

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
5th JANUARY 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,
Sally Cornelissen, Ann Crawford, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey and Liz Robinson

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from CW&C Ward Councillors Lynn Stocks and Gillian Edwards,
PCSO Neil Flanagan and Joanne Nichols, OCU Group.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2025

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 24th NOVEMBER 2025

- Councillor O'Connor had completed an online form on the Cheshire Police website relating to the proposed reduction in the number of PCSOs and the effect this will have on community support that is currently provided on community issues and particularly on the Community Speed Watch.
- Councillor Bakewell is following 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.
- **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. Councillors Bakewell and O'Connor are attending the next PCC meeting with Church representatives on 20th January 2026 to further discuss.
- **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 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**
The PC were very grateful to the owner of Oak Tree House who very kindly allowed the Christmas lights to be plugged in at their outside socket and agreed to purchase two £10 Amazon gift cards to the residents as a thank you.
Action – Councillor O'Connor to follow up.
- **Housing Needs Survey**

The Housing Needs questionnaire has been completed by CNB Housing, and the survey packs should be delivered to Norley residents sometime this week.

- **Car Parking on High Street**

The PC are continuing to follow up.

- **Vacancy - Chair of JNCOT (Joint Norley Communities Organisations Trust)**

Councillor O'Connor attended a recent JNCOT meeting and reported that there have been no expressions of interest in the appointment of a new Chair of JNCOT. The PC are to continue to follow up.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to attend the next JNCOT meeting on 19th January.

6. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

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

In summary:

Vehicles continue to speed excessively on School Bank.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed) - The SID would not download data and did not indicate speed when visited. This is highly likely due to the low sunlight levels and therefore low battery charge.

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed) - 55.7% (14,516) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 17% (4,465) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 77.4 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed) - 53.6% (11,851) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 21% (4,612) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 63.2 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed) - 15.5% (2,424) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 1.3% (204) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 62 mph.**

Norley Road (Exit Speed) - 27.5% (9,610) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 9.5% (3,351) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 65.8 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed) - 86.5% (1,430) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 54.5% (908) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. The maximum recorded speed was 38.7 mph on 20th November at 13:52 - School Day.

The Ashton Road device is still not working so the data could not be downloaded.

SID SPARE PARTS

There has been no update from Mike North about possible issues procuring spare parts for the SID devices.

SPEED MONITORING

Speed Monitoring was undertaken on 26th November on Blakemere Lane. Four vehicles exceeded the speed limit. These details have been reported to the PCSO.

Councillor Brown reported there had been an RTC on Blakemere Road with a vehicle landing with its rear end in a ditch at the side of the road. This is the fourth collision in the last 12 months.

The review of the speed enforcement and devices is to be considered at the February meeting.

Action – Clerk to note as an agenda item for the February meeting and Councillor Brown will prepare a briefing note prior to the meeting.

7. HEDGES

There are several locations where there are overhanging branches/hedges on the pavements and roads. Some pavements/footpaths need to be cleared of compacted leaves and debris. The clearing of the compacted leaves on the pavement on Norley Lane has been reported to CW&C. It was agreed that the PC should put a list together of all the areas that need to be cleared and then follow up with CW&C Highways and the Borough Councillors to arrange for a road sweeper to clear these areas. The PC discussed whether funding maybe available from the Members' budget for the cost of the PC arranging for a contractor to clear the pavements/footpaths.

Action – All to consider the areas that need to be cleared and forward to Councillor Harvey.

8. LOCATION OF THE SERVICE TREE

Councillor Cornelissen is continuing discussions with the Wildlife Group to find a suitable location for the service tree. An area behind the Norley sign has been identified by the Wildlife Group as a potential location for the tree, which the PC noted. It was agreed that the tree stump would not need to be removed.

Action – Councillor Cornelissen will discuss with the Chair of the Wildlife Group.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

- **25/03779/LDC** - Land Adjacent To Old Orchard House 8 High Street Norley Frodsham WA6 8JS: Lawful development certificate to establish a change of land use for residential purposes in connection with the residential property at 8 High Street – Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 15th January 2026.
- **25/03837/FUL** - 3 Foresters Close: Garage conversion to habitable use with alterations to external doors and windows - Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 10th January 2026.

10. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Councillor Vacancy

There have been no expressions of interest to the Parish Councillor Vacancy.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to include the vacancy in the next Norley News.

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates

Delamere Forest monthly update.

Police and Crime Commissioner

- Parish and Town Council December message

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Review of Current Financial Position and Approval of the 2026/27 Draft Budget

The PC received the 2026/27 operating budget information for the half year up to the end of September 2026 at the October PC meeting and noted that both income and expenditure were in line with the projections made.

Based upon the 2026/27 projected expenditure, and likely balance at year end, it was proposed that the precept level for 2026/27 should be maintained with no increase, other than for inflation.

The approval of the 2026/27 budget and allocated reserves will be confirmed at the March 2026 meeting.

Completion of the 2026/2027 Precept Form

The precept options were discussed. The PC had considered the income and expenditure and the level of reserves and agreed that the precept level should be maintained and there should be no increase. It was agreed that PC should request a precept of **£13,985** for 2026/27.

Action – Clerk to return the completed 2026/27 Precept Request form to CW&C.

The following were approved for bacs payments:

- Tax due on Clerk's Salary for Quarter 3 - £202.80 HMRC
- Supply and Fit Christmas Tree for Village Green - £150.00 – Reimbursement to Councillor Cornelissen for payment to D E Darlington – D D Forestry
- Scheduled Maintenance to 6 SID Devices in December 2025 - £144.00 – Rock Graphics
- Data Protection fee – to set up annual automatic direct debit payment - £47.00 (£5 reduction of £52). To be agreed and signed by two signatures at the next meeting.
- 20% of fees for Neighbourhood Plan work and Printing and Postage costs - CNB Housing Insights - £2917.20

It was noted that the funds in the current account of £1590.31 would not cover the above invoices. It was agreed, therefore, that £5000 should be transferred from the savings account to the current account to provide a larger 'working balance'.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor Crawford - the Norley Open Garden Show, which is a charity fund raising event, will be taking place again in Spring 2026. An article is to be put in the Norley News. In previous years, the Parish Council had made a financial contribution towards printing and the cost of insurance for the event.

Councillor Brown asked if the PC's Privacy Policy could be circulated. The Clerk is to circulate the final version.

Councillor Bakewell - the Wildlife Group have enquired about the area around Norley Road grass verges where the wildflowers were planted and whether it would be possible to maintain this as a wildflower area. The PC had previously thought that the best option for this area would be to add this grass verge to the CW&C mowing programme. Councillor Bakewell will continue to follow up.

Councillor Cornelissen suggested arranging for some of the great war and historical stories from Norley residents to be recorded, retained and archived. An article is to be put in the next Norley News and Councillor Cornelissen is to follow up with the Weaver Hall Museum in Northwich.

Councillor O'Connor provided a summary of the report received from **Ward Councillor Stocks**:

➤ **Cheshire and Warrington Devolution**

The election will be held in May 2027. A shadow board has now been established.

➤ **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.

➤ **Annual Budget Consultation**

The council invited residents, businesses, and community organisations to take part in its annual budget consultation, Fit for the Future.

➤ **CWAC Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2031**

The strategy will guide how the Council, NHS and partners work together to improve health and wellbeing, focusing on reducing inequalities, supporting communities, and enabling people to live well. The consultation concluded on 30th November

➤ **Healthy Child Programme**

The Council has launched a 12-week public consultation (ending 8th February 2026) on proposals to change parts of its Healthy Child Programme.

➤ **Snow and Ice**

Roads and footpaths are currently treacherous due to snow and ice. To find out more about gritting in the area and to request additional gritting or a salt bin top up, please visit the website, [Gritting in your area | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#).

➤ **Members Budget**

Applications for funding for projects Funding would need to be submitted by end of January and the project completed before the end of March (financial year end).

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 2nd February 2026** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre. (Apologies from Cllr Cornelissen)

The Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.