

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
3rd MARCH 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, Ken Fayle ,
Tony Duff, Terry Harvey and Vic Leyden

Cheshire West and Chester Council Ward Members – Councillors Lynn Stocks and Gillian Edwards (For part
of the meeting)

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 Phil Rimmer and Norley Parish Councillors
Sally Cornelissen and Liz Robinson

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interests.

3. UPDATE ON THE PLAYGROUND – NORLEY HILL TOP PLAY AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Treasurer, from the Norley Hill Top Play Area Management Committee provided the PC with
an annual update on the costs and funding of the play area. Additional funds of £3000 were
raised from a Race Night. The Committee are also exploring the grants and funding that are
available to help fund the enhancement and replacement costs of the play area.

The PC had received a Small Grants Application Form for funding prior to the meeting for
consideration and agreed to donate £1800 to the Norley Hill Top Play Area.

Councillor O'Connor thanked the Committee representative for attending and for providing the
PC with an update on the playground and the voluntary work that they do to support the Play
Area.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

PCSO Neil Flanagan update below.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd FEBRUARY 2025

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

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD
FEBRUARY 2025**

- **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.

- **Grit Bin at Village Hall**

A grit bin for the supply of a 160L bin and grit from Northwich Town Council for the
Village Hall, has now been ordered. The PC thanked the three Ward Members for the
funding for this from their Ward Budget. The invoice for the bin is to be sent to the Parish

Council.

- **Defibrillator at the Village Hall**

A quotation of £140 had been received by the Village Hall Committee for the works for removing the existing defibrillator cabinet and mounting to the right of the front door. The PC approved this in principle. The quotation is to be circulated for approval outside of the meeting. Subject to approval by the PC, the works could be completed on the 23rd March 2025.

Action – Clerk to circulate the quotation for removing the defibrillator cabinet and parts and materials for approval.

- As a gesture of thanks to the householder for allowing the Christmas tree lights to be plugged into their outside electricity plug, the PC had purchased two £10 Amazon vouchers for the residents 2 children.

- **Speed Cushions**

The PC discussed potential locations at the entrances to the village for the speed cushions:

- **Ashton Road** - close to the fixed SID
- **Blakemere Lane** - close to the bottom of the hill
- **Delamere Road** - close to the fixed SID

It was suggested that the Hatchmere part of the village should be the first location due to the highest recorded speeds of vehicles through the 40 and 30 mph roads. This proposal would be subject to a consultation process before the commencement of any works.

The PC are to follow up the details about the consultation process and the Speed Monitoring Group are to provide information about a combined project covering implementation of speed pads and community awareness signs for the PC's consideration.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up further details about the consultation process with CW&C Highways.

- **Speed Measurements on Fingerpost Lane**

Three quotations had been received by CW&C for a speed limit assessment on Finger Post Lane. The PC approved the quotation for £280 + VAT to commence the week beginning 12th May 2025.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to inform Ian Rutherford at CW&C Highways.

- **Cheese Hill Lane**

The PC have requested a detailed design for a proposed permanent kerb line and grassed area at the junction of Cheese Hill Lane. A response is awaited from CW&C Highways.

Update from PCSO Neil Flanagan

PCSO Neil Flanagan reported that he had recently attended the Coffee Morning at Norley Methodist Church on Tuesday 4th February and would like to attend any other village events throughout the year.

A PCSO Surgery is being held at Norley Village Hall on Thursday 7th March at 2-3 pm.

7. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for February 2025 had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and are to be published onto the PC website.

The PC noted that the road markings at the junction of Blakemere Lane have now been re-painted and that the potholes on Blakemere Lane and the two large potholes by Hatchmere Crossroads have been reported again. The following speed indicator device data was received and noted:

In summary:

Vehicles continue to exceed the prosecution speed limit on Ashton Road, Blakemere Lane, Delamere Road, Norley Road and School Bank. The speeding figures have reverted their usual trend.

The fixed SID devices continue to exhibit a low level of reliability.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed)

The only data available for Ashton Road covers 28 days over January and February. 32% of drivers exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 9.3% of drivers exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. These figures are lower than usual probably due to the fact that limited data was available.

The maximum speed was 57 mph.

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)

The only data available for Blakemere Lane covers 20 days over January and February. 41% of drivers exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 11% of drivers exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. These figures are lower than usual probably due to the fact that limited data was available. **The maximum speed was 67.6 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed)

53.4% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 20% of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 61.2 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)

Data was not available from the SID on Fingerpost Lane for February. The device was also not indicating speed on the day an attempt was made to collect the data.

Norley Road (Exit Speed)

31% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 11.5% of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum speed was 62.4 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed)

85.2% of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 55.8% of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **The maximum Peak speed was 45.1 mph.**

8. NORLEY HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group is following up funding and making enquiries in relation to the Norley Housing Needs Survey.

9. ST JOHNS CHURCH – WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Edwards and Councillor O'Connor had met with Reverend Hilary Merrington to discuss relocating The Tommy to a different location in the grounds of the churchyard where a memorial area would be located.

10. UPDATE FROM NORLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

Prior to the meeting the PC had received an update from the Wildlife Group and background information about the Wildflower Memorial Walk and a Small Grants Application Form for funding for the wildflower seeds and bulbs for the Memorial Garden and the Wildflower Memorial Walk prior to the meeting for consideration. The PC approved the application for £100.69.

11. FOREST LIVE EVENTS

Following the Delamere and Oakmere PC meeting that Councillor Bakewell and Gerald Brown from the Speed Monitoring Group had attended, both PCs are to contact Forestry England to request a face-to-face meeting with a Forestry England to discuss concerns regarding the Delamere Live concerts for 2025 and the future management of the Delamere Live events.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to provide a response to Forestry England prior to the joint meeting detailing the Parish Council's concerns and to follow up on annual parking permits for residents.

Councillor O'Connor to follow up with CW&C Licensing the issue of the Taxi licences for the Delamere Forest Events

12. SANDYCROFT FARM MEADOWS UPDATE

Councillors Bakewell and Cornelissen and Councillor Edwards had met with CW&C to explore the options for the meadows at Sandycroft Farm and to understand the site's limitations, maintenance responsibilities and liabilities.

The PC are keen to explore, and work with CWaC and stakeholders, on how best the meadows can be developed for the greater use of the Norley community, such as the planting of trees and creating areas

of wildflowers, but are mindful of the balance that will need to be struck with the biodiversity aims for the site/s.

Action – Councillors Bakewell and Cornelissen to continue to explore options for the site including CWaC's future maintenance liabilities

13. OPAL SERVICES

Following the information that had been received from Opal about seeking suitable locations for their weekly activity clubs for older people, the PC thought that currently there appears to be enough available clubs for older people to visit including the Wednesday lunch club, in Norley.

Action – Clerk to reply to Opal Services with details of the facilities in Norley that have kitchens – Village Hall and NCK Centre.

14. PLANNING

There were no applications for consideration.

15. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

Chalc

- Chalc Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Cheshire West and Chester Town and Parish Connections Online Event - Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation 6th March at 6pm
- The draw for a Parish Council nominee to attend the Royal Garden Party in May 2025 had now taken place and the successful candidate had been notified.

March 2025 Delamere Forest monthly update.

16. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Confirmation of Annual Budget for 2025/26 & Allocated Reserves

The PC reviewed the budgetary items for 2025/26 budget, which was agreed and confirmed as detailed in the attached appendix 1 to the minutes.

Maintenance of the Speed Indicator Devices

A quotation had been received from Rock Graphics for a regular (monthly) maintenance check on the 6 SIDs in the village. The PC considered the quotation that had also been provided by TWM and agreed in principle to progress with Rock Graphics.

Action – Clerk to circulate the quotation received from Rock Graphics.

Annual Review of Standing Orders/Financial Arrangements/Complaints Procedure, Fixed Asset Register and Risk Assessment and adequacy of fidelity insurance

It was noted that the policies were last reviewed in June 2024 and that they should be reviewed on an annual basis. From 2025/26 financial year the policies are to be reviewed in November when the PC review the budget prior to considering the Precept Request in January.

The Assets Register was updated to include the Christmas Tree lights and the defibrillator located at Chinese Restaurant, Hatchmere. Following the new online banking account, the Financial Regulations are being updated.

Action – Clerk to update the Assets Register and Councillor O'Connor to update the Financial Regulations.

Approval of the following bacs payments:

- Reimbursement to Councillor O'Connor for the purchase of Amazon Vouchers - £20
- Reimbursement for the Clerk's March 2025 Salary – new 2024/25 Salary Scales – £63.40
- Two visits to SID Blakemere Lane – Rock Graphics - £132.00
- Application for funding for the wildflower seeds and bulbs for the Memorial Garden and the Wildflower Memorial Walk - £100.69.
- Application for funding from the Norley Play area general upkeep of the play area - £1800.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

- **Councillor Crawford**
The plot at Westview Road has now been purchased by two local residents and is to be used as an extension to gardens in West View Road.
- Asked if there was any update on the Haulage Yard. The PC were not aware of any update and are to follow up with CW&C.
- **Councillor O'Connor** reported that Councillor Fayle will be leaving the Parish Council after tonight's meeting. Councillor O'Connor thanked Councillor Fayle for all his work over the years as a Norley Parish Councillor.
- **Councillor Leyden** – mentioned that there are no plans by the Village Hall Committee for VE Day celebrations.
- **Councillor Bakewell** reported that he is to prepare a response to Forestry Commission about the recent increase in parking charges at the Forest car parks, following concerns raised by residents.
- **Councillor Stocks:**
 - There is a proposal for the implementation of 20mph speed limits in residential areas, with a particular focus of areas around schools.
 - Council tax is to rise by 4.9%
 - A public consultation on the devolution agreement has commenced. The deadline date is 13th April.
 - The garden waste bin collections have now commenced.
 - The Council is promoting Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean campaign – The PC have arranged a Spring Clean in Norley on 22nd March 2025.
 - The poor road surface on the stretch of Blakemere Lane has been reported to CW&C Highways.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 14th April 2025 at 7 pm**

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.