

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
6TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Ann Crawford, Sally Cornelissen, Tony Duff, Ken Fayle, Terry Harvey and Vic Leyden

Cheshire West and Chester Council Ward Member – Councillor Lynn Stocks

PCSO Neil Flanagan (for part of the meeting)

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Ward Councillor Gillian Edwards and Norley Parish Councillor Liz Robinson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There were no items reported.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2024

These were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2024

- **Streetlights Blakemere Lane and Overgrown Hedges**

The remedial works for the column replacements works on the Blakemere Lane streetlights are scheduled to be undertaken during the week commencing the 16th January 2025.

The PC is continuing to follow up the outstanding overgrown hedges around the village.

- **Cheese Hill Junction**

Councillor O'Connor and Councillor Edwards are continuing to follow up the progress on the drawing/plans to make this road closure permanent. The PC are going to pursue with United Utilities whether they can assist with funding towards making the Cheese Hill junction permanent and gateway signs in the village.

- **Cheshire Railings**

It was agreed that the refurbishment/painting of some of the railings and the options of replacing with some other fencing would be considered as part of the village Volunteer Works Programme.

- **Environmental Improvement Programme**

Work on the development of an Environmental Improvement Programme and a suitable location for the planting of a Service Tree is continuing. The PC is working on environmental improvements around the village and proposes linking the Volunteer Highway Scheme, a Village Workday, and the environmental improvements together. Councillor Bakewell is following up with CW&C, the general maintenance and other tasks that could be undertaken within the Highways Scheme.

- **Treatment of Japanese Knotweed at Flaxmere Moss**

Councillor O'Connor is continuing to follow up with CW&C about the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed by a licensed contractor.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to continue to follow up with Roger Goulding, CW&C.

- **The Dog Bin on Pytchleys Hollow**

The dog bin on Pytchleys Hollow now has a QR Code and is regularly emptied by CW&C.

- **Online Banking - Unity Trust Bank**

The PC is in the process of switching the current and savings accounts to online banking with the Unity Trust Bank.

- **Licence for Forest England concerts**

It was noted that the licence application for Forest England concerts in Delamere Forest had been approved by CW&C. It was agreed that the PC should arrange a meeting with Forest Live to prepare for the Delamere Forest Concerts and contact Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council to find out if they would like to be involved in a meeting with Forest Live.

Action – Clerk to follow up with Delamere and Oakmere PC.

- **2025 PC Meeting Dates**

The room availability at the NCK Centre has been confirmed for the proposed 2025 meeting dates.

Action – Clerk to circulate the 2025 meeting dates.

- **Grit Bin at Village Hall**

Councillor O'Connor is following up with Councillor Edwards.

The PC considered the purchasing of a grit bin for the Village Hall and is to obtain costs for purchasing a bin and bags of salt. Councillor Stocks suggested an application for funding to the Members Budget, which would have to be submitted by 31st January.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to liaise with Dave Robinson, to follow up costs of grit bins and salt and submit an application for funding.

- **Defibrillator at the Village Hall**

The PC have arranged for an electrician to check the automatic wall light by the defibrillator which is not working and whether the defibrillator and light could be moved to a more prominent position by the front door of the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee will liaise with the electrician and update the PC.

6. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for November/December 2024 had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and are to be published onto the PC website. The PC noted the following:

Speed Enforcement

High Street has now been re-coded for speed enforcement. Ashton Road is now coded for enforcement and CSW. Post Office Lane is currently not coded for enforcement. A formal request to convert this to enforcement has been made – a response is awaited.

Speed enforcement with PCSO Neil Flanagan is scheduled to take place on 8th Jan on High Street.

Community Speed Watch

Speed monitoring was scheduled for Post Office Lane/High Street on 19th December but was not undertaken due to bad weather.

Speed Pads and/or "rumble strips"

The PC considered the possible installation of speed pads/rumble strips in locations in the village and is to put a proposal to CW&C Highways and obtain potential costs.

The objective of installing speed pads or "rumble strips" is to act as speed calming mechanisms and hence reduce speed. Once proposed locations have been identified, there would be a consultation process.

The PC would also like to request that new speed measurements are undertaken on Fingerpost Lane.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up the possible installation of speed pads/rumble strips and to request a new SLA on Fingerpost Lane, with CW&C Highways.

Speed Indicator Devices

Of the 6 devices, 3 of them are not working, as follows:

Ashton Road - not indicating speed, does not connect using Bluetooth.

Blakemere Lane - not indicating speed, connecting using Bluetooth intermittently, lots of data missing.

Delamere Road - indicates speed, connects via Bluetooth. This device has always been reliable.

Fingerpost Lane - not indicating speed, does not connect using Bluetooth.

Norley Road - indicates speed and now connects using Bluetooth.

School Bank - indicates speed, connects via Bluetooth. This device has always been reliable.

The PC are to continue to progress and address the road safety issues with CW&C and to follow up the maintenance/process to tender for the Speed Indicator Devices

Action – Clerk to publish the Speed Indicator Device data and summary onto the PC website.

PCSO Neil Flanagan reported that he is following up the coding for enforcement on Post Office Lane with CW&C. Speed enforcement is scheduled to take place on 8th January on High Street.

PCSO Flanagan stated there were no issues of note for Norley.

7. HEDGES

The PC are continuing to follow up the outstanding overgrown hedges around the village and are to put a reminder for residents/landowners to cut back hedges in early Spring, in the next issue of the Norley News

Councillor Bakewell mentioned that the hedges on Crabmill Lane have been cut back, but the others around Sandycroft Farm on Post Office Lane and School Lane have not. Councillor Bakewell is in the process of setting up a site meeting at Sandycroft Farm with CW&C to discuss an annual maintenance programme and to include the cutting of the hedges in this.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to prepare an article for Norley News regarding cutting back of hedges.

8. PLANNING

The following applications had been received and circulated since the November meeting:

- **24/03423/FUL** - Holly Cottage Post Office Lane Norley Northwich WA6 8NB: Erection of a two-storey detached dwelling. The PC had submitted comments before the deadline of 3rd January.
- **24/03537/S73** - The Greenings Maddocks Hill Norley Northwich WA6 8JT: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two-storey detached dwellinghouse with associated amenity space and parking -variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) of application 23/02151/FUL – any comments to the Clerk by 12 January.
- **24/03696/FUL** - Forestgate Cottage, Hondslough Lane Norley Frodsham WA6 6NA: Single storey side extensions, two-storey rear extension, with render. Erection of detached garage, conversion of existing outbuilding, and alteration to vehicular access - any comments to the Clerk by 23 January.

Councillor Bakewell had declared a personal interest in application 24/03423/FUL, on the grounds that this new property, if built, would sit just a few metres from the rear of his house.

Norley Neighbourhood Plan and Housing Needs Survey

Councillor O'Connor mentioned that a Norley Housing Needs Survey will need to be carried out this year. The consultation will be sent to every household in Norley.

The Neighbourhood Plan is due to be reviewed in 2030.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

9. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Works at West View Road

The PC are following up a further response received from a resident on West View Road about overhanging branches being cut back on a tree that is located on common land.

The following had been received and circulated since the November meeting:

- Chalc Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- January 2025 Delamere Forest monthly update
- Invitation to Parish Councils to meet with the PCC Dan Price Police & Crime Plan on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 6 pm to 7.30 pm at Police Headquarters in Winsford.

Quotation from TWM

There has been no response from the TWM Sales Team following a request from the PC for a

quotation for setting up a maintenance service for the Speed Indicator Devices.

Action – Clerk to follow up with TWM.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current Financial Position

The PC account balance on the current account at 29th November 2024 was £42,099.64 and £6422.02 on the Business Reserve account.

2025/2026 Draft Budget

Councillor Bakewell is to compile a draft budget for 2025/26, which is to be reported to the Parish Council at the 3rd February 2025 meeting. It is proposed that the PC will have an agreed operating budget in place before the commencement of the next financial year, which will detail allocated funding for village projects.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to prepare a 2025/26 draft budget for the February 2025 PC meeting.

Completion of the 2025/2026 Precept Form

The precept options were discussed. The PC had considered the income and expenditure and the level of reserves and agreed that the precept level should be maintained and there should be no increase. It was agreed that PC should request a precept of **£13,975** for 2025/26.

Action – Clerk to return the completed 2025/26 Precept Request form to CW&C.

The following were approved for cheque payments:

- Reimbursement for the Payment of Batteries for the Christmas Tree Lights - £18.98 – Ms A Crawford
- Backdated Clerk's Salary Arrears reimbursement for the Clerk's December 2024 and January 2025 – new 2024/25 Salary Scales - £63.40 x 2 totalling £126.80 – Mrs G Hawthornthwaite
- 2 cheques for £500 each to open two new online banking accounts for Norley Parish Council.
- Reimbursement for the supply and fit of the Christmas Tree on the Village Green £120 and for the Christmas Tree Lights £159.89, totalling £279.89 – Mrs S Cornelissen

It was noted that a cheque for £418.80 had been paid outside of the meeting, following the invoice (invoice 9576) that had been received from Rock Graphics for the batteries and maintenance of the Speed Indicator Devices that was completed prior to the November meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor Cornelissen

- Reported that the slippery road surface at Town Farm Lane had been logged using the CW&C online reporting tool. If a response is not provided within a reasonable timeframe, the case number is to be referred to Councillor Stocks to follow up with CW&C Highways.

Councillor Bakewell

- Asked whether the PC should be following up the request for volunteers to assist with the publication of articles in the Norley News. The PC will help to publicise this.

Councillor Duff

- Referred to the loose chippings that are spilling onto the pavement at Blakemere Lane from the poor road surface on Blakemere Lane, which is becoming a hazard, with no street lighting.

Action – Councillor Stocks to follow up with CW&C Highways to find out where the resurfacing and street lighting is on the refurbishment programme and to report the road markings at the crossroads junction on Blakemere Lane. The two missing streetlights on Blakemere Lane are scheduled to be replaced on 16th January.

Councillor Fayle

- Suggested that the PC should express their thanks to the farmers who had been very helpful in clearing some of the fallen trees on Marsh Lane and Cheesehill Lane recently.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to prepare a thank you for Norley News.

Councillor Stocks mentioned:

- The fallen tree on Stoneyford Lane had been removed.
- There is no update on Woods Lane – a response is awaited from the Inspector.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council have consulted residents to share their views on Council spending.
- Residents can now apply for the 2025 garden waste service for 2025 via the CW&C website.
- The flooding on School Lane has now been sorted following an investigation by CW&C.

Councillor Crawford

- Referred to the cost of the electricity that was used for the Christmas tree lights on the Village Green Christmas tree and suggested a gesture of thanks to the householder for allowing the lights to be plugged into their outside electricity plug.
Councillor Cornelissen is going to follow up an estimate of the cost of the electricity for the lights and report back.

Action – PC to consider at next meeting when cost details known.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 3RD February 2025 at 7 pm**

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.