

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
22nd FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Tony Duff,
Sally Cornelissen and Jon Wild

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

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, Councillor Cornelissen was elected as Clerk to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Norley Parish Councillors Ann Crawford, Ken Fayle, Terry Harvey, Ian Stockton, Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor Paul Williams and PCSO Deborah Netherton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There was a question about whether there are any developments regarding the defibrillator for Hatchmere.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with the landlord at the Carriers Inn.

A Park Homes resident asked if there could be funding to buy a defibrillator for the site (approximately £1500). Councillor Edwards mentioned that if it were to be placed external to the site (where there is an electric supply for the heater), so that it could be used by the public, there may be member budget funding available.

Councillor O'Connor mentioned that funding is available to schools for the purchase of a defibrillator.

Action – Consideration of installing a defibrillator at Nursery Park to be discussed at the March PC Meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2023

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 25th JANUARY 2023

• **Car Parking - Delamere Forest**

Councillor Edwards has requested that the Community Safety Wardens patrol the areas affected by parking. The Forestry Commission have included details on their website and social media about discouraging parking around the forest area. Councillor Edwards is continuing to liaise with the Forestry Commission about arranging an online meeting.

• **Cheshire Railings**

The arrangements for the repair and painting of the railings and funding for this work is on-going. Councillor Cornelissen posted a complaint onto CWaC website as the railings at Town farm Lane/Norley Rd were now in a dangerous condition. Councillor Edwards and Councillor Cornelissen will continue to follow up.

• **Speed Indicator Devices**

The PC are continuing to follow up a suitable location for the SID on Blakemere Lane with United Utilities.

TWM have taken the Ashton Road device away for repair.

The Clerk had reported the device on Fingerpost Lane to check whether it is working correctly.

- An email had been received from the Playground Committee thanking the PC for the £1500 donation.

- Following the PC Extraordinary Meeting that was held on Monday 20th February 2023 to consider the planning application for a shop and café at the Village Hall site, the PC agreed that the planning application should be allowed to go through the planning process and that a meeting should be arranged with the current shop premises owners. In the meantime, the PC are to consider alternative sites around the village should it be required.
- Councillor O'Connor is continuing to follow up the locations of two 'Shop' directional signs - one near to the Village Hall pointing down Maddocks Hill and near to Gallowscrough Lane pointing down Hough Lane in a mid-green colour.
Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up obtaining a licence from CW&C for these and the current prices for signs and installation.
- Councillor Crawford is pursuing the planning of any events for the Kings Coronation.
- **Highway Issues**
Councillor Edwards is in the process of arranging a follow up meeting with CW&C Highways to follow up on the on-going highway issues in Norley. These regular meetings are to continue.
- **Footpaths and Bridleways**
Councillor Edwards is continuing to follow up organising a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Officer to discuss the possibility of a permissive link on Norley BR1.
Action – Councillor Edwards to continue to follow up.
- **Hondslough Lane – Update from Adele Mayer**
This application is awaiting consideration. 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 and will be submitted when requested by CW&C.
Action – Clerk to submit the final PC response to Adele Mayer when finalised and requested.
- An update is awaited from Councillor Edwards about the filling of the potholes on Blakemere Lane.
- **Sandycroft Farm, Crabmill Lane**
The PC had followed up the listing process with Historic England. It was agreed that the PC should pursue this.
The PC are also liaising with CW&C about some ideas for the management of the land near to Sandycroft Farm, which has become vacant and the leasehold returned to CW&C, who own the building and land.
Councillor Crawford has volunteered to follow up the listing process with a Norley resident who has volunteered to assist.
- Councillor O'Connor is continuing to liaise with Roger Goulding, CW&C about the reports of a pipe with soapy water that is being discharged into the pond on Common Land of West View Road.
- Following the enquiry received about having a mirror at the top of Maddocks Hill CW&C Highways have confirmed that they are not responsible for installing mirrors.
- Concerns that had been received from residents about the noise from the live music coming from the Tigers Head late at night is continuing to be followed up with CW&C Licensing Department.
- **Sweeping of Leaves**
The Clerk had reported the problem areas where leaves need to be swept, but there has been no action yet.
Action – Councillor Edwards to follow up with CW&C.
- The defibrillator at the Village Hall, which had been recalled for an update, has now been put back in place and the loan defibrillator has been returned.

6. WILDFLOWER VERGES

The wildflower verges will be prepared by CW&C this spring. Beds will be stone-buried and the resulting areas sown with a Butterfly mix purchased by Councillor Bakewell on behalf of the PC. The PC will be responsible for sowing the seed and cutting back in the autumn. The areas will then be over sown.

500m² will be sown on the verge alongside Norley Road from Norley Hall to the corner of Norley Lane; alongside Fingerpost Lane and there may be enough for an area on the wide verge on School Lane opposite the old school.

Norley Wildlife Group have been informed and it was discussed in a meeting between them and Councillors Bakewell and Cornelissen that mowing could be resumed around the Norley sign.

NWG were keen that mowings were removed to enable wild cowslips to flourish.

Councillor O'Connor suggested that to ensure the mowings were removed that the person who cuts grass for the PC in the village could be asked to cut the area and remove the grass cuttings when required.

7. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The Community Speed Watch Co-Ordinator reported that she had contacted Ian Rutherford to check that Norley was on the list for a mobile SID. (This will enable warning letters to be sent to speeding drivers).

Permanent SIDs – the Ashton Rd SID is still undergoing repairs. There are concerns that there is not enough light under the canopy for it to function. An interchangeable battery was considered for the darker months. The Community Speed Watch Group is following up the return and reinstatement of the SID and a member will monitor if it is receiving enough solar power.

Three options are being considered for the SID on Blakemere lane:

- East side towards station
- West side but may need to be a dog-leg post to avoid a large tree
- By the 30-mph sign

The price of a modified pole and other possibilities is being followed up.

The January SID downloads were discussed.

It was hoped that repeated speeding in some areas would encourage speed enforcement, which has not been forthcoming.

Speeding past Nursery Park – unfortunately this stretch does not meet the criteria for a decrease in the speed limit. Suggestions to discourage speeding included:

- Making the bus stop more visible and robust
- A gateway sign to announce the start of the village.
- The sign for Nursery Park being made more visible

The resident of Nursery Park in attendance will contact the landowner to request permission to erect a sign.

Councillor Fifield reported that following changes to the ward boundaries, Norley may have been left out of consideration for speed enforcement and coverage by the PCSO.

It was decided that a visit to the next PCSO surgery would be useful. Councillor Edwards has contacted the appropriate department in CW&C about making the bus stop more visible.

8. NORLEY BOWLING CLUB

The PC are awaiting the additional financial information that had been requested from the Bowling Club.

Action – Clerk to add to March agenda.

9. PLANNING

There were no applications for consideration.

It was noted that the application for two further houses proposed on the site of the school had been withdrawn. As this application could be submitted in the future, the PC are to keep under observation.

The Planning Officer is aware that the affordable housing needs to be completed and retained. Councillor Fifield suggested that the swimming pool could be placed on the Communities Asset Register if possible. A need would have to be proved.

Action – Councillor Wild to follow up whether the swimming pool could be placed on the Communities Asset Register.

10. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Prior to the meeting, the PC had received an update report and information relating to Toad Crossing Signs from the Wildlife Group.

The following was noted and agreed:

- CW&C Highways are to take responsibility for erecting and applying for the licence.
- Jubilee Tree and Bench - it was agreed that the tree and surrounding bench could be in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee and Coronation and that they could be placed by the Norley sign once the area was cleared and mowed and the path undercut.
- Breech Moss – tree felling was going ahead using Neighbourhood Pride funding.
- Tree stump on Maddocks Hill.

Action - Councillor Bakewell is to contact CW&C to have it removed.

The following had been received and circulated since the January meeting:

CW&C Circulars

- The King's Coronation Weekend - public events
- Standardised School Year Consultation
- Lord Mayor's Charity Gala Evening - 10 March 2023 (Chester Town Hall)
- Cheshire West and Chester Heritage Strategy - What do you value about your past?
- Interested in Fairtrade? Want to make a difference?
- Cost of Living Support Newsletter
- Helping people with learning disabilities enjoy dance
- Cheshire West and Chester Council consider construction plans for Soot Hill
- Council asks for views on electric vehicle charging in the borough
- Get behind local community projects
- Important briefings for potential local election candidates

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill - Amendments supported by NALC and its President
- Climate Change Survey
- Delamere Forest: February 2023 Update

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current Financial Position

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

- The PC account balance on the current account as at 1st February 2023 was £42,055.37 and £6276.17 on the Business Reserve account.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The PC are continuing to review the suggestions that they had put forward for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure and anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area and what the Community Infrastructure Levy payments (£6989.48 and £2444.56).

- Playground Committee - £1500 allocated
- New door for the red phone box – costs are being followed up

Action – Councillor Crawford is continuing to follow up the costs of a new door for the red phone box and the cost for supplying electricity/lighting to the phone box.

Section 137 Expenditure and donation to Norley Bank Book

The PC agreed that they should retain a copy/ies of this book which can be lent out. The book has been self-published and the PC agreed to make a donation of £50, which will go to a pancreatic cancer charity.

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

- Backdated Clerk’s Salary Arrears Payments (February 2023) – New 2022/23 Salary Scales - £38 per month - + £27.14 Stationery, totals £65.14 – Mrs G Hawthornthwaite
- There was a one-off hosting charge of £117.11 to INEOS which will be paid for by direct debit.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were reported:

- Councillor Wild informed Councillor O’Connor that she had been put forward as an applicant to attend a Royal Garden party. Unfortunately, the ballot did not go in her favour. Councillor O’Connor thanked her colleagues for their kind consideration.
- A resident from Nursery Park was concerned about sewage in the field behind the park. This site is owned by the landlord of Nursery Park. Councillor Edwards advised contacting Environmental health at CWaC, Andrew Rees.
- Councillor Fifield drew attention to the correspondence relating to consultation on Standardisation of the School Year and the 4.99% increase in council tax.

Councillor Edwards reported that:

- the ‘Pothole Pro’ would be with CW&C a little longer, which would allow more potholes to be repaired.
- Re-surfacing of some roads in the village was now going to be carried out in autumn.
- Factco are engaging with the community as promised.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7 pm** at the NCK Centre.

Signed Date