

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
21st JULY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Steve Bakewell, Gerald Brown, Sally Cornelissen, Ann Crawford, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey, Vic Leyden and Liz Robinson

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from CW&C Ward Councillor Lynn Stocks and PCSO Neil Flanagan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Cornelissen declared a personal interest in planning application 25/01524/OUT and would leave the room when this was discussed.

3. UNITED UTILITIES – UPDATE ON THE UP-AND-COMING WORKS IN NORLEY

The Project Engagement Lead from United Utilities was in attendance to provide an update on the Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Programme works, planned road closures and diversions in Norley and the impact on the village. A Road closure and diversion route and live updates will be available on the United Utilities website.

A village drop-in session has been arranged for 29 July between 2pm and 3pm at the NCK Centre. There were questions from the PC about the timing and diversion arrangements for the 10-week Blakemere Lane/Hatchmere Crossroads closure from September to December and the seasonal impact this would have. UU explained that the closure date had been postponed until 2026 and would probably commence in January. United Utilities are to follow this up with CW&C Highways.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There were no items reported.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2025

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 23RD JUNE 2025

- **Environmental Improvement Programme**

The Work on the development of an Environmental Improvement Programme is ongoing.

- **Speed Measurements on Fingerpost Lane**

The speed limit assessment on Finger Post Lane has been postponed due to the united utility roadworks and road closure on Norley Road. To get a true reflection of traffic speeds this will now take place in September after the road closure and after the 2025 summer school holidays.

- **St John's Church War Memorial**

Councillor Edwards and Councillors O'Connor, Bakewell and Cornelissen had met with Reverend Hilary Merrington to discuss a potential location for a war memorial area at St Johns Church. The plans for this are progressing and are ongoing.

- **Co-Option to the Parish Council Vacancy**

Councillor Brown has completed the Declaration of Acceptance form and the Register of Interests form and returned to the Clerk.

- **Appointment of Auditor for 2025/26**

The Clerk had notified JDH Business Services Limited about completing the Norley PC internal audit for 2025/26.

- **Forest Live Feedback**

Councillor Brown had followed up the parking and traffic problems that occurred with the taxi drop off and pick up points in the village during the evenings of the Delamere Forest concerts and has written to Forestry England and visited the local MP detailing the problems that occurred at the Hatchmere Crossroads.

Thanks to Councillor Brown for following up.

Action – A meeting is to be arranged with representatives of Forest Live.

- **Proposals to assist speed reduction in the Village**

Councillors O'Connor, Bakewell and Brown are to meet highways representatives including Ian Rutherford on 22nd July to discuss proposals to assist speed reduction in the village.

- **Funding towards Community Projects**

The PC are continuing to follow up with United Utilities community projects in which they could assist funding and or volunteering.

7. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

All six devices are working effectively. Thanks to Rock Graphics for the regular maintenance of the devices.

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for June 2025 had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting and are to be published onto the PC website.

The following speed indicator device data was received and noted:

In summary:

Vehicles continue to exceed the prosecution speed limit on Ashton Road, Blakemere Lane, Delamere Road and School Bank.

Data was able to be retrieved from all six SIDs in Norley Village for June.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed)

37.3% (4,208) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 12.1% (1,367) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum exit speed was 56.5-mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)

51.5% (19,703) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, compared to 43.3% (13,424) in April. 15.3% (5,868) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph, compared to 12.2% (3,805) in April. The volume of traffic increased by 23% compared to April, this is related to the road closure on Norley Road and related diversions during the period. **The maximum peak speed was 70.5-mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed)

50% (18,831) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 18.4% (6,906) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum exit speed was 72-mph.** The volume of traffic increased by 43% compared to April 2025, this is related to the closure of Norley Road and related diversions during the period.

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)

20.5 (2,792) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 2.9% (397) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46-mph. **The maximum peak speed was 50-mph.**

The volume of traffic on Fingerpost Lane reduced by 20% between April and May, this is related to the closure of Norley Road and related diversions during the period.

Norley Road (Exit Speed)

Data was only available for 15 days in June. This has skewed the figures for June.

5.3 (689) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 1.3% (172) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35-mph. **The maximum exit speed was 50-mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed)

87% (2,836) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 55.6% (1,812) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **During the period one vehicle was travelling at 40.7 mph at 0645 on 7th June, 1 vehicle was travelling at 40.5 mph at 16:46 on 11th June.** This supports the need for 24 hr CSW devices which capture number plate data and hence these vehicles can be identified.

Councillor Brown also referred to:

NATIONAL SPEEDWATCH DAY – 11TH July

The CSW team participated in National Speedwatch day on 11th July – one team in the morning on Post Office Lane and one in the afternoon on Blakemere Lane. Quite a few vehicles exceeded the speed limit, 14 on Post Office Lane and 20 on Blakemere Lane. The forms have been submitted to PCSO Neil Flanagan for warning letters to be sent.

SPEED AWARENESS – 20TH July

5 Special Constables and PCSO Neil Flanagan took part in a Speed Awareness exercise on Sunday 20th July located close to the Carriers Inn. The Manager of the Carriers Inn was very supportive of the initiative, allowing the use of the car park to speak to drivers and provided tea and coffee to the officers. An ANPR vehicle was also made available.

Approximately 8 vehicles were observed exceeding the speed limit and were spoken to by officers, one vehicle was seized for no insurance and a number of vehicles were pursued by the ANPR vehicle for irregularities in their documentation.

On behalf of Norley Parish Council Councillor Brown thanked the Special Constables and PCSO Neil Flanagan for undertaking this activity. Passing vehicles were clearly aware of the concentration of activity and adjusted their behaviour accordingly. A number of residents thanked the team and the vehicle that were stopped were supportive.

A similar initiative is being planned for High Street.

NORLEY SPEED PROJECT

A meeting is scheduled with CW&C Highways on 22nd July to discuss the project and issues around Hatchmere Crossroads.

The residents of Norley and the local PCSO have provided significant time and effort to address the issue of speeding in Norley:

1. Significant speed enforcement
2. Regular CWS speed monitoring
3. Participation in National Speedwatch day (11th July).
4. Speed Awareness in collaboration with local Special Constables and PCSO

The PC would like CW&C Highways to participate in assisting Norley Parish Council to implement more permanent mechanisms of reducing excessive speeding in the Parish through some of the proposed initiatives.

8. CHEESEHILL LANE CROSSROADS

Councillor Edwards and Councillor O'Connor had a meeting with Jamie Barron from highways on 2nd July to discuss the plan and costs for making the road closure at the top of Cheese Hill a permanent fixture. This would then be an area that would have a kerb and is a proposed location for one of the village Gateway Signs. The total cost would be £10,088. CW&C Highways have confirmed that they could part fund the cost if the PC could fund £5000. The PC unanimously approved the £5000 for the improvement works at the Cheese Hill/Fingerpost Lane junction. The PC had allocated £8000 funding towards Cheesehill Lane improvements and village gateway signs in the 2025/26 budget - £5000 for the project and work to be carried out at the top of Cheese Hill Lane and £3000 towards the gateway signs.

Action

- **Councillor O'Connor to notify Jamie Barron and to check whether the road markings could be completed at the same time as the work on the crossroads improvements at Cheesehill.**
- **Councillor O'Connor to check whether funding is available from the Members' Budget towards this project.**

9. SANDYCROFT MEADOWS

Prior to the PC meeting, there was a Sandycroft Meadows village engagement meeting with a presentation and workshop. Roger Goulding, CW&C and Phil Kersh from Life for a Life were in attendance to provide information and outline the potential option for a memorial orchard on part of the meadow.

Following the village meeting, the PC are to continue to look at the options that will benefit the community.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to continue to follow up.

10. LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

The CW&C Local Plan 'Issues and Options' consultation began on 4th July and will run for 8 weeks. This is to allow the council to seek public opinion on how they meet the government's new housing supply figure of 1900 houses per year and identify land for employment development. Following Rob Charnley, Head of Planning visit to the June PC meeting, the PC noted how the proposed changes may impact their Neighbourhood/Local Plans. Link to the consultation below:

[Local Plan 'Issues and Options' consultation | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Action – Councillor O'Connor will continue to liaise with Martin Bell, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group to prepare a PC response.

11. PARISH COUNCIL LAPTOP

The Clerk had provided specification details and costs for a replacement Parish Council laptop. The PC approved in principle the purchase of a new PC laptop, to be followed up outside of the meeting.

Action – Councillor O'Connor and Clerk to follow up outside of the meeting.

12. PLANNING MATTERS

- **25/01524/OUT** - Land At Grid Ref 357126 372123 Fingerpost Lane Norley: Outline planning application for the erection of up to 6 no. dwellings.

Councillor Cornelissen left the room during this discussion.

A member of the public stated that a planning notice has not yet been added adjacent to the land. The PC discussed the objections to this application as it does not comply with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action - The PC to submit comments to CW&C.

13. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- An enquiry had been received from a resident relating to the overhanging vegetation on the footpath on Norley Road opposite the entrance to Town Farm Lane - on the School Lane side of the road.

Action – Councillor Cornelissen to follow up.

- Community led minor highways improvements

The PC are to consider the areas that would benefit from for the minor maintenance such as:

- Clearing encroaching small areas of grass and weeds from footways or paths
- General low-level tree pruning and branch removal to address overhanging vegetation (tree ownership would need to be confirmed)
- Low level hedge trimming and maintenance (would not include private hedges)
- Cleaning road signs, fingerposts, street nameplates and bollards
- Straightening / refixing loose signs
- Removing debris off the top of gullies (not cleansing)

Action – Clerk to respond to CW&C Streetscene with a list of areas for minor maintenance.

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

Chalc

- Chalc Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- CW&C Local Transport Plan Consultation which ends on 17th August.

CW&C

- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan issues and options (Regulation 18) consultation
- Neighbourhood planning newsletter

Delamere Forest monthly update.

14. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current financial position

For 2025/26 the PC will review actual expenditure against the budgeted expenditure and reserves on a quarterly basis.

A quotation had been received for connection set up for a power socket in the red telephone box for £293.80. It was agreed that another quotation should be obtained.

Action – Clerk to follow up.

Online Banking - Unity Trust Bank

Confirmation has been received from Unity Trust Bank that Councillor Cornelissen has now been set up as a bank signatory for the Norley PC online bank account.

Approval of the following bacs payments:

- Renewal of Microsoft Office 365 for Parish Council laptop – £84.99 – automatic renewal on 8th August 2025.
- Supply and Installation of a grit bin at the Village Hall - £348.00 – Northwich Town Council
- June Website Maintenance and Development Work - £49.00 - Rabbitdigital
- Grass Cutting – 9th, 23rd June and 4th and 7th July - £175 – Mr J R Dimelow
- Reimbursement – Planters at Hatchmere – Mrs C Brown - £44.00

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

- **Councillor Crawford** reported that the dog bins in Delamere Forest had been removed.
- **Councillor Leyden** mentioned the cars that are parked on Fingerpost Lane, near to the junction of Cheesehill, may have an impact when the speed monitoring takes place in September.
- **Councillor Harvey** asked whether the PC had received details of a planning application on Maddocks Hill. The PC were not aware of a planning application and had not received any details.

Councillor O'Connor read out a report that had been received from Councillor Stocks prior to the meeting as follows:

- **Devolution**
The government has agreed that the Cheshire and Warrington devolution deal will go ahead although the election is being delayed until May 2027. An extraordinary council meeting is being held on 9th September to approve the council's position.
- **Members Budgets**
Funding from our Members Budgets available for any community projects.
- **Local Plan Consultation** – see item 10 above
- **Highways**
The council has received £30m in additional funding from the government for a variety of highway maintenance projects. Some of the funding is conditional on the council meeting a new set of criteria such as the response to fixing potholes and the quality of work carried out. An element of funding has been provided to allow capital works to be brought forward, and further funding is now available to enable the council to carry out structural surveys on a number of bridge assets across the borough.
- **Local Transport Plan Core Strategy**
The council is working on a new Local Transport Plan which will run up to 17th August 2025. This looks at how people and goods move around the borough, whether that is by bus, train, bike, car, walking or wheels. It is all about how we can make transport work better for everyone. Residents are encouraged to have their say to help shape the future of transport via [A new local transport plan – we need your views | Participate Now](#)
- **Cheshire West Libraries – Summer Reading Challenge 2025**
The theme for the 2025 [Summer Reading Challenge](#): **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**. The annual Summer Reading Challenge is delivered in partnership with public libraries across the UK, and it is free for children to take part. Throughout the summer, children joining 'Story Garden' can discover new books, participate in free activities at their local library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 16th September 2025** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.