

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY  
24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING:** Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Sally Cornelissen,  
and Terry Harvey

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Ward Councillors Lynn Stocks, Phil Rimmer and Gillian Edwards and Norley Parish Councillors Ann Crawford, Tony Duff and Ken Fayle.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests.

**3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM**

A resident mentioned a vehicle that was speeding passed the shop at 38 mph and the state of the gutters along School Bank, which have weeds growing out of them.

Councillor Edwards has been notified of the gutters and weeds and is following up with CW&C Highways.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 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 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023**

- **Speed Indicator Device**

The PC are continuing to follow up a suitable location for the SID on Blakemere Lane and Councillor O'Connor has contacted CW&C and the licence process has commenced. A quotation for the design of a bespoke pole has been requested.

- **Installation of Street Signs Pointing to The Stores**

The PC had contacted the Village Hall Committee about the installation of a street sign pointing to the Stores on the land at the Village Hall. This request is to be considered at the next Norley Village Hall Management Committee meeting on Tuesday 8th August.

- **Red Phone Box**

The new door and fitting pack for the red phone box has been ordered. The cost of £1,488.00 will be expenditure from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

- **Building Works Blakemere Lane**

Councillor Edwards and Councillor O'Connor had a meeting with CW&C Planning about the completion of the building works on the Blakemere Lane site and the affordable housing. The developers have informed CW&C that they cannot find a Registered Provider to take responsibility for the 4 affordable homes. CW&C have responded asking the developers for the evidence of their attempts and replies from Registered Providers. The lack of progress on the green space playground was also mentioned at the meeting and this is being followed up with Planning Enforcement. CW&C are to keep the PC updated.

- The speed sign outside the Carriers Inn that is being obscured by vegetation has been reported.

- The Clerk had written to the Maddocks Hill landowner about the overhanging vegetation on the Maddocks Hill footpath, which has now been cut back.

- Councillor Cornelissen had arranged for the area in front of the 'Norley' sign, where the wildflowers are, to be cut back and the clippings collected. The rest of the area has been cut back and the cuttings left in place, which will allow the wildflowers to set seed as requested by the Wildlife Group. The grass verge along the gates of Norley Hall has been

mowed and the grass along Norley Road, behind and in front of the wildflower area, is to be cut back to allow the beds to recover. The suggestion was that this part of the verge is then included in the council mowing program, as they have mown the verge further along. Thanks to Councillor Cornelissen for following up.

- A response had been received from the Forestry Commission about an issue that had been reported to the PC relating to the taxi pick up points outside the Chinese Restaurant on School Lane. This was following the recent Delamere Forest Concerts where the taxis were double-parked, blocking the view turning left at the School Lane junction. The Forestry Commission have now contacted the main taxi company concerned and will be asking for them to use the designated drop off area next year.
- The Clerk had responded to the 'norleyresidents' email following their enquiry, advising them to contact CW&C Licensing Department and Environmental Health Department.
- **Parish Councillor Vacancies**

Following the May 2023 Elections, there are now two Parish Councillor Vacancies. The Clerk had notified CW&C of the vacancies and a Notice has been published on the website and parish noticeboards. If no election is requested before the deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the PC will then be able to co-opt to fill the vacancies.

## 6. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

A member of the Community Speed Watch reported that due to parked cars on the pavements on Ashton Road and Blakemere Lane, people have to walk on the road to pass the cars. There is not enough room on the pavement for wheelchairs and buggies to pass.

The PC were asked if a reminder could be put in the next Norley News about cutting overhanging hedges that are obstructing footpaths.

The PC received the summary of the Norley fixed SID graphs for June 2023. It was noted that vehicles continue to speed through Norley, particularly on Ashton Road, Delamere Road and School Bank. Despite months of speed monitoring, meetings and requests to CW&C, to escalate speed monitoring issues, there has been no action.

The SID device on Norley Road that has failed to connect to Bluetooth has been reported to TWM to reset the device.

The Community Speed watch group are waiting to borrow the handheld devices for speed monitoring, which Councillor Edwards is arranging.

The PC agreed to follow up information about the small mobile handheld devices for speed monitoring that are now available and are being used by some parish councils. The approximate cost is £300 for one device. An agreement in principle to fund a device was made.

**Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with Councillor Edwards and obtain further information about the mobile handheld devices and the locations of the fixed speed cameras that are on trial in some parishes.**

**Action – Councillor O'Connor to mention the parking issues on Ashton Road and Blakemere Lane at the planned meeting with Andy Jones, Traffic Management Officer.**

**Action - Clerk to arrange for a reminder about cutting back overgrown hedges to be put in the next Norley News.**

**Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up with Andy Jones to establish who can escalate speed monitoring issues.**

**Action – Clerk to publish the Speed Indicator Device data onto the PC website.**

## 7. **HUNTS WOOD, WOOD LANE**

The PC are continuing to liaise with CW&C about the area of agricultural land, Hunts Hill Wood that is being used for residential and business purposes.

**Action: Ward Councillor Edwards is regularly liaising with planning enforcement and keeping concerned local residents and the PC updated.**

## 8. **GATEWAY SIGNS**

The PC are considering the best locations, the number of signs and the speed limit/wording for the signs, which are all to be similar in design and shape, with different short messages on each of them, on the parish boundaries.

**Action – Clerk to circulate a map of the Parish Boundary to all PC.**

**Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up suppliers of signs.**

**9. FACTCO DROP-IN SESSION UPDATE**

A village drop-in session was held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 4 pm until 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

Representatives from FACTCO and Cheshire West and Chester Council were available to assist with questions and concerns about the installation of full fibre broadband in the village.

A lot of the questions from residents centred on the installation of telegraph poles and ducting.

FACTCO have agreed to follow up the costs for installing ducting and will respond when available.

**10. MARQUEE DONATION FOR NORLEY GARDEN SHOW**

The PC agreed to donate £500 towards the main marquee at the Norley Garden Show.

**11. CHEESE HILL LANE JUNCTION**

Councillor O’Connor is liaising with Jamie Barron, CW&C Highways about the temporary arrangement that is currently in place and the road signs on Cheese Hill. Jamie Barron is raising this with their design team so a permanent replacement can be installed.

Councillor O’Connor is also following up the ‘Cow Lane’ street sign that is not on Cow Lane and has sent photographs of the current location of the sign to Jamie Barron. He has confirmed that the sign had been placed in the current location, so that it would be a visual for motorists coming up Cheese Hill to assist in advising that there was a junction ahead.

The PC thought that the sign should be moved so that it is on Cow Lane.

**Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up with CW&C Highways.**

**12. PATH AND BENCHES ON THE COMMON LAND, WEST VIEW ROAD**

A path is to be installed the common land. The Wildlife group has obtained a quotation of £3100 for the works.

It was agreed that the PC would make a donation towards this work when requested by NWG.

**13. PLANNING**

The following Applications had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- **23/02151/FUL** - The Greenings Maddocks Hill Norley Northwich WA6 8JT: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two-storey detached dwellinghouse with associated amenity space and parking – Any comments to the Clerk by 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**14. CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**Chalc**

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates

**15. 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 29 June 2023 was £48,448.15 and £6307.23 on the Business Reserve account.

**Updating Signatories for PC accounts**

The PC bank signatories are being reviewed and updated. It was approved that ex Councillor Wild would be removed from the signature list.

**2022/23 Annual Audit Return – Certificate of Exemption**

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Form 3 for Norley Parish Council has been received by the External Auditor, who has confirmed that Norley Parish Council does meet the criteria to be able to claim exemption from having a review performed under the limited assurance regime and can claim exemption or go ahead with a review. The PC agreed that the PC should claim exemption and the AGAR Form 2 Exemption Certificate was approved and signed.

**Action – Clerk to send a copy of the Form 2 Exemption Certificate to the External Auditor.**

The following were approved for payment and cheques were signed:

- 2 x Grass cutting the Village Green 29.06.23 and 11.07.23 – Invoice 71 - £44.00 and cutting of grass areas around Norley Lane – 13.07.23 and 14.07.23 – Invoice 72 - £252.00 totalling £296.00 – Mr J Dimelow
- Cutting back of branches from Norley Road Speed Indicator Device 21 July 2023 – Invoice

74 - £25.00 – Mr J R Dimelow

- Backdated Clerk’s Salary Arrears Payment (July 2023) – New 2022/23 Salary Scales - £48.80 per month
- Reimbursement – Councillor O’Connor – Payment for new door and installation of the red phone box near to the Tigers Head - £1488.00
- Payroll last 3 months – Invoice No: 08275 - £57.60 – Rose Rowland and Co Limited
- PC Donation towards the marquee at Norley Garden Show - £500 – Norley Horticultural Society

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Councillor Harvey asked if there had been any update on the farm at Crabmill Lane. The PC are currently liaising with CW&C about the listing process at Sandycroft Farm, Crabmill Lane. No further update about the parts of land there, which Roger Goulding, CW&C, came to meet with the PC about in January.  
**Action - Councillor O’Connor will contact Roger Goulding for an update.**
- Councillor Cornelissen suggested having a PC stall at the Village Show to talk to residents about their views on which direction they would like to see PC funding within the village.
- Councillor Bakewell mentioned that the fingerpost direction signs on the restored black and white fingerpost at Hatchmere need to be secured.  
The restored fingerpost signs on the post at the bottom of Maddocks Hill have also been installed.

**Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up the fingerpost sign at Hatchmere.**

Councillor O’Connor provided the updates from Councillor Crawford and Councillor Edwards in their absence:

- Councillor Crawford reported that there are now new owners of The Stores. There is new stock and there has been a change in the opening hours to Monday to Saturday 8 am to 8 pm and 8am to 6 pm on a Sunday.
- Councillor Edwards reported that the application for a new house on West View Road that had been approved, has conditions applied, and referred to the potential CW&C Crowd Funding for the Cheshire Railings.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm