

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
20th JULY 2026 AT 7.00 PM AT THE NCK CENTRE IN NORLEY**

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

Councillors Gillian Edwards and Lynn Stocks - Ward Councillors – 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 Ward Councillor Gabrielle Goad.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Cornelissen declared an interest in the Blakemere Lane appeal applications.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

The PC received and noted the following:

- There was a question about the new CW&C Local Plan and the Norley Neighbourhood Plan and Housing Needs Survey. The PC confirmed that the Housing Needs Survey is complete. It has been sent to CW&C and is on the Parish Council Website. The Norley Neighbourhood Plan expires in 2030.
Councillor Stocks reported that there is a revised timetable for the CW&C Local Plan and it is likely to be mid 2028 before it is complete.
- There are a number of overhanging hedges/trees and vegetation on pavements around the village.
The PC are following 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 had followed up with United Utilities and with CW&C Highways about what needs to be done to restore the road back to the way it was.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 22ND JUNE 2026

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

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NORLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 22ND JUNE 2026

6. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

There has been an expression of interest in the Parish Council Vacancy. Peter Wright would like to join the Parish Council and will be attending the September PC meeting.

Action – Clerk to note the ‘Co-option to the Parish Council Vacancy’ for the September agenda.

7. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE

The details of the Speed Indicator Device data and fixed figures for May 2026 were received and noted. Due to the Hatchmere Crossroads closure from March to June 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) - 15.6% (5,030) of vehicles exceeded the 40-mph speed limit, 1.5% (494) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 46 mph. **The maximum peak speed was 65.5mph.** The volume of traffic on Fingerpost Lane was 32,126 (In one direction) which was over 2.5 times the March figure of 12,116. This was due to the closure of Hatchmere Crossroads.

Norley Road (Exit Speed) - 43.4% (19,677) of vehicles exceeded the 30-mph speed limit, 14.7% (6,689) exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 35 mph. **The maximum exit speed was 66.5 mph.** The volume of traffic on Norley Road was 45,385 (In one direction) which was over 1.7 times the March figure of 25,996. This was due to the closure of Hatchmere Crossroads.

School Bank (Peak Speed) - 4.5% (1,337) of vehicles exceeded the 20-mph speed limit, 49.5% (784) of vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit of 24 mph. The maximum speeds on School Bank were:

40.5 mph Friday 8th May at 11:30

39.5 mph on Wednesday 13th May at 08:13

Auto Speedwatch

The Auto Speedwatch device has now been moved to the SID post on School Bank. While configuring the device with AutoSpeed Watch they indicated that this location was not ideal. A number of other locations were, therefore, suggested. The preferred location is on the bus stop pole.

Speed Monitoring & Enforcement

Speed Enforcement was undertaken with PCSO Neil Flanagan on 13th July on High Street and Post Office Lane. No vehicles exceeded the prosecution speed limit.

Norley CSW participated in National SpeedWatch Day on 15th July on Delamere Road. Of the 1001 vehicles which passed the location 7 were exceeding the speed limit, some by a large amount. Unfortunately, two of the vehicle registration numbers were invalid when checked on the government website.

A review of speed on Norley Road was undertaken on 20th July as a result of comments from a local resident. The results were:

- 14 vehicles < 30 mph
- 48 vehicles between 30 and 40 mph
- 27 vehicles between 40 and 50 mph
- No vehicles exceeded 50 mph

Training for the two new CSW members has been arranged for the 18th September.

Fingerpost Lane/Mount Pleasant Care Home

A Speed Tag has been requested for Fingerpost Lane to get an update on vehicle speeds. This is likely to be installed after the school holidays.

A meeting with Highways, Police and Councillor Edwards manager took place on Monday 20th July to discuss the speed limit and speeding issues outside Mount Pleasant Care Home on Fingerpost Lane.

8. PLANNING

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

- **26/01781/FUL** - Barnholt Norley Hall Farm Town Farm Lane Norley Northwich WA6 8NH: Single-storey front porch extension and installation of photovoltaic the rear south-facing roof elevation.
- **26/01971/TPO** - 39 School Bank: Oak tree (T12) is situated on the verge in between the pavement running along the side of the property and the road (School Bank). It overhangs the house and now touches the roof and needs pruning before it causes damage. The offending branch should be cut back to where it forks, a length of about 3meters.
- **26/01946/106** - Delamere Forest School Blakemere Lane Norley Frodsham: Variation to the S106 Agreement relating to 23/03950/S73 to remove the affordable housing restrictions on Hornbeam Cottage and Blackthorn Cottage

- Planning Appeal **25/01337/PIP** – Former Swimming Pool Off Langdon Close Norley: Permission in principle for one dwelling
- Planning Appeal **25/01336/PIP** - Former Car Park Off Blakemere Lane Norley: Permission in Principle for one dwelling

PC comments to be sent to the Clerk before the deadlines.

It was noted that the PC had submitted objections to planning application **26/00220/FUL** - Land at School Bank Norley Northwich: Erection of two dwellings and application **26/01779/PIP** – Land at Crabmill Lane, Norley: 7 pitch traveller site with day room.

9. **CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The following had been received since the May 2026 meeting:

- Chalc Bulletins and training dates
- Delamere Forest – July 2026 Newsletter

10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Review of current financial position

The first 2026/27 report of the current Financial Position against the budget will be considered at the October PC meeting for the mid-year budget review.

Currently there are no unexpected budget items.

Review and follow ups - Internal Auditor's Report 2025/26

Recommendation

The council must adopt and publish an accessibility statement and to ensure compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (where applicable).

- The PC are following up on the quotations that had been provided for ensuring compliance with the guidelines and for the webhosting, migration and redevelopment. This includes everything needed for full compliance including migration to the new web hosting platform at Kualo (an alternative supplier) coordination and acquisition of the new www.norley-pc.gov.uk domain as required for compliance

Recommendation

The council must adopt an IT policy and a publication scheme in accordance with FOI requirements.

The PC are compiling an IT policy and a publication scheme in accordance with FOI requirements, for final approval at the September PC meeting.

Recommendation

The risk assessment document should be reviewed, updated and approved by council each financial year.

- The Risk Assessment is to be reviewed on an annual basis when the PC policies are reviewed.

Action - Councillors O'Connor, Bakewell and Clerk to draft the policies as above and circulate prior to the September PC meeting. Councillor Brown will speak to Rabbit Digital about changing the host company for the PC Website.

Grant Funding Applications

Following the last PC meeting when the PC considered a Small Grant Application Form for £650 funding towards the Norley News Councillor O'Connor followed up the questions that had been raised by the PC prior to making a decision. The questions related 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 online so individual properties could opt out of a paper copy and reduce costs. A response is awaited from the Norley News.

The following were approved for Bacs payments:

- Grass Cutting – 9th and 27th June - £50 and £5 for an underpayment in 2025/26 for the grass cutting on 6th May 2025 for £125 invoice (£120 was paid on 27th May 2025). Following the quarterly audit check, the total invoices from J.R.Dimelow in 2025/26

came to £900 while the payments were only £895. This was discovered by value matching

- Tax due on Clerk's Salary for Quarter 1 - £202.80 HMRC
- Scheduled Maintenance to 6 Speed Indicator Devices - £144 – Rock Graphics

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were mentioned:

- **Councillor Cornelissen** is following up the grass cutting on the grass verge by the Norley sign on the corner of Norley Lane.
- **Councillor Bakewell:**
 - the grass verge from School Lane to Post Office Lane has not been cut by CW&C. Councillor Cornelissen agreed to follow this up.
 - Would like to see the road surface at Hatchmere being re-instated as it was prior to the UU works.
- **Councillor Robinson** the Family Open Day that was held on 18th July was well attended and was an example of all the different groups in Norley working together.
- **Councillor Crawford:**
 - issue relating to the rights of way of vehicles coming up the hill from Marsh Lane. The PC were not aware that the rights of way sign was obscured by vegetation.
 - the Village Garden Show is being held on 5th September.
- **Councillor Harvey** would like to see the Cheshire Railings reinstated at Hatchmere.
- **Councillor O'Connor:**
 - is meeting Madeline French and other members of the Wildlife Group on 21.07.26 to discuss their plans for the memorial garden. Councillors Bakewell and Edwards are also attending.
 - is following up with CW&C Enforcement an update on the Haulage Yard enforcement notice issued by Planning Enforcement to cease activity, which expires on 24th July 2026.
 - Norley Primary School have raised the overgrown hedges in the village when they are walking the children to the church, particularly on next to some of the path from Fingerpost Lane to School Bank.

There were several reports of overgrown hedges/vegetation around the village and there was a suggestion about completing an audit of all the areas and sending photos to accompany letters to residents/landowners when requesting they are cut back.

As **Councillor Goad** was unable to attend the meeting, an update report had been circulated to the PC relating to:

- Induction & Council Integration
- Committee Appointments & Council Meetings
- Community Engagement & Casework
- Upcoming Training

Councillor Edwards

- The Council has decided to move to the Government's new plan-making system for preparing the Local Plan. This replaces the previous work carried out under the legacy plan-making system
- Is liaising with Cheshire West and Chester Licensing regarding taxi licences for the Delamere Forest events.
- Is following up with UU the railings and hedging at Hatchmere that have not been re-instated following the completion of the United Utilities works.
- Is following up the restoration of the road on Blakemere Lane with CW&C Highways and UU following the United Utilities works
- 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.

Councillor Stocks

- A CW&C Task and Finish Group is being set up to review unadopted estates.
- From 20 July, registration will open for residents wishing to use any of the seven Household Waste Recycling Centres across the borough.

All residents are encouraged to register their vehicles as soon as possible. The process is quick and simple. Once registered, each household will have up to 30 visits per year (within a 12-month period), making it easy to continue using your local recycling centres.

- The weeds on Hough Lane growing through the road and pavements have been reported and are to be included on the CW&C Weed Programme.
- The blocked gully on School Bank has been reported and is to be assessed.
- Funds are still available from the 2026/27 Members Budget if there are any local projects that we could assist with.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting **Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 7 pm at the NCK Centre.**

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.