

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
2nd FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

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

Cheshire West and Chester Council Ward Councillor Lynn Stocks and Gillian Edwards (for part of the meeting)

PCSO Neil Flanagan (for part of the meeting)

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Norley Parish Councillor Sally Cornelissen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

• **UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES – ROAD CLOSURES**

The Project Engagement Leads from United Utilities were 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.

The road closure on Norley Road is ongoing. The work is scheduled to finish 27 March 2026.

The crossroads at Hatchmere road will be closed from 30th March to 9 June 2026. UU are liaising with local business/stakeholders and CW&C Highways regarding diversions, advance warning of road closures, road closure signs and any planned resurfacing works. Monthly meetings are being held with CW&C Highways and Councillor Gillian Edwards.

There were questions from the PC about:

- the communications to effected residents about the road closures;
- parking outside residential properties during the Hatchmere road closures;
- if there could be wider circulation of the road closures;
- if there was an update on the provision of security / CCTV during the closure of the crossroads at Hatchmere.

UU agreed to follow up on the above issues.

A Norley village drop-in session is planned for 3 February 2026 from 4.30-6.30 pm at the NCK Centre.

UU are to continue to liaise with the PC about the road closures and potential funding towards community projects. The PC are to notify UU of any issues that arise during the road closures, including any road closure signage which is stolen or removed.

Regular updates can be found on the United Utilities website:

unitedutilities.com/vamp-live-updates.

The PC thanked the representatives for attending and providing an update.

- A member of the public mentioned that the Marstons Brewery application for an extension to the current entertainment licence had been approved.
- There was a question about the overhanging hedge on School Lane/Post Office Lane and the clearing of the gullies and footpaths, which the PC are following up.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th JANUARY 2026

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

Update from PCSO Neil Flanagan

PCSO Neil Flanagan reported that there had been no reportable incidents in Norley in January 2026.

Neil referred to the recent information that had been circulated from the Police and Crime Commissioner about the Budget Proposals and the impact this will have on the reduction in the number of PCSOs and the support to Norley PC. It was noted that this reduction will not now take place and Neil will continue as the PCSO covering Norley for the foreseeable future.

The PC had noted the Parish Council quarterly meetings that are being arranged by Owen Hughes, the beat manager for area. The first quarterly meeting has been arranged for 4th February at 7 pm in the Green Room in Kingsley Community Centre.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th JANUARY 2026

- Councillor Bakewell is continuing to follow up the overgrown hedge at the junction of School Lane and Post Office Lane which is blocking the footpath and obscuring the street sign.
- **Environmental Improvement Programme**
The Work on the development of an Environmental Improvement Programme is 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.
Action – Councillor O’Connor will liaise with UU and a meeting to be arranged.
- **Cheesehill Lane and ongoing Highway Projects**
The progress and the location/installation of village gateway signs, the location and installation of speed cushions and the permanent changes at the top of Cheesehill Lane is ongoing. CW&C have not yet supplied a date of commencement for the work. CW&C are following up with the contractors.
- **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.
- **Christmas Tree**
Councillor O’Connor is following up the purchase of two £10 Amazon gift cards as a thank you for the residents of Oak Tree House who very kindly allowed the Christmas lights to be plugged in at their outside socket.
Action – Councillor O’Connor to follow up.
- **Car Parking on High Street**
The PC are continuing to liaise with CW&C.
- **Location of the Service Tree**
Councillor Cornelissen is continuing discussions with the Wildlife Group to find a suitable location for the service tree.
Action – Clerk to note as an agenda item for the March PC meeting.
- **Precept Request Form**
The completed 2026/27 Precept Request form was returned to CW&C.
- **Parish Councillor Vacancy**
Councillor O’Connor to include the vacancy in the next Norley News.

6. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE AND SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for December 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 for December 2025 was received and noted:

In summary:

Vehicles continue to speed excessively on School Bank.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed) - 27% (2,193) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 7.8% (627) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The average speed figures and number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are low in the early part of the month due to road closures on Ashton Road. **The maximum peak speed was 53.7 mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed) - The SID would not download data when visited. This is highly likely due to the low sunlight levels and therefore low battery charge.

Delamere Road (Exit Speed) - 53.2% (14,310) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 19.3% (5,174) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 66.4 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed) -14.5% (1,801) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 1.4% (169) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 59.5 mph.**

Norley Road (Exit Speed) - **15.8%** (4,566) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 5.3% (1,530) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. The average speeds are low due to the closure of Norley Road. **The maximum exit speed was 58.9 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed) - 84.8% (935) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 51.8% (571) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. The maximum recorded speed was 42.1 mph on 30th December at 07:52.

SPEED ENFORCEMENT

Speed Enforcement was undertaken on Post Office Lane and Blakemere Lane between 15:00 and 16:00 on 20th January with PCSO Neil Flanagan. Two vehicles were exceeding the speed limit on Post Office Lane and nine vehicles on Blakemere Lane. They will be dealt with accordingly. The Post Office Lane figures were low due to internet cabling work being undertaken at the time. Further Speed Enforcement will be undertaken on Thurs 5th Feb at 8:30. School Bank and Post Office Lane are proposed.

NORLEY SPEED PROJECT

A meeting was undertaken with CW&C Highways in July to discuss the project and issues around Hatchmere Crossroads.

The ongoing actions are:

1. Highways to look at the signage and road signs at Hatchmere Crossroads.
2. 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.

To date, there has been no action from CW&C.

7. AUTO SPEED WATCH DEVICE PROPOSAL

Councillor Brown had circulated information relating to an Auto Speed Watch Device prior to the meeting, which detailed:

Overview

Vehicles continue to speed through Norley village. Despite speed monitoring by the Community Speed Watch group, visible Speed Indicator Devices and speed enforcement with the local PCSO vehicles continue to exceed the prosecution speed limit. Of particular concern are vehicles which exceed the speed limit by a significant amount. Numerous examples exist from the SID data collected over the last three years. Examples are shown below:

1. Over 40 mph in the 20-mph speed limit area on School Bank.
2. Over 70 mph in the 30-mph speed limit area on Ashton Road.
3. Over 70 mph in the 30-mph speed areas on Blakemere Lane and Delamere Road.

These speeds are recorded at random times throughout the day and therefore are very difficult to detect using normal speed monitoring or speed enforcement activities. Therefore, it is proposed to purchase an Auto Speed Watch Device that records speed and VRN during daylight hours to try and identify the vehicles undertaking excessive speeds.

Features

1. Standalone devices which could be mounted on our existing poles.
2. Devices which determine speed and record registration numbers (VRN)

3. The existing SIDs would continue to be used.

4. The data can be accessed remotely and hence no visits to the devices to download data. The CSW forms can be completed from this data.

5. They could be used to identify repeat and excessive speeders - for example we could identify the drivers exceeding 40 mph on School Bank.

The PC considered the reserves in the budget for community projects and agreed in principle to the purchase of an auto speed watch device. Total cost for the purchase, installation and first year data plan is approximately £930.

Action – Councillor Brown to follow up and report back to the PC.

8. MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Councillors O'Connor and Bakewell and Councillor Edwards had met with the PCC representatives to consider a potential location for a war memorial. The PCC have recently been gifted some land and consideration is being given for the obelisk being installed there as part of a memorial garden.

Discussions are at the early stages, and it could be a year or so before the monument could be installed. The PC are to follow up taking ownership of the obelisk and arranging for it to be stored in a suitable location, until installation is confirmed.

Action – Councillor Bakewell to follow up with Phil Kersh, Life for a Life.

9. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

Councillor Harvey had met with Matthew Waite Gardening Services and had identified the first three areas where the footpaths require undercutting, and pavements need to be cleared of compacted leaves:

- the top of Townfield Lane;
- top of Marsh Lane; and
- behind the Norley sign

A location for the drop off site for the waste is to be arranged by the PC.

The PC agreed in principle to the cost of the works, which is likely to be approximately £450.

Action – Councillor Harvey to obtain a quotation for the works and circulate outside of the meeting for approval before completion of the works.

10. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR JNCOT (Joint Norley Communities Organisations Trust)

Councillor O'Connor attended the JNCOT meeting on 19th January and reported that there has been an expression of interest by Donna Mara to be the new Chair of JNCOT. The PC unanimously agreed that Donna will be the incoming chair of JNCOT. The appointment will be confirmed at the JNCOT AGM in April.

The PC recorded its thanks to the current chair Peter Hosker for his dedication as the chair of JNCOT since 2019.

11. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The deadline for Norley Residents to respond to the Housing Needs questionnaire has now closed.

Councillor O'Connor will continue to update the PC on progress.

12. PLANNING MATTERS

- **25/03972/PDQ** - Land At Low Farm Post Office Lane Norley Northwich: Conversion of existing agricultural building into a residential property - Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 3 February.
- **25/04044/FUL** - Hatchmere House Delamere Road Norley Northwich WA6 6NL: Demolition of conservatory and construction of rear two storey extension – Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 10 February.
- **26/00029/FUL** - Moss Farm Cow Lane Norley Northwich WA6 8PN: Erection of proposed detached outbuilding for garage, storage, leisure suite and home gym - Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 16 February.

13. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates

- Cheshire & Warrington: Rural Needs Analysis - invitation to online consultation
- Future Focused Council Planning Workshop - 9th February 2026, Canalside Conference Centre, Middlewich from 10am
- ChALC Online Survey - Planning for the Future
- Parish and Town council January newsletter

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority announce Proposed Interim Chief Executive.

Delamere Forest monthly update

14. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following were approved for bacs payments:

- Scheduled SIDs maintenance in January 2026 - Rock Graphics - £144.00
- An annual automatic direct debit payment of £47.00 for the Data Protection fee to be set up – Information Commissioner
- Payroll for last 3 months – Invoice Number: 13043 - £57.60

The Open Spaces Society Membership for £45.00 is to be considered at the March 2026 PC meeting.

Action – Clerk to note the approval of the Open Spaces Society Membership for the March 2026 PC agenda, when further information about the membership had been obtained.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor Crawford

The original sign on Waste Lane has now rotted away and needs to be replaced.

Action – Clerk to note as an agenda item for the March meeting.

Councillor Bakewell

Referred to the resident’s survey that Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council are to undertake in June regarding the Delamere concerts, which the PC noted.

Councillor O’Connor

Referred to a possible future planning application for the refurbishment of the scout hut, on Crabmill Lane, which the scouts will request be submitted through the Parish Council.

Councillor Stocks

Mentioned that applications for project funding from the Members Budget for 2025/26 has now closed.

The application for funding from the Wildlife Group, towards the control of the Vine Weevill on West View Road, will have to be put forward for next year’s tranche of members’ budget project funding.

Councillor Edwards

- Is attending monthly meetings with United Utilities and CW&C Highways regarding the road closures and diversions during the Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Programme works.
- Is following up the Planning in Principle applications that are currently outstanding in Norley.
- An enforcement notice has been issued on land at Woods Lane.
- A very successful Toy Appeal took place just before Christmas.
- The Cheshire West and Chester Council Budget meeting is being held in February.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 2nd March 2026** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.