

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
29th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Ann Crawford, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey
and Victor Leyden

Ward Councillor: Gillian Edwards

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Ward Councillor Phil Rimmer and Norley Parish Councillors Steve Bakewell, Ken Fayle and Sally Cornelissen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There were no items raised.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24th OCTOBER 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 24TH OCTOBER 2023

- **Speed Indicator Devices**

The licence for the Blakemere Lane fixed SID has now been received and signed. The installation of a bespoke pole is being followed up.
The broken fixed SID on Norley Road has been repaired.

- **Cheese Hill Junction**

The email received from a resident regarding concerns about the current temporary arrangement at the junction of Cheese Hill had been circulated to the PC and Ward Members prior to the meeting and the PC are to follow up the issues raised, with CW&C Highways.

CW&C Highways have closed the slip road now that Cheese Hill Lane is a Stop sign and are currently working on a design to make the Stop and road closure permanent and this may change the angle of the left turn. The changes were made due to the number of accidents at this junction, which was previously Give Way.

One of the Parish Council's priorities is road safety and have requested the speed limit on Fingerpost Lane be reduced to 30mph, but this has been refused by CW&C. The PC have also requested that the 50mph speed limit and 50mph limit sign near to Cheese Hill Lane should be moved further towards Delamere Park along Norley Road.

The plans for a new permanent re-designed arrangement at the junction are awaited from CW&C Highways.

Action – Clerk to respond to the resident.

- The PC are continuing to follow up possible locations and designs for the gateway signs.
- The PC are to arrange a Village drop-in session for Norley residents with United Utilities in the new year so that they can provide further information about the planned improvement works in Norley.

Action –Clerk to arrange a date for the village meeting sometime in 2024.

- Councillor O'Connor is continuing to liaise with the landlady of the Carriers Inn about the installation of a defibrillator at the Carriers and is awaiting a response from Marstons Brewery.

Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up with Marstons.

- The Christmas tree is now up on the Village Green and the Christmas tree lights have been switched on. Tree decorations that had been made by pupils at the primary school are also hung on the tree.
- **Cheshire Railings**
The PC is continuing to follow up the affordable costs and possible funding of the railings, the refurbishment/painting of some of the railings and the options of replacing with some other fencing.

6. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data for October had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and is to be published onto the PC website.

The Community Speed Watch Group mentioned that:

- An article requesting more volunteers to assist with the speed monitoring, did not go into the November Norley Newsletter, but should be in the next edition.
- Members of the Community Speed Watch Group are continuing to liaise with the CW&C Traffic Management Officer about the speed monitoring issues and deterrents for parking on Blakemere Lane and Ashton Road. Details of motorists exceeding the speed limits have been forwarded on to the PCSO so that warning letters can be issued.
- Requests for support for speed reduction measures for Norley Roads have been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the local MP and CW&C Chief Executive. Responses are awaited.

Councillor O’Connor thanked the community speed watch group for all their work.

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

7. SPEEDING ON FINGERPOST LANE – ENQUIRY RECEIVED FROM A RESIDENT

Following an enquiry that had been received from a resident, the PC noted the resident’s concerns and are to follow up the issues with CW&C Highways about the 40mph on Fingerpost Lane and vehicles exceeding the limit. The PC and the Community Speed Watch Group would like the speed limit reduced to 30mph and to know what the criteria is for reducing the speed limit. This will also be followed up with CW&C Highways.

Action – Clerk to respond to the resident.

Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up with Dave Reeves, Highways.

8. WEST VIEW ROAD COMMON LAND

The Parish Council are concerned that a section of Common Land is being shown as part of the building plot of land being offered for sale. The piece of land for sale appears larger than shown on the land Registry Document. An email has been sent to CB Homes questioning the size of the plot and a response is awaited. .

Following an enquiry received from residents at a West View Road property concerning the work being carried out on The Waste Common Land, the PC discussed the points raised.

The Norley Wildlife Group is working with the CW&C Infrastructure Team Leader in planning the clean-up and restoration of The Waste and have raised the funds to have a path laid through The Waste. This will provide a path so people can walk on it, protecting the other areas on which wildflower seeds will be scattered and bulbs planted.

Some residents of West View Road are working together to maintain the land, planting wildflower seeds etc. and keeping the area tidy.

Reassurances have been received from CW&C that the tree removal, the excavation of the pond and the installation of the bench and path will not affect the eradication of the Japanese Knotweed, which is well underway. No soil or material will be removed from the site and care will be taken to ensure vehicles, equipment, boots etc are cleaned when leaving the site.

The Parish Council has requested signs to be erected asking people to keep to the path.

The path is being laid by a tradesperson who is aware of the Japanese Knotweed issues and will lay the path and install the seat with appropriate care and attention. The work is scheduled to commence on 5th December.

The bench being installed will be facing the pond and not anyone’s property. The pond will be the

focus of most wildlife activity with birds, insects such as damsel and dragonflies and breeding amphibians and will be surrounded by flowers and waterlilies. The bench is in memory of a local resident who was very interested and an expert in amphibians.

9. SANDYCROFT FARMLAND

The PC is liaising with the CW&C Infrastructure Team Leader and the Wildlife Group with regard to the proposals for the development for parts of the land at Sandycroft Farm, Crabmill Lane. Following enquiries from Crab Mill Lane residents about the proposals and development of parts of the land, the PC had responded to the residents and the Chair of the Wildlife Group has also spoken to the residents. A meeting with Roger Goulding, NWG and PC is being arranged

10. NORLEY WILDLIFE GROUP WEBSITE

Following the information about the costs and development of the website that had been received from the Wildlife Group, prior to the meeting, the PC agreed to make a donation of £200 towards the development of the website.

11. VILLAGE PLANTERS

Of the five planters in the village, four are currently being maintained. The one that is located outside the primary school is not. The PC agreed in principle to make a donation towards the upkeep of the planters.

Action – Clerk to note as an agenda item for the January 2024 meeting.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to check whether the Primary School would like to maintain the planter on the grass verge outside the school if the PC make a financial donation for plants.

12. PLANNING

Any planning applications received following the meeting will be circulated for comments. Councillor Edwards and the PC recently met with a representative from CW&C Planning at the Blakemere Lane site to discuss and monitor the building activity on the site and the plans for the affordable housing.

It was agreed that the Blakemere Lane Site should be a standing item on the PC agendas.

13. APPROVAL OF 2024 MEETING DATES

The Clerk is to circulate the 2024 dates once the availability of the NCK Centre has been confirmed.

Action – Clerk to circulate a list of dates and publish on the website and display on the noticeboards.

14. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

To be carried forward to the January 2024 meeting.

Action – Councillor Cornelissen to provide an update at the January 2024 meeting.

15. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO THE 'TOMMY'

Volunteers are required for the maintenance of the Tommy, which is located at St John's Church. Currently no group has responsibility for it. The Tommy was funded by people mainly in the village.

Action – To be carried forward to the January 2024 agenda.

16. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

An enquiry had been received from a Churchwarden at Norley Parish church relating to a public right of way through the wood from Town Farm Lane into the east end of Norley church graveyard. The PC considered the request and agreed that as there was a public right of way through the woods, it was not one for the Parish Council and should be followed up with the CW&C Public Rights of Way Officer.

Action – Clerk to forward on the link for reporting CW&C Public Rights of Way issues, to the Churchwarden.

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

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Survey: Achieving Net Zero across Local Councils
- Funding our future – Your chance to help shape the Council's budget plan to reflect your priorities

- Cheshire Community Action: Are you involved in a community growing or gardening project?

CW&C

- Have your say on the future of transport in Cheshire West and Chester

Forestry England

- Hondslough Woods - consultation report and our response to issues raised

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current Financial Position

The PC account balance on the current account at 1st November 2023 was £42679.54 and £6329.12 on the Business Reserve account at 29th September 2023.

- Spending of CIL Money – Funding towards the improvements to the Village Hall Entrance – it was agreed that this should be carried forward to the January 2024 meeting when Councillor Cornelissen provides an update on the proposed Village Hall improvements.

Action – Clerk to note for the January 2024 agenda.

- Request for funding towards the Norley Wildlife Group Website – The PC considered the request and agreed to make a donation of a further £200 towards the website which is now live.

The following were approved for a cheque payment:

- Backdated Clerk's Salary Arrears Payment (April-November 2023) following the New 2023/24 Salary Scales £160 and reimbursement for the Clerk's November 2023 Salary - £43.40 + £6.00 Land Registry Searches, totalling £209.40
- PC donation to Norley Wildlife Group Website - £200
- Reimbursement to Councillor O'Connor for the PC stall at the Garden Show in September - £5.00 and batteries for the Village Christmas Tree Lights - £11.97, totalling £16.97

Clerk's Salary

Action - Following the new 2023/24 Salary Scales, the Clerk to notify Payroll of the new gross monthly salary and the backdated payment.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were reported:

- Councillor O'Connor - the PC are continuing to monitor the status of the area of agricultural land, Hunts Hill Wood that is being used for residential and business purposes.
- Councillor Leyden - the proposals for the improvements at the Village Hall entrance are ongoing.
- Councillor Edwards – a reminder that applications for funding from the Members Budget for small village projects can be submitted.
- Councillor Crawford – an old fashioned and very heavy streetlight was available from the new owner of a property on Pytchleys Hollow, if anyone considered a useful location for it.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 10th January 2024** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm