

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

**PRESENT AT THE MEETING**

Norley Parish Councillors: Steve Bakewell (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Deryn O'Connor (for part of the meeting), Ann Crawford, Sally Cornelissen, Tony Duff, Victor Leyden and Terry Harvey

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Ward Councillors Phil Rimmer, Gillian Edwards and Lynn Stocks and Norley Parish Councillor Ken Fayle.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

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 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

- **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 are continuing to follow up a date for the installation.

- **Cheese Hill Junction**

The PC had provided further information relating to the criteria for the assessment to reduce the speed limit on Fingerpost Lane and a further response is awaited from CW&C Highways.

The PC had 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 was refused by CW&C Highways.

CW&C Highways have drafted a design to make this road closure permanent. The draft design will be a kerbed area to close off the short area of road. This will be low and will not interfere with the line of sight for vehicles. Soil will be inside the kerbed area so plants and flowers can be planted. It is also intended to have a Village Gateway sign installed on this area. This will be one of a number which will be installed in all the key entry points into the Village.

- 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.

- **2024/25 Precept Request Form**

The Clerk had returned the completed 2024/25 Precept Request form to CW&C following the January 2024 meeting.

- A tree inspection report for the woodland area from Town Farm Lane into the east end of Norley Church graveyard, had been received which reported that some remedial work is required on a number of the trees in the woodland before public access can start again. Quotations are being obtained for the tree works. In the meantime, the woodland will have to remain closed to public access.

## 6. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data for January 2024 had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and is to be published onto the PC website.

The Community Speed Watch Group referred to this data:

### **Ashton Road**

The device is operating intermittently. This may be due to the fact that the solar power is low and hence the battery has not charged. .

### **Delamere Road**

51.5% of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. The maximum exit speed recorded was 70.6 mph.

### **Fingerpost Lane**

2.5% of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. The average speed of vehicles for January 2024 was 31.5 mph which supports the reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph.

### **Norley Road**

The device is still not operating. The Clerk has followed this up with TWM but there has been no response yet.

### **School Bank**

47.7% of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. The maximum exit speed recorded was 37.3 mph.

An article requesting more volunteers to assist with the speed monitoring was published in the January Norley Newsletter and on the Norley Facebook page. There are now 10 people that have been trained to use the handheld SID.

The SID devices on Norley Road and Ashton Road have been checked by the Speed Monitoring Group who have confirmed that they are both not working.

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

**Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up the maintenance of the fixed SIDs**

## 7. PLANNING

- **24/00165/FUL** - Rivington Maddocks Hill Norley Northwich WA6 8JT: Proposed addition of first floor with dormers, along with new external doors and windows - any comments to the Clerk before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- **Blakemere Lane Site**  
A meeting has been arranged with the Planning Officer on 29<sup>th</sup> February 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. A meeting is to be arranged with CB Homes.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Councillors Bakewell and Cornelissen have been looking at areas in the village that would benefit from some improvements and would tie in with the installation of new Gateway Signs.

The first proposed area for 2024/25 is from Townfield Lane to Norley Lane. The aim would be, through regular cutting, to maintain a grass footpath along the length of the road, and to incorporate this area into the regular grass mowing programme in the summer months, with also some basic landscaping around the gateway sign and the wildflower areas. The approximate cost for the summer mowing is £252 per month.

It is also proposed to add plants and flowers in the kerbed area at the top of Cheese Hill as part of the new layout.

Quotations are being obtained for the work and for the gateway signs.

It was agreed that an article should be put in the Norley News about the proposed environmental improvement programme asking for any suggestions from parishioners about areas for future

improvement.

The PC supported the proposals and agreed that the additional grass mowing should be incorporated into the current mowing programme.

**9. VYRNWY AQUEDUCT –UNITED UTILITIES**

The Village drop-in session for Norley residents with United Utilities was held on 20 February 2024. A programme of works for Customer Area 06 which covers Delamere and Oakmere, Hatchmere and Norley is being prepared and are to commence in April 2024. There will be some minor de-vegetation works within private land commencing on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

**10. THE TOMMY**

Reverend Hilary Merrington, Associate Minister, St John’s Church, Norley was in attendance to provide the PC with information relating to The Tommy. The PC considered a proposal for a memorial area with a bench, in the grounds of the churchyard where The Tommy could also be located to make it a focal point in the community and to coincide with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day on 6 June 2024. The PC supported this proposal, subject to approval from the Diocese. Reverend Merrington is to follow up with the Diocese and report back to the PC.

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

- The PC had received an email from a resident relating to the area of agricultural land, Hunts Hill Wood that is being used for residential and business purposes. This is continuing to be monitored and the PC await the date for the appeal against enforcement.
- The PC had received information about the activity at the Haulage Yard on High Street and are following this up with CW&C.
- The extensive flooding on the Norley Bridleway 5 where it passes through the woodland area is to be followed up with the Ward Members.
- The PC had received an email from a resident offering to supply and plant a replacement tree on Maddocks Hill. The PC received and noted the offer, but they are not able to give permission for the planting of a replacement tree, it would have to be approved by CW&C Highways.

**Action – Clerk to respond to the resident.**

- An email had been received from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee thanking the PC for the donation of £1622 which will go towards providing lighting for the village hall car park and improving the access ramp at the entrance to the building. The lighting and refurbishing the entrance ramp will improve safety and accessibility for village hall users and should be of benefit to the community.
- Following an enquiry that had been received relating to the PC’s regulations this is being followed up.

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

**Chalc**

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- West Cheshire Town and Parish Council Conference 6th March
- Working together for a Wilder Cheshire and Warrington
- Peak Cluster Project: Online Briefing Session - Tuesday 27th February 6pm to 7pm

**CW&C**

- Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning newsletter
- Local Plan Evidence Base Consultation 2024
- Delamere Forest: February 2024 Update

**12. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Review of current Financial Position**

The PC account balance on the current account at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 was £35,338.70 and £6352.03 on the Business Reserve account.

The PC considered a request for funding towards the Norley News to assist with the costs of the village publication that goes to all Norley households and agreed to make a donation of £600.

The following were approved for cheque payments:

- Reimbursement for the Clerk's February 2024 Salary – new 2023/24 Salary Scales – £63.40
- Reimbursement Councillor O'Connor – Payment of battery and pad set including a preparation kit for the Village Hall Defibrillator - £342
- January Website Development and Maintenance of the PC Website – Rabbit Digital - £19.25
- Reimbursement for the payment of the planters at Hatchmere - £71.45
- Norley News - £600

### **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
- Donation to the maintenance and enhancement of the Norley Playground - £1500 Allocated January 2024
- Following the January 2024 and the financial information provided by the Village Hall Committee, the PC had received additional financial information and agreed to allocate the remaining £1622 CIL funding towards the improvements to the Village Hall Entrance and a cheque was signed outside of the meeting.

### **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following were mentioned:

- Councillor Duff
  - The state of the road/potholes from the Chinese restaurant to the affordable housing on Blakemere Lane. This is to be followed up with Councillor Edwards.
  - There is a trailing electric car charging cable that is going across the pavement on School Lane, creating a potential trip hazard, which has been brought to the PC's attention.
- **Action Clerk to write to the resident about the potential hazard.**
- Councillor Leyden
  - The Village Hall are in the process of setting up a new Norley Village website.
- Ward Members Update
  - A report had been received from Councillor Stocks which is to be circulated to the Parish Council
- Councillor O'Connor
  - Public Meeting to discuss the "Fields at Sandycroft Farm" is being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm - 9pm at the Village Hall.
  - The Norley PTFA have agreed to take over the maintenance of the Village Planter that is located on the grass verge outside the school.

➤ The FACTCO broadband installation around the village has now commenced.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7 pm** at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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