**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE IN NORLEY**

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING:** Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Ann Crawford, Tony Duff, Sally Cornelissen, Liz Robinson and Peter Wright

Councillors Gabrielle Goad and Gillian Edwards - Ward Councillors – Cheshire West and Chester Council

PCSO Neil Flanagan (for part of the meeting)

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
   Apologies were received from Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor Lynn Stocks and Norley Parish Councillors Gerald Brown and Terry Harvey.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
   No declarations of interest were made.
3. **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM**
   A report was received from PCSO Neil Flanagan covering incidents during September and October 2026.
   Neil reported that he had attended several village groups, including Knit and Natter, the Wednesday Club and the Open Door Café.
   Speed enforcement activity was undertaken on 30 September on High Street and Post Office Lane. Further enforcement is scheduled for 8 November 2026.
   The next Police Surgery will be held at the Village Hall on 10 November (3.00 pm to 4.00 pm) and on 6 December (5.00 pm to 6.00 pm).
   The PC received an update regarding concerns raised about vehicle speeds and highway obstruction on Fingerpost Lane near Mount Pleasant Care Home. Following discussions with Cheshire West and Chester Highways and the care home manager, speed monitoring data indicated a mean speed below 30 mph and did not identify a significant speeding issue.
   It was noted that a residents' survey on a potential reduction of the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on Fingerpost Lane will be undertaken.
   The Chair thanked PCSO Flanagan for his continued engagement with village groups and attendance at Parish Council meetings.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2026**
   These were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2026**
   **Co-Option to the Parish Council Vacancy**
   Peter Wright had accepted the appointment to the Parish Council and had completed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests documentation.
   **Grant Funding application from Norley News for £650**
   An email of thanks had been received from Norley News following the award of a grant of £650.
   **Auto Speedwatch**
   Councillor Brown continues to pursue a response from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the wider adoption of AutoSpeedWatch.
   **Overgrown Hedge School Lane**
   No action had been taken following correspondence regarding the overgrown hedge obstructing the footpath on School Lane. Consideration is being given to the matter being referred to Cheshire West and Chester Council for action.
   **Action – Councillor Bakewell and Clerk to follow up.**
   **Cheese Hill Works**

The PC are continuing to liaise with CW&C Highways regarding the road alterations and awaits the outcome of a full safety audit. Concerns have also been raised regarding faded yellow line markings on Cheese Hill Lane.

**Norley PC Website**

The website hosting had been successfully transferred to Kualo at an annual cost of £131.88 and the first phase of the migration of the website and email systems had been completed. Quotations for Phase 2 of the website redevelopment, including compliance with WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility standards, have been received and remain under consideration.

**Memorial Garden**

Discussions continue with the Norley Wildlife Group regarding ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Garden, including tree management, pathway restoration and fencing improvements. Councillor Edwards continues to liaise with United Utilities. The Wildlife Group had secured funding support from United Utilities towards the proposed works.

**6. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE**

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for August 2026 had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting, as follows:

**In summary:**

Vehicles continue to speed excessively through Norley.

**Ashton Road (Exit Speed)**

31.1% (4,231) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 8.9%, (1,208) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The max exit speed was **54.3 mph**.

**Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)**

44.4% (14,947) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 11.9% (3,991) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph The max peak speed was **61 mph.**

**Delamere Road (Exit Speed)**

57.6% (14,220) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 23.1% (5,714) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The max exit speed was **76.1 mph.**

**Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)**

14.9% (3,522) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit. 1.7% (410) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. Max speed **67.7 mph**

**Norley Road (Exit Speed)**

29.9% (11,286) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 11.3%, (4,270) vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The maximum speed was **65.1 mph.**

**School Bank (Peak Speed)**

85.2% (688) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 52.3% (422) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph.

**Highest recorded speeds:**

**44.2 mph on Sunday 9th August at 11:10**

**38.5 mph on Wednesday 12th August 23:27**

**38.2 mph on Wednesday 12th August at 12:56**

**General**

The report highlighted continuing concerns regarding excessive vehicle speeds throughout the village. Significant levels of speeding were recorded on Ashton Road, Blakemere Lane, Delamere Road and Norley Road. School Bank continued to experience particularly high levels of non-compliance with the 20-mph speed limit.

The Council noted the following updates:

- Community Speed Watch training was successfully delivered on 18 September 2026.
- The junction warning sign on Blakemere Lane has been reinstated.
- Cheshire West and Chester Highways responded promptly to concerns regarding debris obscuring double yellow lines on Blakemere Lane and Station Road.
- Highway defects relating to road markings at Cow Lane and Cheese Hill junction have been reported and accepted for repair.

- Councillor Brown attended a presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner at Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters on 5 October.
- Councillor O'Connor had noted that the SID on Fingerpost Lane did not register the speed of a vehicle travelling under the 40mph speed limit. The PC were not sure if the SID only displayed the speed when close to, at or exceeding the limit.
  **Action – Councillor O'Connor to contact Rock Graphics to check.**

**Auto Speedwatch**

The Council noted that Auto SpeedWatch monitoring in the 20-mph zone at Hough Lane /Maddocks Hill identified:

- Three vehicles without a valid MOT;
- Three untaxed vehicles; and
- Nine vehicles travelling in excess of 35 mph, including one vehicle recorded at 42 mph.

The Council noted ongoing concerns regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the initiative.

**Speed Monitoring & Enforcement**

A speed enforcement session was undertaken with PCSO Neil Flanagan on 30 September. Only one vehicle was found to be exceeding the speed limit on Post Office Lane, with the remainder complying with the posted limit.

Further enforcement activity is planned for 8 November 2026.

**Fingerpost Lane/Mount Pleasant Care Home**

A Speed Tag survey has been completed and did not identify significant speeding concerns. A residents' survey on a possible reduction in the speed limit will be undertaken.

**7. CHRISTMAS TREE**

The PC discussed arrangements for purchase the village Christmas tree and agreed to approach United Utilities regarding possible financial support.

**Action – Councillor Cornelissen to follow up.**

**8. REMEMBRANCE 8th NOVEMBER SUNDAY WREATH**

Councillor O'Connor will attend the Remembrance Service on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Action –** Clerk to arrange collection of the wreath on 3 November 2026

**9. Village Hall Defibrillator**

Following an inspection of the Village Hall defibrillator, the findings are that the Device has incurred damage not covered by the warranty and the repairs required are a Main board replacement. Costs are:

- Repair costs of £316.86 plus VAT for replacement of the main board; and
- A discounted replacement SP1 Semi-Automatic Defibrillator costing £750 plus VAT.

Discussion took place regarding possible grant funding opportunities and the future use of replacement batteries and pads already purchased.

The PC thanked Councillor Robinson for her work in investigating the available options.

**Action – Councillors O'Connor and Robinson to persue possible options of a donated defibrillator or funding options.**

**10. Approval of IT Policy and Accessibility Statement**

The PC considered the draft IT Policy and Accessibility Statement.

As no substantive comments had yet been received, it was agreed to defer approval until the November meeting to allow absent members an opportunity to review the documents.

The Risk Assessment, last reviewed in April 2026, will also be reviewed before the next meeting.

**Action – Clerk to include on the November agenda.**

**11. Website Development**

The PC received an update on website development and compliance activities.

Work continues on achieving full accessibility compliance and securing the new **norley-pc.gov.uk** domain required under current Government guidance.

The matter will be considered further at the November meeting.

One of the companies suggested to host the website is ThenMedia. It was noted that some Parish Councils already use them for their website. It was agreed that they should be contacted to establish their experience with the company.

**Action – Clerk to contact Daresbury and Hatton and Sandymoor Parish Councils.**

**Action – Clerk to include on the November agenda**

**12. PLANNING**

The PC noted the successful village planning information meeting held at the Methodist Church on 29 September 2026 that was arranged by Councillor Edwards.

Following consideration of current planning policies and local housing needs information, it was agreed that no amendments are presently required to the Norley Neighbourhood Plan or the Housing Needs Survey.

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

- **26/02943/FUL** - Grasmere Cottage Cow Lane Norley Northwich WA6 8PR - Single storey side extensions and alterations to existing elevations, including demolition of the existing side garage and stores – any PC comments to be sent to the Clerk by 23rd October.

**13. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported receipt of:

- CHALC bulletins and training information;
- Delamere Forest September 2026 newsletter; and
- Cheshire West and Chester Council Local Plan consultation updates, including the additional Call for Sites exercise

**14. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Review Current Financial Position/Mid Year Budget Review and Financial Audit**

The Council received and noted the mid-year budget review, including income, expenditure, reserves and current account balances.

It was agreed that the draft 2027/28 budget would be reviewed further in January 2027 when consideration is given to the annual precept.

The PC thanked Councillor Bakewell for his work in monitoring the Council's finances.

The mid-year budgetary information is attached to the minutes as Appendices.

**Website Compliance and Hosting**

The PC continues to review quotations relating to website compliance, hosting, migration and redevelopment works, including arrangements required for the new government domain and accessibility compliance.

The following was approved for Bacs payments:

- Phase 1 Website, Domain and Email Migration – Rabbitdigital – Invoice Number: 4116 £70.00

The purchase of the wreath for Remembrance Sunday was approved. Invoice has not yet been received.

It was noted that due to the deadline date, the tax due on Clerk's salary for Quarter 2 - £216.00 – HMRC been paid outside of the meeting.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Village Hall Accessibility Project**

Councillor Robinson reported that the Village Hall Committee has launched a crowdfunding campaign to support provision of an accessible toilet.

**Norley Wildlife Group**

Councillor O'Connor reported that a grant application had been submitted to Natural England for stump-treatment training for a member of the NWG.

**Village Show**

Councillor Crawford reported that the Village Show had been very successful and thanked the ward councillors for funding provided towards the purchase of a tea urn.

**Delamere Forest**

Councillor Crawford raised concerns regarding the absence of warning notices during periods of extreme heat over the summer. The matter has been referred to the Forestry Commission and will also be raised at the next liaison meeting.

**Public Rights of Way**

The Council welcomed the reopening of the footpath between Norley Lane and St John's Church and expressed thanks to Jo Gardner for arranging the clearance work.

The Council also thanked Ann Crawford for contacting the Fire Service during the fire at the Tigers Head public house.

**Ward Members' Reports**

The Council received and noted updates on:

- Cheshire West and Chester's emerging Local Plan;
- The Borough Design Code consultation;
- The introduction of Household Waste Recycling Centre registration arrangements;
- The new Town and Parish Council Report-It identifier system;
- Changes to planning application call-in procedures;
- Ongoing enforcement action regarding the haulage yard; and
- Progress towards resolving flooding issues at Breech Moss through potential culvert clearance and associated vegetation management works

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting **Wednesday 25th November 2026 at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.