

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
13th APRIL 2026 AT 7.00PM AT THE NCK CENTRE, NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Norley Parish Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (chair) Gerald Brown, Sally Cornelissen, Ann Crawford, Tony Duff, Terry Harvey and Liz Robinson.

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor: Lynn Stocks

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite – Parish Clerk

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Norley Parish Councillor Steve Bakewell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor O'Connor declared a personal interest in planning application number 26/00858/FUL.

3. UPDATE ON THE PLAYGROUND – NORLEY HILL TOP PLAY AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Treasurer, from the Norley Hill Top Play Area Management Committee provided the PC with an annual update on the costs and funding of the play area.

The Committee is independent; is not Council funded and is run by parents and volunteers. In 2025, additional funds of £1200 were raised from a Quiz Night and funding was received from the Ward Members budget. The Committee are also exploring the grants and funding that are available to help fund the enhancement and replacement costs of the equipment in the play area in 2026.

The PC had received a Small Grants Application Form for funding prior to the meeting for consideration and agreed to donate £1800 to the Norley Hill Top Play Area.

Councillor O'Connor thanked the Committee representative for attending and for providing the PC with an update on the playground and the voluntary work that they do to support the Play Area.

On behalf of the Playground Committee, the Treasurer thanked the PC for the £1800 donation.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

A member of the public referred to the increase in Council tax for 2026 and the bad state of the gullies on School Lane, near to the Church, which was noted by the PC. There is a rolling programme of clearing the gutters by CW&C and all should be cleared twice a year.

The PC were made aware of reports of cold callers in the Norley area over the last month. The PC suggested that any issues should be reported to the PCSO.

UPDATE FROM UNITED UTILITIES – ROAD CLOSURES

As part of the regular dialogue with the PC and community, the project engagement leads from United Utilities were in attendance to update the PC on the ongoing Vyrnwy Aqueduct works. To update on planned road closures and diversions in Norley and the impact on the village; and to receive feedback from the PC about any issues that had arisen.

The PC asked about the processes and consultations for road closures and if the PC could be included as part of the consultations, to try and ensure those proposed were provided with adequate signage. The following issues were reported by the PC:

- the recent road closure on Post Office Lane. As there was no 'Road Closed' sign, this was causing confusion. This has now been resolved, and additional signs will be put up on Blakemere Lane and Ashton Road during the Easter weekend. The numbers of signs and diversion signs are being reviewed.
- the dedicated telephone line that the public can use, to raise issues, does not work.

- whether CCTV is in operation at the site and whether a sign could be put up as a deterrent

Complaints had been received from Blakemere Lane residents relating to the roadworks:

1. The noise
2. The vibration from driving metal sheets into the ground
3. The inconvenience of not being able to drive to the nearest bus stop and having to park at the Fortune Palace.
4. Motorcycles passing through the pedestrian route.
5. The long diversion routes and increase in car mileage
6. The start time of the UU works, before 8 am.
7. Due to some drivers ignoring the road closure signs some vehicles had been using drives of residents to turn their vehicles round and had resulted in damage to drives of some properties. It was suggested that if cones could be placed outside some properties, this would detract vehicles from turning round on drives.

Due to the disruption and inconvenience to those residents living very close to the works, the PC asked if UU would consider, some form of compensation, to them as a gesture of goodwill, for the period of the works.

The UU representatives noted the reported issues and confirmed that they will go away and consider and try and resolve some of the issues that had been raised by the PC. The aim is to work with the Parish Council and community during the 10-week road closure to minimise disruption and to assist with projects in the village. UU are assisting with the Norley Primary school volunteer day in May to help with the playground improvements and are working with the Norley Wildlife Group with regard to the maintenance of the Moss.

The PC asked if at the end of the works, the road markings at the junction of Post Office Lane/Blakemere Lane could be re-instated. UU will follow this up with CW&C Highways and report back to the PC.

Village Drop-in sessions with UU have been arranged for:

- 21st April at 2-4 pm at the NCK
- 28th April 5-7 pm at Delamere community Centre
- 5th May 4-6 pm at the Carriers Inn

The PC thanked the representatives for attending the meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2026

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

Thanks to Councillor Crawford for taking the notes at this meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2026

- **Cheese Hill Works**

The improvement works to the junction have now been completed.

The PC noted that there was another accident at the crossroads on 6th April and that there is a much larger volume of traffic using Cheesehill due to the Hatchmere crossroads closure.

CW&C have confirmed that due to a change in the road, a full safety audit will be completed on Cheesehill by the end of April. As part of a new scheme of this nature, the process is to undertake a Stage 3 road safety audit which has been requested. A Stage 3 audit will review the completed works, and any additional safety measures will be reviewed/recommended if required as part of the Stage 3 Safety audit for the area team to consider.

The PC are to check whether there would be a speed limit review as part of the audit and are to flag up about the driving route on Cheesehill/Cow Lane that is on Google Maps. The PC have asked if the yellow lines on Cheesehill Lane can be re-painted as they are quite worn.

There has also been a suggestion about installing some reflective strips along the kerbing on the newly installed section.

- **Sandycroft Meadows**

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

- **Wild Service Tree** has now been planted on the verge on Town Field Lane.
- The PC Summary of the previous meeting containing information about the PC vacancy was not published in the last Norley News.

Action - PC to follow up.

- The **Norley Housing Needs Survey** is now complete and has been sent to CW&C.

Action – Survey to be published on the Norley PC website.

- The village litter pick that was held on 21st March went well. Over 60 volunteers took part.
- Councillor O'Connor has posted the two £10 Amazon gift cards to the children of Oak Tree House, who very kindly allowed the Christmas lights to be plugged in at their outside socket.

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

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

In summary:

Vehicles continue to speed excessively through Norley. Data was not available to download from School Bank.

Ashton Road (Exit Speed) - 34.8% (2,987) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 10.5% (901) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 52.1 mph.**

Blakemere Lane (Peak Speed) - 54% (11,749) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit. 15.4% (3,359) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 65.1 mph.**

Delamere Road (Exit Speed) - 54.9% (14,997) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 21% (5,672) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 67.7 mph.**

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed) - 14.8% (1,709) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 1.3% (115) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 60.3 mph.**

Norley Road (Exit Speed) - 4.8% (1,122) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 1.3% (309) 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 57.4 mph.**

School Bank (Peak Speed) - it was not possible to download the data from the School Bank SID. **Auto Speedwatch**

The Auto Speedwatch device has been installed on the SID post on Blakemere Lane for testing. The device is now configured and registered. The device recorded 3 vehicles travelling at speeds greater than 40-mph when the road was closed.

The device automatically registers regular offenders and number plates during daylight hours and there is the potential to escalate. The device is to be transferred to School Bank within the next week or two.

Speed Limit on Fingerpost Lane

Following residents' concerns about the speed limit of 40 mph on Fingerpost Lane, the PC believes that a proposal of 30 mph on this road should be re-visited. Councillor Brown is to follow up.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

26/00858/FUL - 4 Gorse Close: First floor rear extension - Any PC comments to be submitted to the Clerk by 1st May.

10. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- In accordance with the PC's financial regulations, quarterly audit checks on the financial accounts should be completed by a Parish Councillor who is not a bank signatory. Councillor Brown agreed to complete the audit checks. The Clerk will provide all the current financial paperwork at the meeting so that the checks can be completed.
- The PC noted the email from a resident about the parked cars on High Street and noted that a notice to cease activity with the vehicles at the Haulage Yard had been served.

The following had been received since the March 2026 meeting:

Chalc

Bulletins, Member Briefings, and training dates

11. Annual Review of Standing Orders/Financial Arrangements/Complaints Procedure, Fixed Asset Register and Risk Assessment and adequacy of fidelity insurance

All documents had been circulated, reviewed and amended by Councillor O'Connor outside of the meeting.

The insurance policy was checked for the Level of fidelity insurance - £100,000.

Action – Clerk to update the policies and publish on the website.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Small Grants Application Form Requests from St John's Church and Norley Hilltop Play Area

Prior to the meeting the PC had received Small Grants Application Forms from St John's Church and Norley Hilltop Play Area for consideration.

The PC agreed to donate £1800 towards Norley Hilltop Play Area and £500 towards St John's Church and the upkeep of the grounds. It was noted that Ward Councillor Lynn Stocks said that St John's Church could also apply for £500 funding from the Ward Members Budget.

Insurance Policy

Prior to the renewal of the Norley Parish Council insurance policy for 2026/26, quotations are to be obtained before the date of renewal.

Action – Clerk to follow up.

The following were approved for back payments:

- Reimbursement to Councillor Brown – payment Roadside Unit and Sign - £979.20
- Website Maintenance - Rabbit Digital - £172.25
- Reimbursement to the Clerk for the payment of a printer cartridge for PC Printer - £77.99
- Reimbursement to Councillor O'Connor for the purchase of Amazon Vouchers - £20 (agreed at the 5th January 2026 meeting)
- Final 10% of Project Fee Neighbourhood Plan - £240.00 – CNB Housing Insights
- Approval of the Small Grants Applications received from Norley Hilltop Play Area - £1800 and St John's Church - £500 PC donation.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

Councillor Cornelissen

- Referred to the grass cutting by the Norley Sign. Lee Maddock, CW&C is to be asked to add the cutting of the verge by the Norley Sign to the scheme of work in Norley by CW&C and John Dimelow to continue with the regular grass cutting of the green outside the Tigers Head.

Councillor Harvey

- Mentioned that as he was not sent the link to the online Section 106 CIL training session that was due to be held on 26th March so he was unable to attend.

Councillor O'Connor

- A Norley resident has offered to be involved with a sub-group if one is to be set up to look at any potential large planning applications that might be submitted for development. E.g. Maddocks Hill Field.
- Attended the briefing regarding the Neighbourhood Policing Model and the rebalancing of the workforce (PCSO redundancies and warranted Police Officer increases) and the support provided from the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.
- The PC had received notification of an appeal by the landowner of the enforcement notice that had been issued on land at Woods Lane. The PC had added their comments to the appeal.
- The notice to cease activity with the vehicles at the Haulage Yard had not been received by Councillor Stocks or the Parish Council.

Councillor Stocks

- Asked if concerns relating to the bend turning out left from the junction of Cheese Hill could be fed back to the Highways Officer at the PC's next meeting.
- The National Policy consultation has concluded. Feedback has been reviewed which will reflect the changes to the Planning Policy going forward.
- From next month, applications for over 150 dwellings that are refused by the Local Authority will be referred to Central Government.
- The CW&C Council Leader is to write to Central Government about a reduction in the housing supply figures of 30,000 over the next 5 years.
- Referred to a CW&C befriending service which provides support to older people in rural areas.
- The unpaid carers consultation ends on 10 May.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting - **Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7 pm**

Finished at 20.49