

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT NORLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Ann Crawford, Dennis Ford, Terry Harvey, Ian Stockton and Mont Sturt
Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

There was one member of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Fayle, Querelle and Wild and PCSO David Hayes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

A member of the public wished to address the Parish Council on the proposed 20 mph speed limits in the village.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY 2018

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

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY 2018

- Following correspondence from the Norley Women's Institute relating to the tree planting proposal in the Village, the PC's suggested location was in the gap along Hamblets Hollow.
Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with the Women's Institute and to check whether approval is required from CW&C.
- The Clerk has completed the VAT Claim Form for 2017/18 (total £370.63) and is continuing to follow up registering the claim on-line with HMRC.
Action – Clerk to continue to follow up
- The Community Right to Bid application is being progressed by Councillor Wild.
Action – Councillor Wild to continue to follow up.
- Following the submission of a grant application for three defibrillators in the village, it was agreed that the PC should now arrange to purchase the defibrillators. Suggested locations are at The Carriers at Hatchmere, the village hall and the Tigers Head.
The Clerk had followed up insurance cover for the 3 defibrillators which the PC are to purchase with the insurance company. It was confirmed that they will be covered under the public liability section and should be included in the inspection regime and that written records should be kept. If they are required to be covered for damage/theft, the insurance company will require the replacement costs.
- The photographs of a PC meeting have now been added to the website.
- The dog bin that had been requested for the junction of Cow Lane and Fingerpost Lane has not yet been received.
Action – Clerk to follow up with CW&C Asset Team.
- Following the offer from an ex-resident to make a steel 'Norley' sign, Councillor Ford continues to follow up.
Action – Councillor Ford to continue to follow up.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Community Survey was completed by Martin Bell.
- Councillor O'Connor had spoken to the local MP – Mike Amesbury about attending a PC meeting. Mr Amesbury would be available to meet with the PC on a Thursday evening or Friday. The PC are to suggest some possible dates.
Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up.

HIGHWAYS

- The PC are continuing to follow up the restoration and painting of the three direction signs with CW&C.

- Funding towards a Speed Indicator Device in the village continues to be followed up with Partners/Dane Housing.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to continue to follow up with Partners/Dane Housing.

- The gully that is blocked at the bottom of Maddocks Hill has been reported and is to be investigated by CW&C Network Steward who will raise the relevant repair work. This is to be followed up as well as the blocked gully on High Street.

Action – Clerk to follow up with CW&C.

6. HEDGE CUTTING AND FOOTPATHS

A report on the survey of the Norley Parish footpaths and bridleways carried out by the Walking Group following their walks around the village had now been received which had been circulated prior to the PC meeting.

The report highlighted that the footpaths and bridleways are, in the main, well maintained and in good condition. The PC noted the issues that were on the priority list and agreed to follow up some of the action items with the CW&C Public Rights of Way Officer.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with CW&C Public Rights of Way Officer.

The PC also noted that some of the hedges in the village need to be cut back and agreed that these should be followed up with the landowners and that a note should be put in the Norley News reminding residents about the cutting back of hedges.

Action – Clerk to follow up with the landowners.

7. 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT PROPOSAL

Following the last meeting the PC had submitted their comments to CW&C about the proposed 20 mph speed limits within the village as follows:

Norley Parish Council object very strongly to the fact that the 20mph past the school is not extended up to the top of Marsh Lane. They think that the resources, time and money on two housing estates where vehicles can only drive slowly anyway would be much better utilised for road safety benefit. They consider that it is not necessary to have a 20-mph speed limit in the 2 'estates' of Stanneybrook Close and Forresters Close.

The Parish Council would like to know in detail why this is not being carried out and that it is for road safety reasons we want it extending. There is no pavement around the shop and Tigers Head area and pedestrians have to walk in the road.

The speed monitoring information supports the Parish Council's view. From the statistics provided for School Bank it shows that during the monitoring period Westbound vehicles (towards the Stores and Tigers Head) there were 173 out of 345 travelling above the speed limit of 30mph. That is approximately 50% of the vehicles and of these 10 were travelling at over 40mph.

Of the Eastbound Vehicles - 358 total and 182 were travelling above the speed limit of 30mph over 50% of total number and 10 were travelling at over 40mph.

This road is used by a large number of people riding horses, cyclists and with vehicles parked along it requires great care when driving along it. This accompanied by the lack of footpaths for pedestrians and children walking to school near the Stores and Tigers Head make it a road safety issue to make it 20mph from the school along School Bank to the top of Marsh Lane.

These speeds seem much too high for the conditions on School Bank. The speeds around school dropping-off time in particular look appalling. With the shop and tight corner, the number of vehicles usually parked along the road and the high volume of horses and cyclists, it can only be a matter of time before there is a serious accident.

Prior to the PC meeting a response had been received from CW&C relating to the PC's objections, as follows:

“The aim of the Council’s four-year 20mph programme is to assess and implement ‘signed only’ 20mph speed limits on appropriate roads meeting Department for Transport Criteria. The criteria for a signed only 20mph speed limit is that average speeds must be below 24mph. The Council’s Cabinet voted on adopting a less stringent criteria of 30mph for outside schools.

Hence the inclusion of Hough Lane and the estate roads off School Bank and Marsh Lane; the parish’s comment that vehicles only drive slowly, indicate that 20mph limits are appropriate on the estate roads.

The reason that a 20mph speed limit is not proposed on School Bank is because it does not meet the criteria. Contrary to the parish’s view that the speed monitoring information supports a lower speed limit, the data indicates that 30mph is the appropriate speed limit.

All are assessments are verified and have the support of Cheshire Police, who will not support any 20mph limits on roads not meeting criteria.

It may be possible for a traffic calmed 20mph limit however this is beyond the scope and budget of the programme.”

The parish Council’s objections will be included in the objection report and the Delegated Officer will take them into consideration when making the decision whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

8. PLANNING

Applications

The following planning applications had been received for consideration since the 25th July meeting:

- **18/03121/FUL** - Haulage Yard, High Street, Norley: Replacement of fence banking on boundary line adjacent to bridle path, reprofile banking with sandstone and re-erect new fence approximately 2-3 metres away from the bottom of the boundary line, re-allocate to top of the banking to prevent new timber fence from future water logging, various land drains to be renewed. The PC welcomed the replacement fence on the boundary line, but had concerns about the drains to be renewed and suggested that a site visit with CW&C be arranged with a Parish Council representative, who is familiar with the history of the site.
- **18/03323/FUL** - 9 High Street Norley Frodsham WA6 8JS: Proposed conversion of existing garage to Studio office and guest bedroom – There were no PC comments.

Decisions

- **18/00677/FUL** - Town Farm Town Farm Lane Norley: Conversion of existing agricultural barns to 3 no. dwellings - **Approved**
- **18/02200/FUL** - Beechwood Cottage Dutton Lane Crowton Northwich Cheshire CW8 2TN: Proposed Replacement Porch, Dormer Window to existing roof and glazing / window changes – **Approved**

9. APPROVAL OF THE PARISH COUNCIL’S STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The PC reviewed the draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which were approved subject to the amendments.

The review of the Complaints Procedure and Risk Assessment is to be carried forward to the October meeting.

Action – Clerk to follow up dates for Councillor Code of Conduct Training with CW&C

10. CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on the following:

- A request for information relating to a historical route taken by packhorses on route to Manchester on Pytcheleys Hollow had been received from a resident.
Action – Councillor Ford to follow up and report back to the Clerk.

- As PCSO David Hayes was unable to attend the meeting there were no items reported from the PC or David. Any issues are to be reported to David.
- A request had been received from Phil Gifford relating to a proposal for the purchase of a 6-foot Tommy Silhouette for its installation in the village in time for Remembrance Sunday on 11th November and for the PC to act as a depository for the Tommy outline fund. The request to the Parish Council requested it be in charge of any fund to purchase the silhouette and hold monies for its purchase. Although this correspondence had not been received by the Parish Clerk 3 clear days prior to the meeting, due to the short timescales involved, the Chair allowed this item to be discussed, so that the applicant could make suitable arrangements for the project to proceed. After discussion the PC agreed that they felt the Parish Councils bank account could not be utilised for this purpose and did not feel it appropriate to act as a depository for the Tommy silhouette fund.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to report back to Phil Gifford.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A financial report and a budgetary monitoring report had been circulated to PC members with the agenda prior to the meeting which had been received and noted. The Clerk reported on the following:

- The PC account balance as at 1st August 2018 was £44,438.52.

Approval of Exemption Certificate

The Clerk had followed up the deadline of the exemption of the Parish Council from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Small Authorities) Regulations 2015 with the external auditor who confirmed that the PC could certify themselves as exempt. The Clerk had, therefore, completed the exemption form and forwarded to the external auditor. The form was also published on the Parish Council's website.

Approval of the following cheques:

The following cheque was approved for signature:

Website Updating Photo Gallery and Backup Systems – July 2018 £30 – Rabbitdigital

And Website Updating Photo Gallery and Backup Full Site – August 2018 £20 – Rabbitdigital – Total £50.00

As a cheque for the 2018/2019 Data Protection Registration – Information Commissioner - £35.00 had already been completed on 8th January 2018, cheque number 345 was a duplication of this payment and was, therefore, cancelled in the cheque book.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were reported:

- Whether a quotation for the restoration and painting of the Cheshire Railings should be obtained?
- The PC acknowledged the passing of a former Parish Councillor – Mr Gordon Johnson.
- A resident on Blakemere Lane had reported to Councillor Harvey about problems with deliveries and enquired about whether it would be possible to have a more substantial sign with a list of the properties.
This is to be followed up with CW&C.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on **Wednesday 17th October 2018 at 7.00 pm**. The venue is to be confirmed.