

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
22nd JUNE 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE IN NORLEY**

PRESENT AT THE MEETING: Councillors: Deryn O'Connor (Chair), Gerald Brown, Tony Duff,
Sally Cornelissen, Terry Harvey and Liz Robinson

Councillor Gillian Edwards - Ward Councillor – Cheshire West and Chester Council

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cheshire West and Chester Council - Ward Councillor Lynn Stocks and Norley Parish Councillors Ann Crawford and Steve Bakewell.

2. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

There has been an expression of interest in the Parish Council Vacancy.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

The PC received and noted the following comments.

- There was a question about the criteria for 20 mph speed limits. Councillor Edwards confirmed that the 20 mph speed limit in Crowton was implemented as part of the 20 mph roll out around schools.
- There are a number of overhanging hedges/trees and vegetation on pavements around the village.
The PC are to follow up with CW&C Highways and landowners.
- The railings and hedging at Hatchmere have not been re-instated following the completion of the United Utilities works. Councillor Edwards to follow up with United Utilities.
- A number of parishioner's attended to raise concerns about planning application 26/01779/PIP - Land At Crabmill Lane Norley Northwich: 7 pitch traveller site, with day room.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2026

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2026

- **Cheese Hill Works**
The improvement works to the junction have now been completed.
The PC are continuing to liaise with CW&C Highways about the changes to the road and await information relating to the full safety audit and whether the yellow lines on Cheesehill Lane can be re-painted as they are quite worn.
- **Sandycroft Meadows**
Discussions on the potential option for a memorial orchard on part of the meadow that will benefit the community are ongoing.
- **Approval of Internal Auditor's Report 2025/26**
Councillors O'Connor, Bakewell and Clerk are to review and follow up the Internal Auditor's Report for 2025/26 outside of the meeting and report back to the July PC meeting.
- The Clerk returned the Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor and arranged for the 2025/26 Annual Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement, Annual

Accounting Statements, Certificate of Exemption and the Exercise of Public Rights Accounts to be displayed on the PC website and noticeboard.

- The Clerk notified JDH Business Services Limited about the completion of Norley PC internal audit for 2026/27.
- Councillors O'Connor and Brown had followed up a response from Cheshire Constabulary about the involvement of PCSO's in CSW. PCSO McKevitt will provide temporary support to the scheme to assist with continuity where possible. PCSO McKevitt will act as the main point of contact for the submission of completed Community Speed Watch results and will be responsible for the processing and issuing of any warning letters.

- **Quarterly Audit Check**

The Clerk had provided the 2025/26 accounts paperwork to Councillor Brown to complete the quarterly audit check.

After review the following comments were made:

- Total invoices from J.R.Dimelow come to £900 while the payments were only £895. This was discovered by value matching.
- A suggestion about including an invoice reference in the accounts file so that invoice reference matching can be undertaken which is more reliable.

7. **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE**

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for April 2026 were received and noted. Due to the Hatchmere Crossroads closure this only contains graphs for Norley Road, Fingerpost Lane and School Bank.

In summary:

Vehicles continue to speed excessively through Norley.

Fingerpost Lane (Peak Speed) - 17% (4,902) of vehicles exceeded the 40 mph speed limit, 1.9% (550) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 66.3mph.** The volume of traffic on Fingerpost Lane was 28,746 (In one direction) which was almost 2.5 times the March figure of 12,116. This was due to the closure of Hatchmere Crossroads.

Norley Road (Exit Speed) - 42% (18,378) of vehicles exceeded the 30 mph speed limit, 14.3% (6,283) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 61 mph.** The volume of traffic on Norley Road was 43,661 (In one direction) which was 1.7 times the March figure of 25,996. This was due to the closure of Hatchmere Crossroads.

School Bank (Peak Speed) - 82% (1,295) of vehicles exceeded the 20 mph speed limit, 48.5% (765) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. The maximum speeds on School Bank were:

38 mph Tuesday 7th Apr at 9:38

39.3 mph on Friday 24th Apr at 10:32

Auto Speedwatch

- The Auto Speedwatch device has been operating on Blakemere Lane for approximately 2 months.
- In the period from 20th April to 9th June (Hatchmere Closure) – 83 vehicles exceeded the speed limit (1.7 vehicles per day)
- In the period 10th June to 18th June (Crossroads open) – 67 vehicles exceeded the speed limit (8.3 vehicles per day).
- Arrangements have been made to transfer the device to School Bank.

Speed Monitoring & Enforcement

- Information has been provided information by the PCC on PCSO support for Community SpeedWatch. Two names have been provided – both have been contacted with no response to date.
- There is a Police Surgery at the village hall on 24th June between 17:00 and 17:45. Hopefully more clarity will be provided at this event. Councillor Brown is attending.

- Speed monitoring was undertaken on Post Office Lane and Delamere Road on Tuesday 16th June. 9 vehicles were detected exceeding the prosecution speed limit out of a total of 82 vehicles.
- Two new members have expressed an interest in getting involved in CSW. Training has been requested from the new PCSO.
- A letter complaining about speed and the dangers of entering and exiting the care home had been received from the Manager/Owner of the Mount Pleasant care home on Fingerpost Lane. The response from CW&C Highways was that no further action is required. The road has been monitored and assessed and there are “old people” signs just before the care home.

8. **FOREST LIVE FEEDBACK**

Councillor Brown gave an update report as follows:

- Temporary traffic lights were placed around the parked cars on Blakemere Lane. This was a positive improvement, removing contention to pass the parked cars and providing gaps in the traffic so that vehicles to turn at Hatchmere Crossroads.
- Buses returning to Frodsham after the event all appeared full, again a positive improvement.
- No waiting cones were not placed on Blakemere Lane. This would completely nullify the impact of the traffic lights around resident’s vehicles - visitors could simply park elsewhere on Blakemere Lane causing a pinch point further up the road. This was rectified after raising a complaint.
- Attendance at Hatchmere Crossroads was undertake on 17th , 19th and 20th of June between 11:00 and 11:30. The summary is below:
 1. District Taxis were visible on all three nights waiting to pick up passengers. When approached they indicated that “their management” had told them to wait there.
 2. The crossroads were relatively quiet on the 17th June, approx. 20 people. On the 19th and 20th there were a significant number of people for a small location – approx. 40 people.
 3. No CW&C council staff were present on these days at these times.

The PC thanked Councillor Brown for the update and agreed that the above report from the Forest Live events should be sent to Forest Live.

Action – Councillor Brown to send the report to Forest Live.

9. **PLANNING**

The following planning applications had been received and circulated for comments since the May 2026 meeting:

- **26/01779/PIP** - Land at Crabmill Lane Norley Northwich: 7 pitch traveller site with day room. This application does not comply with the Neighbourhood Plan and the PC agreed to object to the application.
- **26/01583/S73** - Acorn Cottage School Bank Norley Northwich WA6 8N: Change of use to separate dwelling. Removal of condition 3 (dwelling occupation) of planning permission 15/01736/FUL

Any PC comments to be sent to the Clerk.

10. **CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The following had been received since the May 2026 meeting:

CW&C

- Neighbourhood Planning update
- Local Plan update
- Polling Scheme Review 2026 - Preliminary Review Commentary

Chalc Bulletins and training dates

PCC Police and Crime Plan refresh survey

Delamere Forest - Forest Live 2026

11. IONOS AND WEBSITE

The PC had followed up an alternative supplier for the PC web hosting and support. The support provided by IONOS is to be cancelled and the automatic IONOS Direct Debit payments have been cancelled. A refund is to be issued for the three direct debit payments of £9.37 for March, April and May 2026.

It was agreed that quotations should be obtained from Kualo for hosting and support and the migration/transition costs from Rabbit Digital. Once a quotation has been received from Kualo, the PC will then check if Rabbit Digital could provide the Norley Parish website based on the quotation that is provided.

Action – Clerk to obtain quotations from Kualo and Rabbitdigital.

12. Grant Funding Applications

The PC had received two Small Grants Application Forms for £650 funding towards the Norley News project and £360 from JNCOT towards the costs of pots of ice cream for a Norley Village Hub Open Day, which had been circulated for consideration prior to the meeting.

There were some questions raised about the Norley News and agreed the NN Team will be asked for comment on them. These relate to the high quality of paper used for the NN and if it was cost effective. Also are there any plans to have the NN on line so individual properties could opt out of a paper copy and reduce costs. To be discussed at the July meeting.

Overall, the PC were not supportive of giving away ice creams and thought a nominal charge could be made and that 250 pots were far too many and agreed to refuse this application.

The PC were supportive of the Open Day and are to check with JNCOT if there are any other projects which the PC could assist with.

Action – Councillor O'Connor to notify JNCOT of the PC decision and to contact NN to raise the points made.

The following were approved for Bacs payments:

- Grass Cutting by the Norley Sign on 02.05.26 (£100), Mowing of Village Green on 02.05.26 (£25) and on 12.05.26 (£25) totalling £150
- Cheshire Community Action Membership for 2026/27 - £55

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were reported:

- **Councillor Robinson** referred to the overhanging hedge on School Lane and the damage to the fence at Hatchmere Crossroads following the completion of the United Utilities works. The PC are following up the overhanging hedge and Councillor Edwards is following up the damage to the railings/fence with United Utilities.
- **Councillor Duff** referred to the patching works, rather than relaying, on Blakemere Lane following the United Utilities works. Councillor Edwards will follow up with UU.
- **Councillor Duff** asked if there had been any traffic incidents at Cheesehill following the extra traffic using the diversion route during the UU works. The PC were not aware of any incidents and are awaiting information relating to the full safety audit and whether the yellow lines on Cheesehill Lane can be re-painted as they are quite worn. The PC are to monitor the weeds that are growing on the grass verge.
- There was a question from the Speed Watch Group about whether a Vehicle Activated Sign for the crossroads could be considered as part of the Cheesehill package, which the PC noted. The PC are waiting for the review from Highways.
- **Councillor Harvey** asked if there was an update on the Haulage Yard following the serving of a notice to cease activity. The PC were not aware of any update and the time given for the enforcement notice issued by Planning Enforcement expires on 24th July 2026.
- **Councillor Cornelissen** mentioned that the mowing of the grass on the verge at the top of Town Farm Lane on the corner of Norley Lane is now on the CW&C mowing schedule.

As **Councillor Stocks** was unable to attend the meeting the following report had been provided prior to the meeting:

Cheshire and Warrington Mayoralty

A formal board is now in place and has been allocated an element of funding for spending during the current financial year. An officer team has been recruited on an interim basis. The mayoral election will take place in May 2027 along with the Cheshire West and Chester borough elections.

Cheshire West and Chester Report It App The app has now been de-commissioned, and residents are encouraged to use the report it page via the website instead.

Members Budget 2026/27

Funds still available if there are any local projects we can help with.

Highways

The council has started this year's surface dressing programme which will help to prolong the operational life of roads and avoid the need for expensive future repairs and roadworks.

Your Bus Community Transport Service

The service is a new bookable low-cost transport service. It runs Monday to Friday and is free to join. All information can be found on the Your Bus website which is [Your Bus | Transport | Cheshire, UK](#)

Planning Ref 26/01779/PIP – Land at Crabmill Lane, Norley

This application has been received by the authority and will be determined under delegated powers.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting Monday 20th July 2026 at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.