

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
16TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Steve Bakewell (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Gerald Brown,
Ann Crawford, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey, Vic Leyden and Liz Robinson

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor Gillian Edwards

PCSO Neil Flanagan – for part of the meeting

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 Norley Parish Councillors Deryn O'Connor and Sally Cornelissen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interests.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

Update from PCSO Neil Flanagan

PCSO Neil Flanagan reported that there had been one reportable incident in Norley in the last two months. The PCSO Surgeries are continuing to be held at the Village Hall and the Open-Door Café at the Methodist Church. The next PCSO Surgery will be held on 8th October at the Village Hall and a Speed Awareness exercise is to be held on Sunday 12th October, based at the Village Hall.

- A member of the public referred to a planning application on Crabmill Lane and mentioned that residents on Crabmill Lane had not been notified of the proposal and that the planning history of the application is not listed on the Cheshire West and Chester Council planning portal.
Councillor Edwards is to follow this up with CW&C Planning.
- There was a question about whether the Parish Council had received any indication of when the Hedges on Crab Mill Lane are to be cut. The PC had not received any correspondence from CW&C regarding the hedges and said that this is a matter for CWaC to progress.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2025

These were agreed as a correct record and are to be signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2025

- **Environmental Improvement Programme**
The Work on the development of an Environmental Improvement Programme is ongoing.
- **St John's Church War Memorial**
Discussions about a potential location for a war memorial in the area at St Johns Church or in the village are ongoing.
- **Funding towards Community Projects**
The PC are continuing to follow up with United Utilities community projects in which they could assist with funding and/or volunteering.
- **Cheesehill Lane Funding**
Councillor O'Connor has asked the three ward Councillors if they would be willing to contribute from their Member Budgets towards the £5,000 for the permanent changes at

the top of the Lane and has notified Jamie Barron that the PC wish to progress with the work on Cheesehill Lane.

- **Housing Needs Survey and the CW&C Local Plan Feedback**

Councillor O'Connor and Martin Bell, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group, submitted a response on behalf of the PC on the proposals for the CW&C Local Plan.

Councillor O'Connor had emailed twelve Town and Parish Councils who have Neighbourhood Plans to enquire about who they used to carry out their Housing Needs Surveys. Responses received so far have said that Cheshire Community Action undertook the Housing Needs Surveys. Norley Parish Council used Cheshire Community Action last time they carried out the survey.

Councillor O'Connor had contacted the CW&C Principal Planning Officer - Planning Policy to find out if there is any funding available for Housing Needs Survey. Unfortunately, central government have stopped funding for groups working on Neighbourhood Plans.

- **Sandycroft Meadows**

Discussions on the potential option for a memorial orchard on part of the meadow that will benefit the community are ongoing.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to continue to follow up.

6. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for July and August 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 speed excessively on Ashton Road, Blakemere Lane, Delamere Road, Norley Road and School Bank. Over the last 8 months there have been 19 instances of vehicles exceeding 40 mph on School Bank, a large proportion of them during daytime hours. The Community of Norley is undertaking all available actions to deter speeding throughout the village, particularly excessive and dangerous speeds with:

1. Regular Speed Monitoring with the Norley CSW group - usually twice per month.
2. Regular Speed Enforcement with the local PCSO using the TruCam - usually once per month
3. Speed Awareness activities with local Special Constables and PCSO
4. Participation in the National CSW activities.

The PC are continuing to pursue with CW&C Highways support/action to implement permanent deterrents to excessive speeding in the village.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed)

July - 41% (5,737) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 13% (1,842) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 63.4 mph.**

August - 38.4% (5,445) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 12% (1,689) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 59.2 mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)

July - 58.5% (19,557) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 18.5% (6,172) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 74.2 mph.**

August - 54% (19,067) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 16.7% (5,883) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 66.5 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed)

July - 51% (16,238) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 19.8% (6,325) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 63.3 mph.**

August - 49.7% (13,780) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 18.6% (5,168) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 81.3 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)

July - 19.7% (3,199) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 2.3% (381) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 67.6 mph.**

August - 17.8% (3,921) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 2.2% (491) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 65.2 mph.**

Norley Road (Exit Speed)

July - 17.4% (5,724) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 6.5% (2,133) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 63.1 mph.**

August - 27.4% (4,039) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 9.9% (1,105) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 65.3 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed)

July - 87.6% (2,397) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 56.2% (1,538) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **During the period one vehicle was travelling at 44.7 mph at 23:23 on 5th July, 1 vehicle was travelling at 41.1 mph at 13:11 on 27th July.**

August - 83.4% (1,853) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 52.5% (1,166) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **During the period one vehicle was travelling at 42.4 mph at 14:53 on 21st Aug, 1 vehicle was travelling at 40.4 mph at 08:29 on 31st Aug.**

SPEED ENFORCEMENT

Speed Enforcement was undertaken on High Street on 16th Sept. Four vehicles were exceeding the speed limit and will be dealt with accordingly.

SPEED AWARENESS

After the successful Speed Awareness activity in July another date has been requested. A preliminary date of 12th Oct has been proposed.

FINGERPOST LANE SPEED LIMIT

CW&C have installed two speed monitoring devices on Fingerpost Lane. When the activity is complete Norley Parish Council will need to request the data so that they can undertake their own analysis and determine the speed behaviour of motorists.

NORLEY SPEED PROJECT

Further to a PC meeting with CW&C Highways in July to discuss the project and issues around Hatchmere Crossroads, the action items are:

1. Highways to look at the signage and road signs at Hatchmere Crossroads.
2. The PC to provide the proposed locations of village signs and speed pads.
3. Steve Bentley to provide a link to allow the requests for village signs to be raised.

7. HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 22ND JULY

Councillors O'Connor and Brown met with Highways Officers on 22nd July. The following was discussed:

Location and installation of village signs

Village signs would require a street furniture licence and the boundaries would need to be checked (where there are no existing signs). The PC would complete the consultation and the signage to be implemented externally.

Location and installation of speed cushions.

Highways are happy to examine any proposals but believe traffic calming placed at the village gateways would have a negligible impact on B5152/School Lane/Ashton Road junction (given the considerable distances between them). Highways are also mindful of such features being placed on speed limit changes.

Highways have put forward some suggestions for the gateway signs and the PC have some proposed locations for them.

School Lane Junction

The junction is very wide. The PC asked if some white hatchings in the middle of it would help deter people turning early into the junction when travelling from Blakemere Lane into School Lane. Highways are to arrange for the crossroad sign (south of School Lane/Ashton Road junction) to be replaced and for the "SLOW" marking north of the junction to be refreshed. The existing collision record does not justify further alterations at present at the expense of other locations.

Highways have examined the yellow markings on Cheesehill Lane and noted the comments raised, which will be considered when the potential future refreshment lining areas are reviewed.

8. CONNECTIONS LOCALITY MEETING (RURAL) – WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 4-5.30 PM

The PC noted the invitation that had been received from Cheshire West and Chester Council to be held at Tarporley Community Centre.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to follow up with Councillor O'Connor.

9. FOREST LIVE

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 had written to Forestry England detailing the problems that occurred at the Hatchmere Crossroads. Councillors Bakewell and Brown to request a follow up meeting with Forestry England to pursue the Forest Live issues and car parking.

10. HATCHMERE CROSSROADS

The closure of the crossroads at Hatchmere will now be early in 2026 (date to be confirmed).

The Parish Council are continuing to pursue the following with United Utilities about the road closure:

1. What provision is being made for residents in the area who are vulnerable?
2. What provision will be made for travel to school either via school bus or being driven to school.
3. Actions to ensure that HGVs don't pass the road closed signs and have to turn around in private driveways or cause additional road blockages ?
4. Actions to ensure that visitors to Delamere Forest don't use the closed road as a car park
5. Potential use of the car park opposite the Carriers Inn (Already leased by UU) to avoid significant detours with provision of lighting, CCTV
6. Reimbursement for additional travel costs of the significant detours.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

25/02663/PIP - Land Adjacent to Crabmill Lane Norley Northwich: Erection of 3 dwellings with double detached garages – PC comments to be sent to the Clerk by 26th September.

12. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

As United Utilities were unable to attend the PC meeting the following update had been provided on the Vyrnwy works:

Section 1 – Cotebrook to Abbey Lane - In Progress

1. Abbey Lane closure Monday 13 October 2025 – Friday 15 May 2026
2. Sadlers Lane closure Friday 24 October 2025 – Tuesday 10 March 2026

Section 2 Abbey Lane to Hatchmere – Programme TBC

1. We are working through the design of this section and the road closure on Station Road. The earliest this section is likely to start is late 2026/early 2027.
2. Section 1 needs to be complete before we proceed with section 2.

Wallasey BSP (Hatchmere Crossroads Closure) - In planning and discussion with CWaC (road closure proposed early 2026).

1. This closure is **not going ahead** for the original proposal of Sept 2025.

Section 3 Kingsley, Norley – In Progress

1. Norley Lane Road Closure In planning and discussion with CWaC (proposed late 2025 through to early 2026)
2. This is the same closure carried out in summer of 2025 (the small section at the top of Norley Road) to allow us to complete the second line.

Discussions are under way with residents/businesses regarding feedback/concerns and will be communicated once we have an update. Updates on traffic management will continue to be updated on the webpage; [Vyrnwy live updates](#) and communicated via Parish Councils and Cllr Gillian Edwards.

The next drop-in session is at the Delamere and Oakmere Community Centre, Station Road, CW8 2HU – Tue 7th Oct 2pm-4pm

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

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Invitation to the ChALC Annual Meeting, Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at Eaton Estate, Eaton Park, Eccleston, Handbridge, CH4 9ET
- Delamere Forest monthly update.
- Invitation from Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner at the Town and Parish Council event on Tuesday 7th October 18.00-19.30 at Cheshire Police Headquarters. Councillors Crawford and Brown to attend.

Action – Clerk to respond to the Office of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of current financial position and Quarterly Audit

It was agreed that the Review of the Current Financial Position against the budget and the Quarterly Audit should be carried forward to the October PC meeting for the mid-year budget review.

Action – Clerk to note for the October agenda.

Grant Application for Funding - Refurbishing the scout hut on Crabmill Lane

The PC had received a Small Grants Application Form for £5000 funding towards the refurbishment of the Scout HQ on Crabmill Lane from 1st Norley Scout Group for consideration. The PC agreed to defer this to the October PC meeting when the budget and current financial position and allocation of CIL monies will be considered.

Action – Clerk to note for the October agenda.

Quotation Parish Council Laptop

The quotation of £499 for a laptop and set up and transfer of data that had been received from Frodsham Computers, was approved by the PC.

Action – Clerk to arrange with Frodsham Computers.

Approval of the following bacs payments:

- July Website Development and Maintenance – Rabbit Digital - £15.75
- Grass Cutting – Village Green and around the Norley sign in July and August – Mr J R Dimelow - £300.00
- Wreath for Remembrance Sunday. The cost of the wreath in 2024 was £25. It was agreed that a wreath could be ordered for £25 and paid for outside of the meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

- **Councillor Crawford** reported that the Village Show held on 6th September was a great success and asked whether there was an update on the Haulage Yard. The PC are awaiting an update on the Haulage Yard from Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- **Councillor Robinson** asked if there was an update on the planting of the trees on Sandycroft. The PC are working on environmental improvements around the village and propose linking planting and other areas of minor maintenance to the Volunteer Highway Scheme. Councillor Bakewell is continuing to follow this up with CW&C.
- **Councillor Leyden** mentioned that there is a live music event at the Village Hall on Saturday 20th September.
- Councillor Duff referred to the parked cars and faded yellow lines on Blakemere Lane that need to be re-marked. The PC are following up with Highways the road markings in the village.

Councillor Bakewell provided a summary report that had been received from Councillor Stocks prior to the meeting as follows:

Cheshire and Warrington Devolution

As it currently stands in Cheshire West and Chester, the Cheshire and Warrington devolution deal may be moving forward with the election being held in May 2027, although this depends on the outcome in Cheshire East and Warrington as those councils are yet to formally approve the deal. The intention is to set up a shadow Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) in 2026 with some limited funding available to spend in the financial year 2026-2027.

Members Budgets

A by-election is being held in the Strawberry Ward of Ellesmere Port on 2nd October and therefore funding from our Members Budgets will be unavailable until after the election has taken place.

Planning – Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation

The consultation concluded on 29th August - all feedback will now be reviewed over the next twelve months. This will help shape the next stage of the Local Plan. There will be another chance to comment on this next stage once complete.

The formal timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan and other key planning documents is set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Highways

Highway issues are regularly being reported, particularly weeds and detritus along the edge of the highways, which not only looks unsightly but is causing blocked gullies. Now that leaves etc are beginning to fall onto the highways it is important to report issues as soon as possible as this can cause blocked gullies. Also, high winds may cause trees to fall especially at this time of year. These can all be reported via the website, Report it | Cheshire West and Chester Council or via the "Report It" app.

A temporary road closure on Beech Lane, Norley, is due to commence on 16th September 2025. This is necessary for safety reasons to enable highway defect patching works to be carried out.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 22nd October 2025** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.