

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
21st MAY 2025 FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell,
Tony Duff and Liz Robinson

Councillor Lynn Stocks – Ward Councillor – Cheshire West and Chester Council

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

Prior to the Norley Parish Council Annual meeting, the following Annual Parish reports were presented at the Annual Parish Meeting and circulated to the Parish Council:

1. Norley Parish Council
2. Norley Community Organisations Trust (JNCOT)
3. Norley Village Hall
4. Norley Wildlife Group
5. Norley School
6. Norley PCSO
7. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Member

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cheshire West and Chester Council - Ward Councillors Gillian Edwards and Phil Rimmer and Norley Parish Councillors Sally Cornelissen, Ann Crawford, Terry Harvey and Vic Leyden.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

Representatives from United Utilities were in attendance to ask if there were any issues regarding the road closure on Norley Road and the diversions that are in place and any impacts these were having on the village.

The PC mentioned that traffic on Post Office Lane had increased and that there is only a 'Road Closed' sign and not a 'Diversion' sign at the top of Cheese Hill.

It was suggested that it would be helpful if there were diversion signs by Kingsley Motors in Kingsley (for diversions North and South on the A49).

It was noted that the United Utilities work was on track.

Any further feedback to be forwarded on to United Utilities.

The PC are to consider any community projects in which United Utilities could assist as the company have team building days during which they volunteer in the community. Also, for projects which require funding.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor O'Connor was elected as Chair for 2025/26. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor O'Connor accepted the position of Chair and is to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Bakewell was elected as Vice Chair for 2025/26. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor Bakewell accepted the position of Vice Chair and is to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

6. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICERS

To be carried forward to the June 2025 Meeting.

Action – Clerk to note for agenda.

7. **REVIEW OF WORKING PRACTICES/MEETINGS 2025/26**
To be carried forward to the June 2025 Meeting.
Action – Clerk to note for agenda.
8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th April 2025**
These were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
9. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th APRIL 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.
 - **Speed Measurements on Fingerpost Lane**
The speed limit assessment on Finger Post Lane has been postponed due to the united utility roadworks and road closure on Norley Road. To get a true reflection of traffic speeds this will now take place after the road closure and after the 2025 summer school holidays.
 - **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.
 - **Delamere Forest Events in June**
Councillor O'Connor is continuing to follow up with CW&C Licensing the issue of the Taxi licences for the Delamere Forest Events.
The PC is following up the double yellow lines/road markings outside the Delamere Fortune Palace on School Lane to the junction with Blakemere Lane/Delamere Road (Hatchmere Crossroads).
Action – Councillor Bakewell to forward on the photographs of the covered yellow lines at the junction on to Councillor Stocks to follow up with CW&C Highways.
10. **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE**
The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for April 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. The device on Fingerpost Lane is not indicating speed or downloading data.
Ashton Road (Exit Speed)
33.6% (5,562) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 10.5% (1,729) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum exit speed was 60-mph.**
Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)
43.3% (13,424) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 12.2% (3,805) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum peak speed was 78.5-mph.**
Delamere Road (Exit Speed)
55.7% (14,566) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 23% (6,021) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum exit speed was 65 mph.**
Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)
Data was not available from the SID on Fingerpost Lane for April. The device was also not indicating speed on the day an attempt was made to collect the data.
Norley Road (Exit Speed)

31.4% (12,613) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 12.6% (5,049) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum speed was 68-mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed)

86% (2,005) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 55.8% (1,300) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24-mph. **The maximum Peak speed was 43-mph.**

Speed enforcement has taken place in April and May and will also be undertaken in June and on the days of the Forest Live concerts.

There is overhanging vegetation on the speed sign near to the Carriers.

Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up the overhanging vegetation with CW&C Highways.

11. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH PROJECT

The PC are arranging to meet with Ian Rutherford, CW&C about the consultation process relating to the potential locations at the entrances to the village for the speed cushions. Up to date speed data will be provided for this meeting.

Action – Councillor O’Connor to continue to liaise with Ian Rutherford to arrange a date

12. SANDYCROFT MEADOWS

Councillor 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.

A village meeting is to be arranged at 6-7 pm on Monday 21st July at the NCK Centre, to discuss Sandycroft Meadows development, before the PC meeting. Roger Goulding, CW&C and Phil Kersh from Life for a Life are available to attend the village meeting.

13. WAR MEMORIAL ST JOHN’S CHURCH

Councillor Edwards and Councillor O’Connor had previously met with Reverend Hillary Merrington to consider the siting of a memorial obelisk onto a permanent footing in the grounds of St John’s Church. The memorial is a donation and would make a perfect backdrop to the existing metal ‘Tommy’ WW2 war memorial and would be a focal point for wreath-laying ceremonies. An onsite meeting is scheduled for 4th June to discuss a suitable location.

Action – Councillor O’Connor to report at the next meeting.

14. WEST VIEW ROAD WASTE SIGN

Councillor Crawford is following up quotations for a sign.

Councillor O’Connor mentioned that due to Japanese Knotweed growing on the path at West View Road it has temporarily been closed until it has been treated.

15. HAULAGE YARD

The PC is following this up with CW&C. A response is awaited.

16. PLANNING

The following planning applications had been received since the April 2025 meeting:

- **25/01062/FUL** - Amberley Fingerpost Lane Norley: Erection of front porch extension
- **25/01336/PIP** - Former Car Park Off Blakemere Lane Norley: Permission in Principle for one dwelling
- **25/01337/PIP** - Former Swimming Pool Off Langdon Close Norley: Permission in Principle for one dwelling

Any PC comments to be sent to the Clerk.

17. CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of thanks from Norley News for the PC grant of £600 was read out at the meeting.

The following had been received since the April 2025 meeting:

CW&C

- Town and Parish Connections Online Meeting: Planning - 22nd May 2025 6pm to 7pm

Chalc

- Bulletins and training dates

Police and Crime Commissioner

- Survey reminder: What do you know about the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

18. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following were approved for Bacs payments:

- Grass Cutting and Verges on 6th May 2025 - £120 and on 14th, 16th and 27th April - £150, totalling £275 Mr J Dimelow
- PC Insurance Renewal for 2025/26 - £517.92 - Zurich
- Completion of Internal Audit for Year ended 30th March 2025 - £375.60 and £34.80 Additional Fees for internal audit of amended accounts, totalling £410.40 – JDH Business Services Ltd
- Payroll for last 3 months - £57.60 – Rose Rowland
- Following the last PC meeting, further information had been requested and received from the Bowling Club, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The PC agreed to donate £1500 (CIL Funding) towards the work required on the Bowling Club roof following receipt of their Grant Application for Funding.

The invoice that had been received from Kingsley Electrical for the works for removing the existing Village Hall defibrillator cabinet and mounting to the right of the front door had been approved at the March PC meeting. The works were completed on 7th April 2025 and the invoice for £140 was paid outside of the meeting on 29th April 2025.

Defibrillator Batteries

The Village Hall and Hatchmere defibrillators and batteries are being checked and recorded on a weekly basis. Following a check on 11th May 2025, the battery on the defibrillator at the Village Hall shows a battery level of 25% and no action is required. The batteries will need replacing when the LCD indicator shows an empty battery symbol. The routine automatic self-test should also flag a low battery.

The PC will continue to check and monitor the defibrillators on a weekly basis.

Councillor Cornelissen had obtained further information about the 2025 Open Spaces Membership for £45 and will be considered at the June PC meeting.

Action – Clerk to note for the June 2025 agenda.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were reported:

Councillor Duff

- Blakemere Road has now been re-surfaced. Speeding vehicles continue to be a problem. There are two new lampposts on Blakemere Lane.
- Asked whether there was any update on the Neighbourhood Plan. There will be an update on Planning from Rob Charley, Head of Planning CW&C at the June PC meeting. This will include issues relating to Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillor O'Connor

- Councillor Crawford asked if a quotation could be obtained from Kingsley Electrical Services for electricity connection in the Red Telephone Box.

Councillor Stocks

- The publication of the analysis and outcomes of the consultation are awaited from Central Government for the devolution for Cheshire and Warrington.
- A reminder that applications are open for Crowd Funding and funding from the Members Budgets for community projects.
- Thanked the PC for the joint working in arranging for the re-surfacing of Blakemere Lane.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting **Monday 23rd June 2025 at 7.00 pm at the NCK Centre.**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.