

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
14th APRIL 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Sally Cornelissen, Ann Crawford,
Tony Duff, Vic Leyden and Liz Robinson

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 Councillor Terry Harvey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

PCSO Neil Flanagan update below.

4. UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES – ROAD CLOSURES

The Project Engagement Lead from United Utilities was in attendance to provide an update on the Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Programme works, planned road closures and diversions in Norley, between May and July and the impact on the village.

Permission has been granted for a road closure on Norley Road for the period of 5th May 2025 to 18th July 2025 to allow United Utilities to complete a section of the aqueduct ahead of schedule.

A Road closure and diversion route will be available on the United Utilities website and the Norley noticeboards.

A village drop-in session is planned for 29th April 2025 between 2 and 4 pm at the NCK Centre.

The PC thanked the representatives for attending and providing an update.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd MARCH 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 MARCH 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**

The Japanese Knotweed has now been sprayed and can be removed from the agenda.

- **Grit Bin at Village Hall**

The grit bin at the Village Hall has now been installed.

- **Defibrillator at the Village Hall**

The defibrillator at the Village Hall has now been moved to the right of the front door at the Village Hall. The PC had approved the payment of the invoice from Kingsley Electrical Services, outside of the meeting, once received.

- As a gesture of thanks to the householder for allowing the Christmas tree lights to be plugged into their outside electricity plug, the two £10 Amazon vouchers that the PC purchased for the residents' 2 children were gratefully received.
- **Opal Services**
The Clerk had provided Opal Services with details of the facilities in Norley that have kitchens following their request about available clubs for older people to visit. The PC will continue to liaise with Opal Services if the need for more clubs arises.
- **Speed Cushions**
The PC are continuing to follow up further details about the consultation process relating to the potential locations at the entrances to the village for the speed cushions. A response has been received from Ian Rutherford, CW&C to confirm that the speed information they have about Blakemere Lane from 2023 does not support the installation and that they do not have any speed information for Delamere Road or Ashton Road. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss this further with CW&C as SID data is available.
Action – Councillor O'Connor to contact Ian Rutherford for suitable meeting dates.
- **Speed Measurements on Fingerpost Lane**
The PC approved the cost of £280 + VAT for the speed limit assessment on Finger Post Lane. This is to commence the week beginning 12th May 2025. Councillor O'Connor confirmed with 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 Knit and Natter Group and will regularly be attending the Coffee Morning at Norley Methodist Church on Tuesday mornings. A PCSO Surgery is being held at Norley Village Hall on Wednesday 14th May at 5-6 pm. Norley Primary School have been invited to take part in a Helsby junior football tournament that is being organised by Neil.

7. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for March 2025 had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and are to be published onto the PC website. 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 fixed SID devices continue to exhibit a low level of reliability.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed)

35.8% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 10.8% (1,850) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 61 mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)

43% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 11.6% (3,767) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 61.2 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed)

57.3% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 24.2% (6,417) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 63.5 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)

31.4% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 12.4% (4,920) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum speed was 71 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed)

86.5% of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 55.7% (1,132) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **The maximum Peak speed was 42 mph.**

PCSO Neil Flanagan has been very helpful in assisting with Speed enforcement in March and April on Post Office Lane/Delamere Road and Ashton Road. The details of vehicles recorded speeding have been sent to the PCSO so that warning letters can be issued.

8. LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Representatives from Norley Wildlife Group attended the Cheshire West and Chester Town and Parish Connections Online Event - Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation that was held on 6th March. Following the results from the public consultation on the strategy, there will be further information and action plan for the PC to consider at a future date.

9. FOREST LIVE UPDATE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FORESTRY ENGLAND

Following the meeting between Forest Live Event's Team, Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council and representatives of Norley Parish Council on Wednesday 26th March 2025, the National Events Manager Forest Live has agreed to follow up:

- options for pick up points at Hatchmere crossroads. Forest Live suggested that coned off areas could be extended but were concerned that this would inconvenience local residents. It was suggested that communication with residents close to Hatchmere Crossroads should be undertaken to determine their view with the intention of proceeding with this action.
- Whether stewards could be located at Hatchmere Crossroads before and after each Forest Live event to discourage drop-off and pick-up at this location.
- Early Availability of Concert Tickets for Local Residents
- Car Parking for local residents - to explore the alternative options for reduced parking fees for local residents.

Thanks to Councillor Bakewell and Gerald Brown for attending the meeting.

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

10. SANDYCROFT MEADOWS – UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS AND EMAIL RECEIVED FROM A RESIDENT ABOUT THE HEDGES

Councillors Bakewell is continuing to explore the options for the meadows development and putting in place a plan for the cutting of the hedges, sometime in the Autumn, at Sandycroft Farm, with CW&C. Councillor Bakewell suggested that Roger Goulding, CW&C and Phil Kersh, Life for a Life attend a future PC meeting to discuss the meadows development. The July meeting was a possibility or maybe arrange a separate meeting on another date.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to respond to the resident.

11. ST JOHNS CHURCH – WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Edwards and Councillor O'Connor had met with Reverend Hilary Merrington to discuss a memorial area at St Johns Church. Councillor Bakewell has received the offer of a Memorial Monument from Life for a Life if the church wishes to utilise it.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to arrange a further meeting with Reverend Hilary Merrington and Councillor Edwards.

12. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH PROJECT

Prior to the meeting the PC had received information about a combined project covering implementation of speed pads and community awareness signs from the Speed Watch Group. It was agreed that a separate meeting to consider this further should be held outside the Parish Council meeting.

Action - Councillors O'Connor and Bakewell and Gerald Brown to arrange a meeting.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

The following application had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting.

- **25/00873/FUL** - Croft Cottage School Bank Norley - Single storey side, single and double storey rear extensions: Alterations to external doors and windows and raised patio to rear - Any PC comments to be sent to the Clerk.

Councillor O'Connor declared an interest as she knows the applicants.

- **21/04701/OUT - Scout Hut & 21/04249/FUL - Norley Village Hall**

The Parish Council have confirmed with CW&C Planning, that application 21/04249/FUL and 21/04249/FUL should now be withdrawn. Both applications were submitted in the name of the Parish Council.

The Scouts Committee had a meeting in February and the decision of the meeting, as reported to JNCOT and the Parish Council, was that the Scouts will keep their Crabmill Lane property using the existing Village Hall as and when necessary. Accordingly, there is now no requirement for the proposed new build on the land at the Village Hall.

JNCOT Trustees decided not to take any further action with the Planning Application as the scheme was for a standalone building for the exclusive use of the Scout Group.

CW&C Planning have now confirmed that both these applications have been withdrawn.

- The PC noted that application 24/03423/FUL - Holly Cottage Post Office Lane Norley: Erection of a two-storey detached dwelling had been withdrawn.

14. PARISH COUNCIL LAPTOP

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council laptop, which is about 10 years old, is not working well. The PC asked the Clerk to follow up prices and specifications for a replacement laptop.

Action – Clerk to follow up.

15. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

Chalc

- Chalc Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- VE Day Beacon and Concert Lighting - Lord Mayor of Chester - 8 May 2025 - Chester Town Hall

April 2025 Delamere Forest monthly update.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Action - Clerk is to notify CW&C Democratic Services of the vacancy.

16. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current Financial Position

The agreed 2025/26 budget is attached to the 3rd March 2025 approved minutes as Appendix 1. For 2025/26 the PC will review actual expenditure against the budgeted expenditure and reserves on a quarterly basis.

CIL Payments

It was noted that the total CIL amount to be allocated in 2025/26 is £5991.16. A CIL payment of £4315.20 had been received from CW&C on 28th October 2024 and a payment was also received on 18th March 2024 of £1675.96.

Online Banking - Unity Trust Bank

The PC has been switching the current and savings accounts to online banking with the Unity Trust Bank. The new online accounts are now open. The balance from the PC's current account is to be transferred on 22nd April 2025.

Councillor Cornelissen is to be added as a bank signatory.

Action - Councillor O'Connor to progress.

Maintenance of the Speed Indicator Devices

Following the quotation that had been received from Rock Graphics for a regular (monthly) maintenance check on the 6 SIDs in the village, the PC agreed to progress this with Rock Graphics for 2025/6. The PC have asked Rock Graphics to provide further information about the availability of stock for the SIDs and the costs.

Assets Register and Financial Regulations

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

Action – Councillor O'Connor to update the Financial Regulations.

Request for funding from the Bowling Group and Norley News

The PC had received a Small Grants Application Forms for funding prior to the meeting from Norley News and Norley Bowling Club for consideration.

The PC agreed to donate £600 to the Norley News.

Before approving funding towards the cost of a new roof, the PC required further information from the Bowling Club about whether the amount requested of £1750 related to a quote or an estimate and whether more than one quote/estimate had been requested.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with the Bowling Club.

Approval of the following bacs payments:

- 2025/2026 Chalc Membership - £408.72 – Cheshire Association of Local Councils
- Reimbursement for the Clerk's April 2025 Salary – new 2024/25 Salary Scales – £63.40
- Reimbursement for 6 First Class Stamps – Mrs G Hawthornthwaite - £9.90
- Website Maintenance - Rabbit Digital - £92.25
- Reimbursement to Councillor O'Connor for the purchase of Amazon Vouchers - £20 (agreed at the 3rd March 2025 meeting)
- Application for funding from the Norley Play area general upkeep of the play area - £1800 (agreed at the 3rd March 2025 meeting).
- Application for funding from Norley News - £600

An invoice had been received for Open Spaces Membership for 2025 for £45. The PC agreed to follow up what the membership for 2025 covers.

Action – Councillor Cornelissen to follow up.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor Crawford

- Asked if there was any update on the Haulage Yard. The PC are following this up with CW&C.
- Referred to the temporary blocks that had been dismantled at the top of Cheese Hill. Councillor O'Connor will continue to follow up the progress on the redesign of this junction with CW&C.
- Referred to the sign, that is located around the pond, at Westview that needs to be replaced. Councillor Crawford to obtain quotations for a replacement sign.

Prior to the PC meeting, Councillor Stocks had provided a Ward report as follows:

- **Devolution** - consultation period ended 13th April. CWAC is being fast tracked for a mayoral election in 2026. The details of the deal are yet to be finalised.
- **Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Recovery Strategy** – this is currently out for consultation until 20th April 2025 (the date may be impacted by purdah). For more information see link below:
- [Draft plans for nature's recovery across Cheshire & Warrington launched | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)
- **Members Budgets** - should have commenced on 1st April but delayed due to the pre-election period. Applications can be submitted, but payments won't be made until after 1st May.
- **Highways** - A meeting with Highways (and Parish Councils will be invited to attend) to discuss any issues with them directly. Date to be confirmed.
- **Road Closure Notices**
TRO19556 16th April, Blakemere Lane, Norley
Defect Patching Works
TRO19573 16th April, Delamere Road, Norley
Defect Patching Works

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting **on Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7 pm**

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.