

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
22ND OCTOBER 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 and Liz Robinson

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor Lynn Stocks

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 Gillian Edwards and Norley Parish Councillor Vic Leyden and PCSO Neil Flanagan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Prior to the PC submitting comments relating to planning application 25/02876/PIP - Land Adjacent Yew Tree House High Street Norley, the Clerk had declared a personal interest in the application and on this occasion the PC comments were submitted by Councillor O'Connor.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There was a question about the progress of the gateway signs to be located at the entrances to the village.

The PC are progressing the location and installation of village gateway signs and the location and installation of speed cushions with Cheshire West and Chester Highways as part of the PC's ongoing highways project.

With regard to the state of the weeds and gutters around the village, the advice was to report any issues to Cheshire West and Chester Council using the reporting tool for residents:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it>.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2025

These were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Vice-Chair who chaired that meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 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. Councillor Edwards is arranging a meeting with Reverend Hilary Merrington and the PCC.

- **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 and ongoing Highway Projects**

The PC are progressing the location and installation of village gateway signs, the location and installation of speed cushions and the permanent changes at the top of Cheesehill Lane with Cheshire West and Chester Highways as part of the PC's ongoing highways project.

- **Sandycroft Meadows**

Discussions on the potential option for a memorial orchard on part of the meadow that will benefit the community are ongoing. Councillor Edwards and Councillors Bakewell and O'Connor had an online meeting with Roger Goulding. An article is to be put in the Norley News to find out residents' thoughts on the options for creating a community orchard.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to continue to follow up.

- **Forest Live**

Councillors Bakewell and Brown are continuing to follow 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.

The PC are to attend the Parish Council Bi-Annual Catch Up with Forestry England on 10th November at Delamere Forest Visitor Centre.

- **Parish Council Laptop**

The Clerk is following up with Frodsham Computers the purchase of a new PC laptop and the setting up and transfer of data.

- **Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner Town and Parish Council Event**

Councillor Crawford attended the event held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 on behalf of the Parish Council.

UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES – PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE AT HATCHMERE CROSSROADS

Following the questions that the PC put to United Utilities about the road closure, the representative from UU who was in attendance at the meeting, reported that all the issues raised by the PC had been considered.

The road closure works were originally scheduled to take place between 22 September 2025 and 2 December 2025, but following feedback from local businesses and the community, the road closure has now been postponed to avoid disruption at a busy time of year.

Key details:

- **Location:** Crossroads at Blakemere Lane, Delamere Road, Ashton Road and School Lane
- **Dates:** 30 March – 9 June 2026

This work has been planned to follow on from the temporary road closure on Norley Road (12 December 2025 – 27 March 2026 at the junction with Forest Lane/Beech Lane). This will be a full road closure at Hatchmere Crossroads and works can only begin once Norley Road has been completed.

The closure is needed so that United Utilities can move key underground valves and pipeline connections currently situated beneath the crossroads into adjacent land. This is quite a complex piece of work, but once it's complete, future maintenance can take place without needing to close the crossroads again – meaning far less disruption in the future.

Access information:

- There will be no vehicle access through the crossroads during this period.
- Pedestrian access will remain open wherever possible, with clear signage in place.

UU will be working closely with local businesses to help keep customers informed and minimise any impact. Regular updates will also be available on their website.

unitedutilities.com/vamp-live-updates

A summary of the queries received during recent community engagement had been circulated to the PC. The dialogue with the PC is to continue.

Details of the road closures are to be detailed in the next Norley News.

6. QUOTATIONS NORLEY HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Parish Council had requested 4 quotations to carry out the housing needs survey for Norley Parish Council, which would support the current Neighbourhood Plan which was 'made' in 2015. Three responses and quotes had been received which had been circulated prior to the meeting. After consideration of each of the quotations and proposals, it was agreed that CNB Housing Insights should be asked to carry out the housing needs survey for Norley.

Action – Councillor O’Connor to notify and follow up with CNBC Housing and to liaise with Martin Bell, Chair of the Norley Neighbourhood Plan Group

7. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for September 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 School Bank. The Community of Norley is undertaking all available actions to deter speeding throughout the village, particularly excessive and dangerous speeds. The activities undertaken by the Community of Norley are listed below.

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 Speedwatch Group would like support/action from CW&C Highways and the PC to implement permanent deterrents to excessive speeding in the village.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed)

37% (4,559) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 11.5% (1,416) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 62.2 mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed)

58.1% (17,257) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 19.6% (5,314) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 68.1 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed)

52.8% (13,057) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 21.4% (5,285) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 59.9 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed)

18.9% (3,689) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 2.3% (454) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 69.4 mph.**

Norley Road (Exit Speed)

It was not possible to download speed data from this device.

School Bank (Peak Speed)

87.4% (2,012) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 56.5% (1,300) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **There were a number of instances of excessive speed on School Bank during September**

1 vehicle travelling at 41 mph at 08:38 on 4th September - **School Day**

1 vehicle travelling at 45.1 mph at 17:53 on 4th September - **School Day**

1 vehicle travelling at 43.3 mph at 01:18 on 7th September

1 vehicle travelling at 41 mph at 17:56 on 10th September - **School Day**

1 vehicle travelling at 41 mph at 08:51 on 11th September - **School Day**

1 vehicle travelling at 46.1 mph at 23:56 on 19th September

This supports the need for automatic CSW devices which capture number plate data and would allow these vehicles to be identified.

SID Spare Parts

Due to the fact that TWM have ceased trading and have been acquired by FTS, there may be issues procuring spare parts for the SID devices.

Speed Enforcement

Speed Enforcement was undertaken on High Street on 16th Sept. 4 vehicles were exceeding the speed limit and will be dealt with accordingly.

Next Speed Enforcement activity to take place on Sunday 9th Nov starting at 13:00. Location to be decided.

Speed Monitoring

Speed Monitoring was undertaken on Post Office Lane On 22nd Sept, 10 vehicles were exceeding the speed limit and will be dealt with accordingly.

Speed Awareness

A successful Speed Awareness activity was undertaken on 12th October on High Street and Delamere Road with the support of Special Constables and PCSO. The majority of vehicles were travelling within the speed limit. 5 vehicles were pulled over for exceeding the prosecution speed limit. The vehicle and driver documentation were also checked.

The next Speed Awareness activity is being scheduled for Feb 2026.

Councillor O'Connor thanked all the Special Constables, PCSO Neil Flanagan and Councillor Brown for their assistance on the Speed Awareness Day on 12th October.

Fingerpost Lane Speed Limit

The speed survey results from Fingerpost Lane in Norley show combined mean speeds of 35.3 mph and 33.4 mph. CW&C maintain that they could not lower the speed limit at this location. Councillor Brown is continuing to follow up with CW&C Highways the criteria to reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30-mph on this stretch of the road.

Norley Speed Project

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

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.

Norley Speed Indicator Device (SID) Maintenance Report September 2025

Prior to the meeting the report from Rock Graphics had been circulated. There were two further visits to the SID's over the summer, in July and September.

During both visits each device was checked that they were displaying correctly, and that Bluetooth connectivity could be established. The battery strength was also tested.

During the most recent visit, it was noticed that some water ingress into the battery compartment of the Hatchmere device, opposite the Carriers arms. This had resulted in a little corrosion in the negative battery terminal. This has been cleaned up and sprayed with WD40 to help protect it and will be monitored at the next visit to establish if it was a one off or if more work needs to be done.

The battery on the Ashton Road device was reading a slightly lower level than the others although it was still well within the working range. This may be due to the significant tree coverage, but this will be monitored again at the next visit and replace the battery if required. There is also some ivy starting to grow towards the device which we will also be cut down at the next visit before it becomes an issue.

8. CHRISTMAS TREE

It was agreed that the PC should purchase a Christmas tree this year for the Village Green by the Tigers Head, to be put up the weekend before advent.

Action – Councillor Cornelissen is to follow up the purchase of a Christmas Tree and Councillor Crawford to follow up the electricity supply for the lights on the tree.

9. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The PC had collected the poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday at a cost of £20 paid to The Royal British Legion. Councillor Cornelissen is to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday on 9th November at 11.00 am.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

- **25/02890/FUL** - The Old Dairy, Fingerpost Lane Norley WA6 8LD: Single storey side extension and alterations. New detached garage. Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 5th November 2025.

- **25/02876/PIP** - Land Adjacent Yew Tree House High Street Norley: Development of 7 new dwellings with 30% affordable dwellings. The Parish Council had submitted their objections to CW&C Planning.

11. **CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Delamere Forest monthly update.

12. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Review of current financial position and Quarterly Audit

The PC received and noted the mid-year budget information and current financial position and the account balances in the Instant Access Account, Current Account and Business Reserves Account. The total expenditure since 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025 was £9514.67.

The mid-year budgetary information is attached to the minutes as Appendices.

CIL Payments

The total CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Money remaining for 2025/26 is £5991.16, which is still to be allocated in 2025/26. Once allocated, the PC will notify CW&C.

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. After considering the budget, current financial position and allocation of CIL monies, the PC agreed, on this occasion, to donate £1000 towards the project from the CIL monies.

Action – Clerk to notify the 1st Norley Scout Group.

Lettering on stone by the Tommy in St John's Churchyard. - Quotation for repainting lettering

The PC received and noted the quotation of £144 (gross) that had been received from Blackwells Stonecraft Ltd for the repainting of all the lettering on the stone by the Tommy in St John's Churchyard, which was approved. The work can be completed before Remembrance Sunday.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to notify Blackwell's Stonecraft Ltd

Approval of the following bacs payments:

- Scheduled Maintenance Visits – Speed Indicator Devices, July and September - Rock Graphics - £288.00
- Breakthrough Communications: Data Protection Courses in September for Councillor Brown - £90.00 – Cheshire Association of Local Councils

It was noted that the Tax due on Clerk's salary for Quarter 2 - £204.60 had been paid to HMRC since the last meeting, before 22nd October 2025 deadline.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following were mentioned:

- **Councillor Cornelissen** reported that one of the overgrown hedges on Norley Road had now been cut back and that a suitable location for the service tree may now have been found and will liaise with Phil Gifford about the proposed location. She asked whether a village litter pick could be arranged. The PC thought that training would have to be undertaken and a risk assessment completed before a litter pick could be arranged.
- **Councillor Crawford** referred to a fence that had been erected on the common land on Gallowsclough 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** mentioned that the Village Hall had received a supply of sandbags received from Councillor Edwards, which are being stored in the Village Hall, received for any vulnerable properties and asked about the cutting of the hedges on Post Office Lane/Sandycroft Lane. The PC had not received any correspondence from CW&C regarding the hedges and said that this is a matter for residents to follow up with CW&C.
- **Councillor Brown** asked about the completion of a PC Privacy Policy. The Clerk is in the process of completing this and will circulate once completed.

- **Councillor O'Connor** mentioned that she had been notified that the Chair of JNCOT (Joint Norley Communities Organisations Trust) is to finish his tenure as a trustee. The PC appoint to the Chair position.

Councillor Stocks reported that:

- the Cheshire and Warrington devolution deal will be moving forward with the election being held in May 2027 with a shadow Mayoral Combined Authority in 2026.
- The Local Plan 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.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council has launched its annual budget consultation, which ends on 30th November 2025.

Councillor O'Connor reported on the summary of ongoing action items that had been received from **Councillor Edwards**

- A potential location for a war memorial in the area of St Johns Church or a location in the village. A meeting has been arranged with the Reverend Hilary Merrington to follow up.
- The cutting of the verge on Hamblett's Hollow by Weaver Vale Housing Trust is being followed up.
- Continuing discussions with United Utilities about potential funding opportunities for Norley Village projects.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 24th November 2025** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 9.12 pm.