

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

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

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

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors: Gillian Edwards and Lynn Stocks

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

Mention was made of the recent sad passing of former Parish Councillor Jon Wild.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Norley Parish Councillor Sally Cornelissen and Norley Parish Clerk Gaynor Hawthornthwaite.

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, Councillor Ann Crawford acted as Clerk to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No known declarations of interest.

3. NORLEY PLAY AREA

No representative present.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES – ROAD CLOSURES

The project engagement leads from United Utilities were in attendance to update the PC on the ongoing Vyrnwy Aqueduct works, planned road closures and diversions in Norley and the impact on the village.

- Road signs are disappearing and this is leading to confusion.
- Final preparations for the Hatchmere closure (due 30/03) are in place.
- The next public drop-in session will be on 17/03 at The Carriers Inn 4 – 6pm.
- 2400 Households will be getting letters regarding the closure.
- Posters and leaflets are being distributed, notices will be on social media.
- Discussions have taken place with CWAC and Forestry England.
- The UU website is updated regularly.

It was accepted that problems will arise, and the UU representatives confirmed that members of the public will be able to contact them via a dedicated telephone line.

They also confirmed that they had been in discussion with the bus companies affected.

Ward Councillor Edwards confirmed that the current closure at Beech Lane is on course to finish on time and that there were plans to hopefully attend to the issues on Guests Slack before the Hatchmere operation is commenced.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2026

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 2ND FEBRUARY 2026

- Cheese Hill Works: provisional start date missed but still expected to start soon as it is still on the Schedule.
- Sandycroft Meadows; ongoing
- Gift Vouchers re tree lighting.
Action - Councillor O'Connor to follow up.
- Wild Service Tree.
Action - Councillor Cornelissen to follow up.

- PC Vacancy has been mentioned in the PC article for the Norley News and will also be added to Facebook and the PC Webpage following the Norley News distribution. Notice on Notice board needs replacing.
Action – Clerk to replace.
- Auto speed watch has been purchased and after testing will be installed on School Bank.
Action - Councillor Brown is testing and will arrange installation.
- Memorial Monument Storage.
Action - Councillor Cornelissen to be consulted.
- Footpath Maintenance: good feedback regarding work already completed and more sites needing attention will be earmarked. Councillor Harvey to take forward.
- New sign for the West View pond area has been ordered as a replacement for the one that has rotted.

7. **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE AND SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES**

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for January 2026 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 January 2026 was received and noted:

In summary:

Vehicles continue to speed excessively on School Bank. Only partial data was retrieved from the Ashton Road and Blakemere Lane SIDS. No data was available from the Fingerpost Lane SID.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed) - 30.8% (2,132) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 8.8% (608) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. Only 15 days' worth of data were available to download from the SID, presumably due to poor charging due to lack of sunlight. **The maximum peak speed was 52.9 mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed) - 44.1% (5,592) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 10.9% (1,391) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. Only 18 days' worth of data were available to download from the SID, presumably due to poor charging due to lack of sunlight. **The maximum peak speed was 58.4 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed) - 51.5% (14,981) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 17.4% (5,064) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 61.3 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed) - No data was available to download from this device.

Norley Road (Exit Speed) - 4.1% (925) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 1% (217) 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 48.9 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed) - 87% (769) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit. 54.6% (482) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. **The maximum recorded speed was 40.5 mph on 17th January at 15:58.**

Councillor Brown reported that there were still unacceptable levels of speeding by some drivers in every area within the village that was being monitored.

There were also ongoing issues regarding the reliability of the devices, and this was believed to be due to the batteries not getting sufficient sunlight to recharge. Rock Graphics have been attending when required and sorting out any issues.

The enforcement team and PSCO Neil Flanagan have been out twice on 5th and 15th February, and some drivers may be due to receive letters. Their next session is scheduled for 10th March 2 – 3pm.

8. **NORLEY HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

Councillor O'Connor has read the lengthy draft copy of the survey, and it has been returned for amendments. Martin Bell and John Leleu have sent the composite response and feedback to CNB Housing, and the PC thanks them for this.

9. **LOCATION OF THE SERVICE TREE**

Covered above.

10. **PLANNING MATTERS**

An outline planning application 25/01524/OUT has been resubmitted but appears to be substantially changed. The plans are unclear however the previously submitted objections from the PC will still apply and a response will be submitted.

It was noted that several of the speculative applications for various sites around the village have been refused but there are still two outstanding.

The Parochial Church Council have written asking for a grant/donation, it was decided we would write back asking for clarification in line with our policy regarding grant applications.

11. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Chalc

- Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates
- Power is coming from Westminster to Cheshire and Warrington
- Cheshire West Town and Parish Connections - Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Thursday 26th March 6pm to 7pm
- Roadworks Information via the Cheshire West and Chester Council Website

Cheshire West and Chester Council

- Northwich Town Centre Active Travel Improvement Project

Neighbourhood Policing in Cheshire

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Fixed Asset Register and Risk Assessment and adequacy of fidelity insurance.

Annual Review of Standing Orders/Financial Arrangements/Complaints Procedure

These policies have all been circulated.

Any comments regarding the policies can be sent to the Clerk and they will be looked at on a later date.

Confirmation of Annual Budget for 2026/27 and Allocated reserves.

Councillor Bakewell circulated copies of the Draft budget and the Draft Reserve

Proposals. There was discussion about the proposed Gateway Signs and Community Speed Watch signs.

The budget was accepted unanimously, and Councillor Bakewell was thanked for his work on the Draft.

The following were approved for back payments:

- Scheduled maintenance to 6 SID Devices in February 2026 – Rock Graphics - £144.00
- Open Spaces Society Membership for 2026/27 - £45.00
- Fees for Neighbourhood Plan work - £1,680.00 - CNB Housing Insights
- Labour for digging and removing soil, leaves and vegetation at designated footpaths – Matthew Waite Gardening Services - £450.00
- Sign for gate to common land on West View Road - £44 – Ann Crawford.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor Cornelissen

Reported by letter that the Village Hall roof repairs had run over budget by £4000 so the grant they had received was insufficient, so they had used reserves to cover the extra.

Councillor Crawford

- Reminded everyone that the annual Litter Pick was due to take place on 21st March.
- Reported that there had been a request on Facebook about replacing the Crabmill Lane sign. Councillor Edwards has reported it. The damaged Marsh Lane sign is in Crowton.
- A grant had been made by Natural England to cover the cost of the Weevil treatment for the Azolla infestation on the West View Pond.

Councillor Brown

Asked about progress on the Haulage Yard and Councillor Edwards confirmed that a notice to cease activity with the vehicles had been served.

Councillor Bakewell

Asked whether we would be able to find out which verges are due to be mowed by CWAC.

Councillor Harvey

Due to attend an online 106 CIL training session 6 – 7 pm, 26th March.

Councillor Edwards

- Had spoken to the individuals who had been mentioned on Facebook because of their activity on the Maddocks Hill field – they were conducting a Habitat survey. No application for development has been submitted.
- Was able to confirm that the field which has been left to the Church and will in future be able to accommodate the war memorial monument.
- CWAC will be increasing Council tax.
- The Pothole Machine will be trialled in the area and will get to Norley.

Councillor Stocks

- Green Waste collection is due to recommence.
- Large Pothole on Bag Lane reported.
- Sue Jones has offered to be involved with a sub-group if one is to be set up to look at any application that might be submitted for development on the Maddocks Hill field.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 13th April 2026** at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.