

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
10th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Ken Fayle, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey and Victor Leyden

Ward Councillors: Gillian Edwards and Lynn Stocks

PCSOs for Kingsley and Gowy

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 Ann Crawford and Sally Cornelissen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There were no items raised.

4. UPDATE ON THE PLAYGROUND – NORLEY HILL TOP PLAY AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Darren Crawford from the Norley Hill Top Play Area Management Committee provided the PC with an annual update on the costs and funding of the play area. The committee thanked the Parish Council for last year's £1500 donation and Councillor Edwards for the donation from the Members' budget last year. Additional funds of £1400 were raised from fund raising to help cover the costs for Phase 2 of the play area enhancement. The Committee are also exploring the grants and funding that are available to help fund the enhancement and replacement costs of the play area. There have been delays in receiving parts for some of the equipment, as some parts have had to be ordered from France. Members of the committee repair and maintain the equipment where possible to keep costs down.

The PC agreed to make a donation of £1500 to the Norley Hill Top Play Area as part of the reserves for repairs, replacements and costs for required Inspections by CW&C.

It was also noted that an application for community funding towards the Norley Play Area could be made to CW&C from the three Ward Councillors Members Budget before the end of January 2024.

Councillor O'Connor thanked the Committee representative for attending and for providing the PC with an update on the playground and the voluntary work that they do to support the Play Area.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2023

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2023

• **Speed Indicator Devices**

The PC has received approval to install the device. It has not been installed yet as a specific angled post is required and this is being specially made. The PC will continue to follow up a date for the installation.

• **Cheese Hill Junction**

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 are to provide further information relating to the criteria for the assessment to reduce the speed limit on Fingerpost Lane and to add this as an item for discussion at the next meeting with representatives from Highways.`

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.

This has also been refused.

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

- 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 sometime in 2024 so that they can provide further information about the planned improvement works in Norley.

Action –Councillor O’Connor to follow up a date for the village meeting with United Utilities.

- Councillor O’Connor is continuing to liaise with the landlady of the Carriers Inn and Marstons about the installation of a defibrillator at the Carriers.

- **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.

- **Village Planters**

Councillor O’Connor is to follow up with the Primary School whether they could maintain the planter that is located on the grass verge outside the school if the PC made a donation towards the upkeep of the planters. Darren Crawford stated he thought this is something the Norley PTFA could maintain and would discuss with the committee.

Action – Councillor O’Connor will discuss with Head Teacher.

- **Ceremony at the Waste, Sunday: 17th December**

The path through the Waste Common Land has now been laid and a seat installed. A short ceremony was held on 17th December celebrating the transformation of a rather overgrown area into somewhere both good for wildlife, residents and the village.

The PC thanked the Wildlife group for raising funds for the path and for arranging the work and ceremony. The PC thanked the group of residents from West View Road who have volunteered to care for and maintain the land.

7. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data for November and December 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 was published in the January Norley Newsletter and on the Norley Facebook page.
- PCSO Deborah Netherton suggested contacting nearby village Speed Watch Groups to see if they could assist with providing a third person to be present at the monitoring when using the mobile handheld devices.
- There is an overhanging hedge on the corner of Cow Lane/Bag Lane that needs to be cut back as it is encroaching onto the road.

Action – Clerk to send a request to the landowner to cut back the hedge.

- 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. A response has not yet been received from CW&C Chief Executive and a reminder is to be sent.

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.

8. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO THE TOMMY

The Tommy was originally funded by the Village, but currently no group has responsibility for it. The PC agreed that as it is located in the grounds of St John's Church, then it would probably be appropriate for the PCC to take over responsibility for it. The PC would consider any requests for the funding for any repairs that are needed as they currently do.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to contact the Church Warden.

9. PLANNING

- **23/03950/S73** - Delamere Forest School - Variation of condition 14 (affordable housing statement agreement) of planning permission 20/01726/S73 – Any comments to the Clerk before 29th January 2024.

It was noted that the applicant has submitted a S73 application to vary the affordable housing statement/type. It is proposed that rather than being shared ownership they would be discounted market sale. Prior to this application the developers had already advertised the properties for sale on Rightmove before CW&C Planning have considered it and made a decision. CW&C Planning will advise the PC when a decision is made including what they believe is an appropriate value of the houses.

- **Blakemere Lane Site**

The 4 houses at Blakemere Lane are now advertised for sale on Rightmove under the CW&C Discounted Market Sale Affordable Housing Scheme. However, these are not currently listed on the CW&C Accessing Affordable Housing Page Listing. The PC have asked CW&C if they can be added. However CW&C Planners have not yet made a decision about the S73 application made by the developers so cannot be added until the value of the houses is ratified..

The information has been posted on the Norley Facebook page, Norley Parish Council webpage and the Village Notice Boards to make as many local people aware as possible. The PC are to arrange a further site visit with the CW&C Planning Officer to discuss and monitor the building activity on the site and the plans for the affordable housing.

- **West View Road Planning Application**

The PC are liaising with the developer regarding their questions about the changing plot size of the development land on West View Road. It appears a section of the Common Land had previously been fenced off adding it to the plot.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to continue to liaise with CB Homes about the ownership of this land.

14. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The PC had received an update Village Hall Report from Councillor Cornelissen prior to the meeting but agreed that before they could consider making a donation of £1500 CIL Funding towards specific Village Hall improvements, they required a formal request with further details. These should include details and costs of the refurbishment of the entrance ramp into the hall and the provision of lighting for the car park and update on the Village Hall current finances and any proposed spending.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to liaise with Councillor Cornelissen to obtain further details.

16. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

An email had been received from a resident notifying the PC about flooding on Norley Lane which was received and noted.

Action – Councillor Edwards to follow up with CW&C Highways and asked for it to be inspected.

An enquiry previously 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, had been followed up with CW&C. CW&C had confirmed that the pathway through the woodland (Wild Wood) has been identified as the responsibility of Norley Parochial Church Council.

A tree inspection report for the woodland area had been received which requires some remedial work to be carried out on a number of the trees in the woodland before public access can start again.

The Churchwarden will be presenting the report to the PCC at their next meeting in order to discuss and confirm a course of action. In the meantime, the woodland will have to remain closed to public access.

Action – Clerk to follow up with the Churchwarden.

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

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- National Planning Framework - December 2023
- D-Day 80
- Online Talk: Kings Award for Voluntary Service, Honours and Royal Garden Parties Thursday 25th January 6pm to 7pm
- Survey: Achieving Net Zero across Local Councils

Police and Crime Commissioner

- Police Budget 2024/25
- Delamere Forest: December 2023 Update
- PCSO December update

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current Financial Position

The PC account balance on the current account at 31st December 2023 was £37,834.97 and £6352.03 on the Business Reserve account.

The PC are continuing to follow up transferring the PC bank accounts to online banking.

Approval of the 2024/2025 Budget

The income and expenditure were reviewed and the CIL payments that had been received from Cheshire West and Cheshire Council that had been allocated and proposed for community projects.

For 2024/25 the PC are to revise the format and presentation of the budgetary information to include the total level of reserves at the end of 2023/24 and to specify the schemes or projects that have been earmarked to assist with budget monitoring.

Completion of the 2024/2025 Precept Form

The precept options were discussed. The PC had considered the income and expenditure and the level of reserves and agreed that the precept level should be maintained and there should be no increase. It was agreed that PC should request a precept of **£13,621** for 2024/25.

Action – Clerk to return the completed 2024/25 Precept Request form to CW&C.

The following were approved for cheque payments:

- Open Spaces Society Membership Renewal 2024 - £45.00
- Reimbursement for the Clerk's December 2023 and January 2024 Salary – new 2023/24 Salary Scales – £126.80
- Maintenance and Development Norley PC Website – Rabbitdigital - £26.25
- Christmas Tree for Village Green - £249.00 – E.H. Williams Garden Centres and Nurseries Ltd
- PC Donation towards the maintenance and repairs to Norley Hilltop Play Area - £1500 (CIL Funding)

An invoice from IONOS had been received for £19.32 for the domain.org.

The PC considered a funding request that had been received from the Frodsham Festival of Walks relating to the 20th anniversary. As the group was not based in Norley the PC decided not to make a donation.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Community Infrastructure Levy payments (£6989.48 and £2444.56, Totalling £9434.04 + £1675.96 received in October 2023), totals £11110.00. Currently, the following had previously been proposed/agreed:

- Playground Committee - £1500 allocated February 2023
- New door for the red phone box and installation – £1488.00 allocated
- Norley Bowling Club - £1000 allocated
- Norley Village Hall – proposal previously agreed for £2500 towards the refurbishment of Village Hall kitchen - allocated
- Donation towards the path/hardstanding at the Waste in West View Road, organised by Norley Wildlife Group - £1300 – allocated
- Donation towards the development of the Norley Wildlife Group website - £200 – allocated
- Funding towards the improvements to the Village Hall Entrance - £1500 Proposed
- Donation to the maintenance and enhancement of the Norley Playground - £1500 Allocated January 2024

The above totals £10988.00, with £122 remaining.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

- Councillor Harvey
 - what the system was now for road sweeping, clearing of grids and gullies? Councillor Edwards confirmed that here is a new system that is organised on a risk-based approach.
 - The state of the road from the Chinese restaurant to the affordable housing on Blakemere Lane.
- Councillor Bakewell asked if there was any update on the FACTCO broadband installation.
Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up with FACTCO
- Councillor Edwards
 - There is a proposal to resurface Norley Road/Norley Lane – details will be forwarded on to the PC once received.
 - A very successful Toy Appeal took place just before Christmas, which was organised by Councillor Edwards, and another one is to be arranged sometime in 2024.
 - There is a CW&C online webinar about the Local Transport Plan on 22nd January.
 - Thanked the Community Speed Watch group for all their work with the speed monitoring.
 - The status of the area of agricultural land, Hunts Hill Wood that is being used for residential and business purposes is continuing to be monitored. No date is scheduled for the appeal against enforcement.
- Councillor Crawford forwarded on her thanks to the volunteers who quickly rallied round at short notice when the marquee used for the sale of fresh fruit and vegetable prior to Christmas blew down. Thanks also from the PC and to Sally and Mark White the owners of the property next to the Stores, which they allowed to be utilised for storage and sale of the produce during the weeks before Christmas.
- Councillor O’Connor
 - If the block gullies around the village were cleared on a regular basis this would help alleviate the amount of flooding.

- Roger Goulding is outlining proposals for the land at Sandycroft Farm and is to prepare a note outlining these and a map. These details will also be put in the Norley Facebook page, PC webpage, and village notice boards. A public meeting to discuss the proposals will be held in March 2024 probably at the village hall.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7 pm** at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm