

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
15th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE IN NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Gerald Brown, Tony Duff, Sally Cornelissen and Peter Wright

Councillors Gabrielle Goad and Lynn Stocks - Ward Councillors – Cheshire West and Chester Council

PCSO Neil Flanagan (for part of the meeting)

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor Gillian Edwards and Norley Parish Councillors Ann Crawford, Liz Robinson and Terry Harvey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

3. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Peter Wright had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy. It was proposed and seconded that he be co-opted as a Norley Parish Councillor. This was unanimously agreed. Peter accepted the position of a Norley Parish Councillor and was welcomed to the meeting.

Action – Councillor Wright to complete the Declaration of Acceptance form and the Register of Interests form and return to the Clerk

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

Dan Brown and Tracey Crawford from the United Utilities Project team were in attendance to provide the PC with an update on the proposed road closures in 2027 and the funding that UU had provided towards community projects. Once the locations and dates of the 2027 road closures have been finalised the details will be provided to the Parish Council.

The railings at Hatchmere crossroads have now been installed following the completion of the United Utilities works. There was a question about when the railings will be painted. UU agreed to follow this up and update Councillor O'Connor.

Following the representatives of the PC, Norley Wildlife Group and United Utilities meeting, funding had been received from UU towards the running costs of the maintenance of the Memorial Garden by the Wildlife Group.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20th JULY 2026

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20th JULY 2026

Grant Funding application from Norley News for £650

A response had been received from Norley News to the PC's follow up questions relating to the high quality of paper used for the NN, if it was cost effective and if there any plans to have the NN online so individual properties could opt out of a paper copy and reduce costs.

In the past 12 months NN undertook a reader survey and 84% wanted a printed copy and only 9% preferring digital. The paper copy is therefore to be maintained for as long as possible. The NN is also increasing digital communications, especially on Facebook to complement the magazine.

The printing costs have been reviewed recently. The feedback from readers is that they like the quality of the paper. The company that manages the printing have confirmed that moving to a

thinner, cheaper paper will save less than £10 an issue, given the fairly small numbers of copies involved. This equates to around £50 a year.

Based on the information provided by the Norley News, the PC agreed to support the funding application for £650.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to inform Norley News.

Cheese Hill Works

The PC are continuing to liaise with CW&C Highways about the changes to the road and await information relating to the full safety audit and whether the yellow lines on Cheesehill Lane can be re-painted as they are quite worn.

Norley PC Website

The host company for the PC Website has now been changed to Kuola and phase 1 of the migration of the website and PC email accounts are now complete. The yearly Kuola hosting cost is £131.88.

Quotations are to be obtained for the completion of Phase 2 of the Norley Parish Council Website upgrade to meet the latest Government requirements - WCAG 2.2 AA Compliance. It was agreed that quotations should be obtained for a monthly or a one-off cost for the phase 2 website upgrade.

The PC thanked Councillor Brown for all his work in sorting out the migration of the website.

Action – Councillor Brown to obtain quotations for the website upgrade for phase 2.

Memorial Garden

Discussions have taken place with the Wildlife Group about a scheme of regular maintenance in the memorial garden. There are plans for some of the trees to be cut back, pathways re-instated and the installation of fencing.

7. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for June/July 2026 were received and noted. Due to the Hatchmere Crossroads closure from March to June this only contains graphs for Norley Road, Fingerpost Lane and School Bank.

In summary:

Vehicles continue to speed excessively through Norley.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed)

June 2026

25.3% (1,363) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 7.7% (413) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The max exit speed was **51.4 mph**. The figures are lower as Hatchmere Crossroads re-opened on 9th June

July 2026

33.6% (4,220) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 9.9% (1,250) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The max exit speed was **60.4 mph**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)

June 2026

45.2% (10,868) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 13.7% (3,294) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph The max peak speed was **72.4 mph**. The numbers are lower as Hatchmere Crossroads was closed until 9th June.

July 2026

49% (15,196) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 13.9% (4,318) vehicles exceeded the 35-mph prosecution speed limit. The max peak speed was **80.5 mph**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed)

June 2026

52.3% (18,288) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 20.6% (3,764) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The max exit speed was **70.3 mph**. The numbers are low due to Hatchmere Crossroads being closed until 9th June

July 2026

55.7% (12,943) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 22.7% (5,277) vehicles exceeded the 35-mph prosecution speed limit. The max exist speed was **61.8 mph**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)

June 2026

17.4% (4,095) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit. 1.8% (414) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. Max speed **70.2 mph**

July 2026

17.4% (3,778) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit. 1.7% (678) vehicles exceeded the 46-mph prosecution speed limit. Max speed **59.6 mph**

Norley Road (Exit Speed)

June 2026

35.2% (14,263) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 13.7%, (5,572) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The maximum speed was **64.1 mph**

July 2026

32.1% (12,750) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 12.4% (4,922) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The maximum speed was 76.9 mph

School Bank (Peak Speed)

June 2026

83.4% (1,690) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 50% (1,013) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph.

Highest recorded speeds:

40.3 mph on Tuesday 23rd June at 13:41

39.6 mph on Monday 29th June at 11:16

39.5 mph on Friday 12th June at 22:55

39.1 mph on Tuesday 9th June at 11:25

39 mph on Friday 19th June at 15:21

July 2026

87.4% (1,904) of vehicles exceeded the speed limit of 20 mph. 56.1% (1,223) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph.

Highest recorded speeds:

40.4 mph on Friday 10th July at 16:31

39.1 mph on Saturday 4th July at 01:12

38.9 mph on Sunday 19th July at 02:11

General

- On Finger Post Lane towards High Street, the 30-mph speed sign has been re-installed on the lamp post, and the vegetation and tree branches removed to improve visibility.
- The junction warning sign on Blakemere Lane, direction Hatchmere Crossroads, is to be re-installed by CW&C Highways. It was removed when the lamp posts were damaged and removed.
- CSW training is scheduled to take place on 18th Sept at 15:00.

Auto Speedwatch

The Auto Speedwatch device has now been moved to a location at the bottom of Maddocks Hill in the 20-mph zone, direction Tigers Head. Over that period approximately 292 vehicles have been recorded (Speed & VRN). Of the 292 vehicles recorded 19 were travelling at 30 mph+, 5 were travelling at 35 mph+ with two vehicles travelling at 40 mph+.

Councillor Brown is to contact the PCC to establish if Cheshire Constabulary will write to registered keepers of the speeding vehicles to inform them of the speeding and that the details have been noted.

Action – Councillor Brown to follow up with the PCC.

Speed Monitoring & Enforcement

Speed Enforcement was undertaken with PCSO Neil Flanagan on 13th September on Delamere Road by the Carriers Inn and further towards Kingsley in the 40-mph zone as a result of complaints from a local resident.

Only two vehicles were exceeding the speed limit by the Carriers Inn, although this was probably due to a member of the public taking a photo of the speed enforcement and posting it on Facebook. This was beneficial as it slowed the traffic on Blakemere Lane significantly. The fastest vehicle in the 40-mph zone was 38 mph. All other traffic was well within the speed limit.

Fingerpost Lane/Mount Pleasant Care Home

A Speed Tag has been requested for Fingerpost Lane to get an update on vehicle speeds. This is likely to be installed after the school holidays.

A meeting with CW&C Highways and the Mount Pleasant care home manager took place on 12th Aug. The result was no action will be taken by CW&C Highways.

The next step is to survey the residents of Fingerpost Lane to determine whether they support the reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph. If there is overwhelming support for this, the results will be presented to CW&C management.

8. FOREST LIVE

A meeting has been arranged for 28th September with Forest Live/Forestry England. Councillor Edwards and the Parish Council to attend. Items for discussion relate to:

Forest Live

1. The improvements - traffic lights on Blakemere Lane around parked cars and buses to/from Frodsham.
2. Gathering of people at Hatchmere Crossroads.
3. Forest Live dates and co-ordination with UU Road Closures of Blakemere Lane & Station Road
4. Delamere & Oakmere consultation.

Forestry England

1. Fire prevention plans/any instances of fires in the forest
2. Advance warning of filming
3. Parking concessions.

9. PLANNING

The following planning application had been received and circulated for PC comments:

26/02552/FUL - Rolling Hill Barn, Low Farm School Lane Norley:

Change of use from redundant agricultural land to provide additional residential curtilage to Unit 2 granted planning permission previously (20/03235/FUL).

It was noted that Councillor Edwards has arranged a village meeting at the Methodist Church at 7.30pm on 29th September, for an update about new and current planning policy, applications and Neighbourhood Plan.

10. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The following had been received since the previous meeting:

- Chalc Bulletins and training dates
- Delamere Forest – September 2026 Newsletter

Police & Crime Commissioner CWaC Borough, Town and Parish Council meeting 06/10/26 – Councillor Brown to attend.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The first 2026/27 report of the current Financial Position against the budget will be considered at the October PC meeting for the mid-year budget review.

Quarterly Audit

The Clerk is to provide Councillor Brown with financial information for the quarterly audit.

Norley PC Website

The Norley Parish Council website and email have now been moved from IONOS to Kualo. The migration has significantly reduced Norley's ongoing support costs and reduced the amount of administration required.

Review and follow ups - Internal Auditor's Report 2025/26

The PC are compiling an IT policy and a publication scheme in accordance with FOI requirements, for final approval at the October PC meeting.

Recommendation

The council must adopt and publish an accessibility statement and to ensure compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (where applicable).

- The PC are following up on the quotations that had been provided for ensuring compliance with the guidelines and for the webhosting, migration and redevelopment. This includes everything needed for full compliance including migration to the new web hosting platform at Kualo (an alternative supplier) coordination and acquisition of the new www.norley-pc.gov.uk domain as required for compliance

Recommendation

The council must adopt an IT policy and a publication scheme in accordance with FOI requirements.

Recommendation

The risk assessment document should be reviewed, updated and approved by council each financial year.

- The Risk Assessment is to be reviewed on an annual basis when the PC policies are reviewed.

Action - Councillors O'Connor, Bakewell and Clerk to meet in October to draft the policies as above and circulate prior to the October PC meeting.

The following were approved for Bacs payments:

- Payroll for the last 3 months – Rose Rowland and Co - £57.60
- Grass Cutting – Village Green on 7th July 2026 – Invoice No 2 - £25.00 – Mr J Dimelow
- Reimbursement Councillor Brown – Payment to IONOS – support Fee £18.74.
- Maintenance of SIDS in August 2026 – Rock Graphics £144
- Amendments to Clerk's Monthly standing order Payment from October 2026 and Backpay to April 2026 (£55) following the 2026/2027 National Salary Award for Parish Clerks
- PC donation to the Norley News - £650

It was noted that two urgent payments had been made outside of the meeting:

Battery for the Village Hall Defibrillator – Defib Warehouse - £294 and the cost for the Startup Plan – norleyparishcouncil.org – 1 year and ID Protection and Domain Transfer – Kualo Limited - £135.48

Regular Maintenance of the Speed Indicator Devices

The PC thought that the general regular maintenance of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) was working well, and the scheduling of the maintenance was ensuring that SID data could be obtained regularly.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor O'Connor:

- A new enforcement notice has been issued by Planning Enforcement to cease activity at the Haulage Yard, which expires on 10th November 2026.

Councillor Bakewell

- As there has been no action to the PC's letter about the cutting back of a hedge that is blocking a footpath on School Lane that is no longer accessible, this is to be referred to CW&C for action.

Action – Clerk to send details to CW&C

As **Councillor Edwards** was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor O'Connor provided an update report relating to:

- Discussions about the flooding and drainage issues at Breech Moss and the blocked culvert on High Street are continuing with CW&C, Councillor Edwards and the Wildlife Group.
- CW&C Public Rights of Way have cut back some of the overgrown hedges on the footpaths.
- A new Local Plan for Cheshire West and Chester. It will replace the policies in the current Local Plan and will also cover minerals and waste.
The new Local Plan will guide decisions about how land is used and developed. For example, it will help decide where new homes and jobs could go and how the environment could be protected. The consultation closes on 28th September.

Councillor Stocks

- The national system for preparing local plans has changed, and the Council has now decided to prepare this plan under the new plan-making system introduced in March 2026. This will ensure the plan is prepared in line with the most up-to-date national planning policy and guidance. However, it also means that a new process and timetable must be followed.
- There are proposals for changes to the call in process for planning applications – for applications where there are less than 9 properties, Ward Members will no longer be able to 'call in' these applications. If approved, this will take effect from 1st November 2026.
- The Council has decided to move to the Government's new plan-making system for preparing the Local Plan. This replaces the previous work carried out under the legacy plan-making system
- From 20 July, registration will open for residents wishing to use any of the seven Household Waste Recycling Centres across the borough.
All residents are encouraged to register their vehicles as soon as possible. The process is quick and simple. Once registered, each household will have up to 30 visits per year (within a 12-month period), making it easy to continue using your local recycling centres. There has been an extension to the green bin collection to the 11th December.
- Funds are still available from the 2026/27 Members Budget if there are any local projects that we could assist with.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting **Wednesday 21st October 2026 at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.**

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.