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 16th September 2026

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

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk
Councillor John Mansfield (Kingston Park & Dinnington)
Ewan Wellwood - NCC
Fraser Stewart - Resident

58. Apologies for absence

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

59. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th July 2026 were agreed as a true record.

60. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

61. Community Governance Review

Ewan Wellwood from Newcastle City Council Elections Services attended to provide an overview, timeline on the consultation period and proposals of the community governance review. He advised that there were no further proposed changes to Woolsington Parish Council, other than the boundary changes already set by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Feedback has already been received from local people

62. Planning Applications / Matters

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

2026/1009/01/DET	Skyway Service Station Newcastle Airport Roundabout, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BZ	No Objection
2026/1070/01/TPO	RIFTSWOOD Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	No Objection
2026/1319/01/TPO	1 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection

2026/1278/01/HOU	PEEL HOUSE Main Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BL	No Objection
2026/1154/01/ADV	Bellway Plc, WOOLSINGTON HOUSE International Drive, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BF	Holding Objection
2026/1370/01/EIA	Land South of Newcastle International Airport (AirLink), Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BN	
2025/2045/02/RVC	21 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2026/0324/02/RVC	The Granary, BULLOCK STEADS FARM Ponteland Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8AH	
2025/2056/01/HOU	38 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	

Cllr Littleton provided an update on the Newcastle International Airport (AirLink), the closing date for responses has been extended to 6 October 2026 Members have now held separate discussions with both the Case Officer and Airport Management. The Parish Council has already raised concerns in its response to Masterplan 2040 regarding impact of Airport growth on road infrastructure, particularly on the South Side of the runway.
During discussions Members have consequently questioned the Applicant`s proposal for `means of access`. Where Airlink related traffic (including HGVs) will enter/exit the site from Middle Drive, through the north end of residential Woolsington Village and onto the A696 via the Callerton Parkway metro crossing. The same concerns apply to the construction process
With regard to the Newcastle United Training Ground, a meeting has been arranged for the 17th September to discuss at St James Park, very little detail is known, however in order to make informed judgements on the Airlink application, Members need to understand the plans for access to the proposed Training Ground, again this is not known at this stage.

Fraser Stewart plus two other residents attended to discuss the planning application 2026/1448/01/DET, Newbiggin Hall and provided the following summary.
The application which is for 239 houses on land already allocated for housing. This was validated by Newcastle City Council on 10 September 2026, and comments close on 30 September. It will be determined by Planning Committee, not by an officer, and must be decided by 10 December.
The residents don’t object to the houses. That land is allocated for development. The objection is to the access, which is proposed through the existing estate, up Oulton Close and Malthouse Way, and then through the green corridor and linear park known as Newbiggin Dene.

The sequence of events from April 2025, when the Council took a delegated decision on the access land, to September 2026. Residents knew nothing until June this year.
That four access routes were identified, three of which need no Council land, and why residents do not believe they were fairly compared.
That Persimmon's own record of a meeting with three ward councillors on 3 August states support could not be given for the proposed access and other options should be explored. The application was submitted twenty-five days later unchanged.
That the developer's consultation questionnaire opened on 7 September, ten days after the application was submitted, and closed on 11 September, the day after it was validated.
What the Council's own adopted policy NN3 says about Newbiggin Dene, which it names expressly, and what policy CS18 says about the wildlife corridor.
That the application's ecological evidence surveys the farmland and not the corridor or park the road would cross.
That nine of the application documents, including the one containing the access comparison, could not be downloaded from the Council's portal until 14 September, leaving seventeen of the twenty-one consultation days in which the application could be read in full.
A 1987 deed between the City Council and Leech Homes Limited, now part of Persimmon, in which the Council declined to consent to that strip being used as an access road. This is background only. Property covenants are not planning considerations and I will say so.
Fraser asked that the Parish Council send a written representation to Newcastle City Council before 30 September setting out members' concerns about the access crossing Newbiggin Dene.
Members agreed that they would fully support this, and Cllr McGuinness volunteered to take the lead to draft a response.

Cllr Thomas brought to the Parish Council’s attention that there had been a Community Consultation event regarding a new build development in Bedeburn and West Thorp, the project aims to transform underused and unattractive garage blocks into small housing development of high-quality family homes for social rent. It is part of a wider plan to build 109 new homes on 17 sites across the city. NCC representatives to be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to gain more background on the scheme.

63. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman provided a detailed progress report.
Wards – A discussion took place with regard to the suggested Westgarth scheme. Members for the Bedeburn Ward were asked to think about and advise on the longer-term sustainability and risk of a new shrubbery bed being maintained by local people, before a decision can be made.
Schools - Farne Nature Trail artwork signed off and the 4 posts are ordered from Nova Dura, once posts installed the school will invite Parish Council Members to a grand opening.

Fruit trees planted in partnership with the Parish Council five years ago have had a very heavy crop this year, the school plan to arrange for the children deliver apples & pears to local residential care homes.
Members have written to St Mark`s and Simonside seeking new Biodiversity project contact names following staff turnover.
Special Projects - Abbotswood Trust (NIA/WPC) – the Parish Council is waiting for the Airport to confirm current balances. Based on funding available, decisions will then be made on next steps in the project. Priorities will include new replacement noticeboards, extension of the wildflower belt and potential screening of the main access road to Airlink.
Community Event is being planned for the winter months to cut back and rake off wildflowers. To aid another healthy crop for 2027
Members will be invited.
Parish Ponds - More successful Community Events including wildflower walk and another Bats night have been held, others planned for the autumn.
Members have met with Taylor Wimpey, Persimmon Homes and their ecologists, to discuss Biodiversity Net Gain plans by the landowner, this will largely concentrate on tree management. Permissions have been given to the Ponds Steering Group to manage the shrubbery, wildflower belts and continue with light site maintenance (including litter collection).
Archie`s Nature Trail - Some anti-social behaviour over the school holidays. Graffiti on one seat and burn marks on two of the Nature Trail Posts. Repair work was carried out by Cal Sherlock as part of his contractual work.
Arrangements for meeting with the City Council is being arranged for discussions on Council support for future maintenance of the Nature Trail.
Following the Community Governance Review process, it is recommended that the Parish Council continues with ownership of the project. Making decisions, managing repairs and trail maintenance whilst the CIL funding is available.
Archie`s Nature Trail has become high profile with many visitors, a tourist attraction and has become a major asset for the Parish Council.
Cllr McGuinness provided a progress update on the Proposed Parkrun which is to be named the Parish Ponds Parkrun. There have been no objections from Newcastle City Council or Northumberland Estates, however they have requested that parking requirements are considered. The 5k route has been agreed and Parkrun have allocated an ambassador to provide support where required. Thanks to the Parish Council for agreeing to fund this, however Taylor Wimpey has since agreed they will cover the funding in full.

64. Speed Restrictions and Car Parking on A696 & Ponteland Road

Cllr Couchman provided an update, the Parish Council are still waiting for the 30mph speed restrictions to be installed on Ponteland Road between Bank Foot & Woolsington, this is despite final approvals given by Newcastle City Council in March. Members are still waiting for a meaningful response from Traffic Management. Taylor Wimpey are also making enquiries on our behalf.
Despite the Airport opening the free waiting area at Callerton Parkway, the parking problems caused by airport related vehicles continue in the two hot spots.
- The Parking Bay on the A696
- The former bus stop on Ponteland Road (opposite Middle Drive)

Road safety is a major concern, litter and filth continue to be associated with these areas.

65. CIL Discussion

The Clerk provided an update, revised percentages of CIL funding per ward to be calculated once the next allocation is received from Newcastle City Council.

66. Ward Councillors Update

Cllr Mansfield advised that there was now a constituted group for the Kingston Park Play area, and there are plans to move it to the nearest Community Centre in Kingston Park. The proposed litter bins for Bank Foot was mentioned, whilst the Parish Council had previously agreed to fund one bin, this had never progressed, as queries around who should actually take ownership of bins on new estates was raised, whether it should be the Developer or the City Council, and then who would pick up the ongoing service level agreement for emptying them. Cllr Mansfield advised he would pick this up with the City Council.

67. 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 July/Aug 26	£	1,054.60
HMRC July/Aug 26	£	263.60
St Wilfrid's Church (July)	£	40.00
Andy McKenzie (Sovereign Lodge) (CIL – Wards)	£	100.00
John Littleton (Photobox Reimbursement) (CIL – Archie's Trail)	£	98.52
Andrew Richardson (Postage) (Stationary)	£	13.70
John Littleton (Cowell's Reimbursement) (Misc)	£	30.00
Cal Sherlock (June/July/Archies Trail)	£	736.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance	£	377.57
Border Signs and Graphix Ltd (CIL – Archie's Trail)	£	222.00
Border Signs and Graphix Ltd (CIL – Archie's Trail)	£	96.00
Steve Pardue Art & Design	£	3,600.00
Bank Service Charges July/Aug	£	8.50

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

c. The Clerk provided an update on the audited AGAR for the year ending March 2026, advising that the external auditors had completed their review, and was pleased to report that it had been certified complete in accordance with proper practices.

68. Any Other Business

The Chair Cllr George Pattison, Cllr Littleton, Cllr Couchman and the Clerk provided an update following their meeting with Phil Ramshaw from Newbiggin Hall Juniors.

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council were willing to offer the five local schools a donation of a real Christmas Tree like the previous years, the members thought this was a good idea and agreed.

69. Date of next meeting

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

Chairman …….

Date ……