

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
16TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Anne Crawford, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey, Ian Stockton and Jon Wild.

Charles Fifield and Gillian Edwards – Ward Councillors – Cheshire West and Chester Council

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

There were two members of the public in attendance who were welcomed to the meeting. Steve Bakewell had expressed an interest in the parish councillor vacancy and was in attendance at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cheshire West and Chester Council Ward Councillor Paul Williams and Norley Parish Councillors Sally Cornelissen and Ken Fayle.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor D O'Connor declared an interest in planning appeal APP/A0665/C/22/3293926 Land at grid ref 365201 372590 Crabmill Lane, Norley, Northwich, Cheshire, WA6 8JN as she knows the applicant.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

The Co-Ordinator of the Norley Community Speed Management Scheme, Lynne Reed provided an update on the response from CW&C about the petition on Blakemere Lane. There are currently no proposals to consider any further reductions in speed limits in this area.

The Speed Watch Group currently has 11 people on the list of volunteers to assist in community speed watch.

Following an email from a resident about concerns around the number and speed of vehicles at Norley Lane/end of Post Office Lane, and whether a speed indicator device could be located at this junction, a flashing SID mobile device is to be borrowed, which could be used at this junction. This is one location to be discussed with Ian Rutherford who will be training the Community Speed Watch Group.

A summary of the response from CW&C is to be put in the Norley News.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2022

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

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2022

- **Delamere Forest**

A Delamere Forest Monthly Update had been received from the Forestry Commission, which had been circulated.

- **Former Car Park in Delamere Forest**

There has been no further update relating to the car park that has been closed for some time.

Action – Councillor Fifield to continue to follow up.

- **Cheshire Railings**

Councillor Edwards and Councillor Cornelissen had met with Fiona Dunnings to discuss any funding that maybe available for the restoration works of the Cheshire Railings. The ownership of the railings is also being followed up by CW&C Property Department.

- **Norley Lane**

Councillor Edwards and O'Connor recently had a virtual with CW&C, Highways to discuss several Highways issues in the village. Possible solutions to try and address two residents'

concerns relating to traffic speed, lack of road markings on Norley Lane just after a bend where they live. It was agreed that the installation of two of the black and white posts with red reflectors may assist, one just prior to the properties and one just after. The Parish Council would need to pay for these and the cost of installation should be approximately £200. It was agreed that the PC should apply for these to be installed and to finance. CW&C Highways are also going to look at the signage and road markings along Norley Lane.

- **Speed Indicator Devices**

A suitable location for a device on Blakemere Lane continues to be followed up, as there has been an objection to the proposed location from a resident.

The PC has received the licence for signature for the Speed Indicator Device on Ashton Road, which has not yet been signed. PC are awaiting confirmation from Mike North, Rock Graphics when he has reviewed the information from the utility companies to ensure no pipes etc. are in the location.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to contact Mike North re the suitability.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to sign the licence on behalf of the Parish Council once the location is confirmed as suitable.

- **Footpaths and Bridleways**

Councillor Edwards and Councillor Cornelissen have met with the Public Rights of Way Officer to discuss the bridleway and the footpath enquiries and the direction sign around the heath at Hatchmere. This is being followed up by CW&C.

Flooding – Breech Moss

There has been no further update on progress with the flooding on Breech Moss.

Action - Councillor O'Connor to email Roger Goulding, CW&C again re this issue.

- **Hondslough Lane**

The PC's draft response objecting to this application to have a public right of way recorded over Hondslough Lane has been prepared and circulated.

Action – Clerk to submit the final PC response to Adele Meyer when finalised and requested.

- **Pytchleys Hollow**

At the recent highways meeting with Jamie Barron and Andy Hamman, CW&C Highways the issue of changing Pytchleys Hollow to a one-way road with entry only from the Tigers Head, School Bank was further discussed. Highways do not think it is advisable to make Pytchleys Hollow a one-way road, as they believe people drive faster on a one-way road. However, they stated that if the PC are to pursue this option and prior to any formal submission by the PC, it would require consultation by the PC to every home along the lane and to the field owners. The PC thought that it would be a good idea to have a wider consultation/notification in the village for views. The approximate cost to the PC would be between £4,000-£5,000 if approved.

Action – Councillor Edwards to obtain clarification on the cost of the licence and the PC to put an article in the Norley News about the proposal.

Action – Clerk to obtain details of the resident's addresses and landowners on Pytchleys Hollow and Hamblets Hollow so a suitable letter can be drafted and sent.

- **Cheese Hill junction**

Following a recent meeting with CW&C Highways, the weight limit sign on Cow Lane has been moved from where it was installed. Superfluous road signage has been removed from the Give Way signpost at the top of the hill.

If the warning signs along Cheese Hill Lane start to be obscured by growing vines or the hedge this will need reporting for it to be removed.

- Councillor Edwards had followed up with CW&C Highways the possibility of having a pedestrian crossing near to the Hatchmere bus stop and costings are to be provided to the PC.

CW&C have informed Councillor Edwards that an 'Elderly People Crossing' sign cannot be installed at Hatchmere because these signs are only installed near to residential care homes.

- **Defibrillator Training**

Councillor Cornelissen is in the process of arranging a date for the defibrillator training in the village for those that had expressed an interest.

Action – Councillor Cornelissen to arrange a date and suitable location for the training.

Councillor Harvey had followed up a possible location for a defibrillator to be in the Hatchmere area of the village and this is being followed up with the licensee of the Carriers Inn. The current licensee was happy to have a defibrillator outside the pub but informed Councillor Harvey that he was leaving in a few weeks.

Action – Councillor Harvey to follow up with new licensee.

- The PC are in the process of reviewing the PC's current and savings bank accounts.

Action – Clerk and Councillor O'Connor to follow this up.

- Councillor Edwards is awaiting a response from Mike Amesbury regarding an article that was in Cheshire Live about the Delamere Forest Lodges and that they may be sold.

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Councillor O'Connor had added the CW&C Guidance document to Norley Facebook page and copies are to be put on the noticeboards and in the shop.

Following the suggestion about planting a replacement tree on Maddocks Hill in recognition of the Jubilee, Councillor O'Connor had followed this up with the Phil Gifford from the Wildlife Group and another suggestion was to put a service tree, with a circular bench, to the left of the Norley Sign. The PC thought this was a suitable addition to the village to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Costs are to be obtained for the tree and bench.

The PC are to arrange for the cage that is around the coronation tree to be removed and Councillor Crawford has agreed to paint a stone, to be placed by the tree. Thanks to Councillor Crawford.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to ask Mike North to remove the cage from around the tree.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to liaise with Phil Gifford in relation to a suitable bench and costs.

6. PARKING MEETING HELD ON 3RD MARCH 2022

Representatives from the PC and Councillor Edwards attended the village meeting that was held on 3rd March 2022.

Andrew Rees from CW&C, who will have responsibility for the Community Safety Wardens from the end of March, was in attendance and there were discussions about the parking issues/problems in the village and what could be done about it and how solutions could be progressed. The possibility of having additional signage around Delamere Forest in relation to parking was also discussed.

There were no major solutions to the parking problems, but it was an opportunity to gather information.

Any reports of parking problems should be reported to the email address that Andrew Rees will supply.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to circulate a note of main points from the meeting to attendees and people who had emailed questions to the Parish Clerk.

7. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Further information relating to developing and formulating an Emergency Resilience Plan, had been provided by Rob Ruddock, CW&C Officer at the meeting held on 3rd March.

The PC considered whether this could potentially be suitable for Norley and agreed to consider further what effect this would have on Norley as a village, what resources maybe needed and whether it would be worth pursuing prior to the next PC meeting in April.

8. ELECTION OF CW&C PARISH REPRESENTATIVE ON STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The PC are to send their preferred two representatives from the three candidates to the Clerk, to collate all responses. The closing date for voting is 19th April 2022.

9. PLANNING

The following Application had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Notification of appeal APP/A0665/C/22/3293926 Land at grid ref 365201 372590 Crabmill Lane, Norley, Northwich, Cheshire, WA6 8JN 22/00024/ENF – any representations to be submitted to the Clerk before 25th April 2022.

10. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- The PC discussed the boundary review going on for the Parliamentary Boundaries from 2024 onwards which will see the current parliamentary constituency of Weaver Vale split into 2 principal constituencies, a new Runcorn & Helsby constituency and a new Northwich constituency. The current constituency of Eddisbury will become South Cheshire.

The Borough Council wards are used as the building blocks and the current proposals would put Weaver & Cuddington ward into the Northwich seat, which covers Northwich as part of an area from Norley to Lostock and Higher Whitley to Winsford.

Some local Parish Councils, Weaverham, Acton Bridge and Cuddington, are supportive of the Boundary Commission's proposal that Weaver and Cuddington Ward should become part of the new Northwich constituency. Local MP Mike Amesbury has made a submission proposing the Weaver and Cuddington ward be moved into the neighbouring new South Cheshire constituency.

The PC discussed the proposals and voted on the proposal to support the Boundary Commission's proposal that Weaver and Cuddington Ward should become part of the new Northwich constituency. Three councillors voted to support the proposal and three abstained. The PC voted on the Mike Amesbury submission that the Weaver and Cuddington ward be moved into the new South Cheshire constituency. No one voted to support this.

- The PC had received an enquiry from a resident relating to excessive external lighting at a property within the Hatchmere part of the village.

Action – Clerk to contact Kevin Feeney, Cheshire Wildlife Trust in relation to possibility of local wildlife being affected due to the lighting being next to an SSSI and RAMSAR.

Action – Clerk to contact CW&C Planning Enforcement Department to establish if this is acceptable in planning legislation.

- The Clerk had received an email from Nick Stockdale, Director, Lime Grove Homes, relating to them considering purchasing the Haulage Yard, High Street. This land has previously had planning consent for 12 properties, 6 affordable and 6 market housing. Nick Stockdale stated that if they purchased the land 'they would look at building properties within keeping the local architectural concepts in a sympathetic manner.' He asked that the PC discuss their proposal at this meeting.

Due to previous issues where housing developers have attended PC meetings to discuss their proposals and the PC being misquoted in the developer's correspondence and submissions to CW&C Planning the PC took the decision not to discuss proposals with developers. The PC agreed that Clerk should email Nick Stockdale and inform him the PC would not provide feedback on his proposal.

Action – Clerk to email Nick Stockdale and inform him the PC would not provide feedback on his proposal.

CW&C Circulars

- Council hosts free climate and nature emergency webinars
- Refresh – spring arts programme at Chester's Watergate Street Gallery
- Wasting food feeds climate change: Council unites with Food Waste Action Week to break the cycle

- New recycling service roadshows
- Rollout of borough's new recycling service
- Cheshire West Mobile Library - move to full timetable
- Cheshire West and Chester Council launches community equipment amnesty
- COVID-19 Omicron Business Grant funding application deadline looms
- Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network Annual Networking Day
- Plea for dog owners to pick up in country parks and open spaces
- Town and Parish Council Connections Event: Meet Cheshire West and Chester Council's Leaders 23rd March at 6pm
- Cheshire West and Chester Council stands ready to welcome Ukrainian refugees

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Queen's Jubilee Celebrations 2022 - Event guidance
- Revised ChALC Double Taxation Survey
- Request to promote NALC Policing Online Event - 30th March 2022
- Cheshire West Crowd - Tackling Poverty Fund
- Town and Parish Connections Event - Leadership Messages - Wednesday 23rd March 6pm to 7pm
- New NALC Briefing - GB1-22 Ukraine
- Delamere Forest monthly update
- Kingsley and Gowry Police Update – PCSO Deborah Netherton
- February 2022 Stakeholder Newsletter from John Dwyer

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current Financial Position

Prior to the meeting the following financial reports had been circulated:

The PC account balance on the current account as at 1st March 2022 was **£36,676.80** (there is an unrepresented cheque of £14.39) and **£6262.39** on the Business Reserve account. The level of expenditure at 1st March was **£32606.87** and the balance remaining was **£16994.65** from the 2021/22 planned budget of £49,300.00.

The following was received and noted:

- Upcoming Payment Notification – 1 and 1 – Extended Support 21.02.22-21.03.23 - Direct Debit (07.03.22) Payment – £8.44

The following was approved for payment and a cheque was signed:

- Backdated pay for Clerk's salary – 2021/22 National Pay Award – April 2021 to March 2022 - £55.20
Action – Clerk to notify Payroll about the backdated payment.

The Standing Orders/Financial Arrangements/Complaints Procedure, Fixed Asset Register and Risk Assessment had been circulated and are to be reviewed prior to the next meeting. The adequacy of fidelity insurance is also to be reviewed.

Action – Clerk to note as an agenda item for the April PC meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were reported:

- **From Councillor Harvey**

Councillor Harvey reported that there is a light on the building site on Blakemere Lane that is pointing towards the road, at an eyeline level, and needs to be adjusted so that it is shining on to the site.

Action – Councillor Harvey agreed to follow this up with the Site Manager.

- **From Councillor Crawford**

Councillor Crawford announced that the Norley Village Show would be going ahead on Saturday 3rd September 2022. Volunteers are required to assist on the day of the show. The cost of putting on the show amounts to £3000 and an alternative supplier for the marquee will have to be found. The Committee had asked whether the PC would consider making a donation towards the village event. The PC thanked the committee for all the work in putting on the show for the last 25 years and agreed to make a donation of £500.

- **From Councillor Duff**

Councillor Duff to provide a photograph of the incomplete work of the filling of the potholes on Blakemere Lane to Councillor Edwards to follow up with CW&C Highways.

- **From Councillor O'Connor**

Councillor O'Connor asked whether funding is available from the member's budget towards benches in the village. The PC are to obtain quotations.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to liaise with Phil Gifford and obtain quotes for suitable benches.

- A member of the public mentioned an overgrown hedge near to Post Office Lane/School Lane. Further information to be sent to Clerk to enable this to be reported to landowner.

- **From Councillor Fifield**

Councillor Fifield referred to a new charging scheme for residents disposing of large amounts of construction waste is being introduced at the borough's seven household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) from April 2022 and the 2.9% increase in Council Tax.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be held on **Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7 pm** at the NCK Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm