALC (Subscription)	£ 1,611.05
Cal Sherlock (Materials Reimbursement) (CIL – Archies Trail)	£ 90.18
John Littleton (Materials Reimbursement) (CIL – Archies Trail)	£ 144.66
Inspire Youth Tyne & Wear (Grant)	£ 1,000.00
Action for Children (Grant)	£ 1,050.00
D2 Youth Zone Ltd (Grant)	£ 4,000.00
Marmax (CIL – Archies Trail) Cost to be recovered from Airport	£ 838.80
Marmax (INV056440) (CIL – Archies Trail)	£ 525.60
Northwood Agri Contracting Ltd (CIL – Archies Trail)	£ 10,038.00
Cal Sherlock (Apr/May/ Archies Trail)	£ 884.98
HFF Garden Services (CIL – Cheviot School Bio)	£ 310.00
Sparkie Electrical Services (CIL – W&BF)	£ 225.00
John Littleton (Reimbursement) (CIL – Archies Trail)	£ 19.49
Bank Service Charges May/Jun	£ 8.50

55b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

56. Any Other Business

Cllr Thomas advised of an upcoming Summer Fayre at Simonside Primary and that all members were welcome.

Cllr Kennedy again mentioned that Newbiggin Hall Junior football team had been having to train at other facilities due to issues with the Gala Field pitches. The Chair George Pattison and the Clerk agreed to meet with Phil Ramshaw to investigate.

Cllr Littleton updated members on various issues at Harts Café, in particular Car Parking problems, the Chair has been made aware prior to this meeting. Members advice was sought, and a discussion ensued.

Although Cllr McGuinness could not make the meeting, the following updates were provided, Health and Safety issues at the Newbiggin Hall shops (adjacent to Sovereign Lodge), I've written to the local Councillor's asking them to keep up the pressure and contact the landlord urgently about the ongoing health and safety concerns. Councillor Moore has confirmed that they're meeting with the landlord in July and will report back afterwards.

Replacement fencing – Etal Way/A1, a big thank you to Alex Hay for his persistence over the years on this issue, and to Dame Chi Onwurah for raising it in the House of Commons, I've written to the Councillor's asking them to build on the work already done and press National Highways to replace the current proposed programme of works with a confirmed schedule, and to bring it forward from 2027 to 2026, given how long residents have been waiting.

57. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 9th September 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church. (Since been changed to 16th)

Chairman

Date