

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th MAY 2023 AT THE CHURCH HALL

The meeting commenced at 7.18 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors M Litton, M Venables, K Hodgkinson, P Walker, P Cobley, L Cashmore, T Smith, and A Ross.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk

ALSO

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr M Stocks

Current Chairman stood down, nominations for Chairman were received

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr M Venables as Chairman of the Council for 2024/25. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr M Litton as Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2024/25, he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. MEMBER INTERESTS & CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. Councillors were asked to review the requirements of the Code of Conduct.
- b. Councillors were asked to review individual interests forms and to notify the Clerk of any amendments.
- c. Cllrs who have not yet provided a photo for the PC website and noticeboard asked to forward a suitable photo to the Clerk.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

The PC **RESOLVED** that the Chairman will receive an allowance of £100.00 for 2024/25.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

-Cllr P Walker is a Trustee of the Lostock Gralam Community Centre Association and a member of the PCC.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The PC **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the council held on 8th April 2024, having been copied to members, was a correct record.

7. AGAR (ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN) & INTERNAL AUDIT

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 (Accounting Statements) of the AGAR. The Chairman duly signed the AGAR.
- b. To note the Internal Audit has now been carried out by John Henry. The Internal Audit Conclusion is that our internal controls are adequate. One issue was reported as per below:

Issue: There is a transposition error in the draft AGAR accounts as the fixed asset total in asset register is £141,089, however, the fixed asset total recorded in the annual return is £141,098.

Recommendation: The correct fixed asset total should be recorded in the final version of the 2023/24 AGAR.

8. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. Blocked Fryer Road gully re-reported 13/04/2024; reference number is HW605456754. CWAC response: 19/04/2024 Our team have assessed your enquiry and have identified the required works which will be scheduled.
- b. The Clerk has requested that Cllr A Ross and Cllr I Parkinson be added to the Lloyds bank account to enable them to approve payments, both Cllrs should have received an email from Lloyds.
- c. Response received back regarding Manchester Road traffic data: *There is some speeding, and the profile is consistent with what we see elsewhere. Traffic tends to go faster when the roads are clearer and slower during busier periods and by the same logic whilst percentages of speeders are higher at quieter times the numbers are lower.*

Taking 'speeders' as those that would be liable to prosecution (speed limit + 10% + 2mph) the % speeding ranges from 25% between 02.00-03.00 (4 of 14 vehicles) to 1.2% between 17.00-18.00 (12 of 935 vehicles).

So, in summary, as a % more speed during the early hours but are less in number with the reverse during the day.

- d. Response shared regarding request to move the 20-mph sign on Station Road near to Lostock Tiny Tots. PC discussed road markings with Cllr M Stocks, who advised that he will speak with the relevant CWAC Highways officer.
- e. PC considered price for a sign at the bottom of Stubbs Lane to advise no vehicle access. The PC agreed that they would monitor the situation and review the need for a sign at a later date if needed.
- f. PC considered response received from the Community Rail Officer regarding fence painting and bulb planting. Cllr M Venables and Cllr M Litton will attend the next Mid Cheshire Rail meet up to enquire about the railway carrying out the painting/restoring work required to the railway fence. They will report back at the next meeting.

9. POLICE

PCSO P Hambleton sent a report. See Appendix 1

Cllr Smith recommended that the PC invite the new PCC along to a meeting.

10. PLAY AREAS AND INSPECTIONS

- a. Annual RoSPA Play inspection report circulated via email prior to meeting.
- b. Cllr M Venables gave a repairs and maintenance update.
- c. Groundworks and Leisure Ltd have now fixed two wobbly MUGA posts, a large post near to the goal is still in need of fixing.
- d. Cllr Venables spoke about suspected tree roots which have grown under the MUGA path. Action has now been taken to prevent further root growth under the path.

11. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS REPORT

- a. Cllr M Venables gave a Christmas tree presentation including various tree options and the cost. The PC agreed that the current tree supplier, is the most financially viable and less risk for now.

The PC would however like to consider the cost of replacing the white lights with coloured lights. Cllr Venables and the Clerk are due to have a meeting with NTC to discuss the Christmas tree and will request light quotes.

- b. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the Funding Working Group Terms of Reference, the next WG meeting will be held on Monday 20th May at 7.30 pm via Zoom.
- c. Cllr P Cobley – Discussion regarding the CWAC grass cutting.
- d. Cllr T Smith – requested that the new PCC, Dan Price is invited to a meeting.

12. REPORT FROM THE CLERK

- a. The Clerk asked if any councillors would like to attend any CHALC Training Courses, Cllr M Venables and Cllr M Litton will look to attend a chairman training course.
- b. Thank you to those who helped with the community litter pick, a lot was collected in the hour, with further litter picking required in some areas. It was agreed that another litter pick will be held June/July time.
- c. The Clerk has attended an LSEP meeting in the month, the very bright lights (couple of months ago) was down to weekend works which have now been completed, the project is on track for completion Q4, 2025. There was questions about whether the TATA bridge over the canal would we strong enough for the additional traffic, LSEP advised that they will be looking to improve current state of the bridge but would need to work with TATA. There was no update on bringing the waste in via rail, or whether the heat from the plant could be used other than what TATA will take.
- d. The Clerk has booked onto Cilca training sessions to be held at Knutsford Town Council offices from June to October, the training sessions are free of charge.
- e. The PC considered Members Budget Grant Applications for 2024/25. It was agreed to ask for £250.00 for the Christmas light switch on.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS & DECISIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications and **RESOLVED** to respond as below:

Planning Applications	
DECISIONS	

14. FINANCE / AUDIT/DONATIONS

- a. The public rights period will be from Monday 3 June – Friday 12 July 2024
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to accept payment of the following accounts

Type	Payee	Amount
Bank Trf	Lyndsey Sandison	£1,147.86
DD	Nest Pension	£64.35
Bank Trf	JDH Business Services Ltd	£396.00
Bank Trf	Playsafety Limited	£93.60
Bank Trf	CG Services Cheshire Ltd	£252.00
Bank Trf	The Mid Cheshire Footpath Society	£8.00
DD	Information Commissioner	£35.00
Bank Trf	CHALC	£573.42
Bank Trf	ASH Waste Services Ltd	£172.42
DD	Freeola	£8.35
Credit		
Bank Trf	Precept	£28,140.00
Bank Trf	VAT	£959.60

15. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Cllr Walker spoke about a Peak Cluster meeting he had attended in the month.
- b. Cllr Walker advised that bushes are over growing the pavement on Smithy Lane.
- c. The wildflower area looks a mess, request to review wildflower beds.
- d. Receive an update on the library van.
- e. Receive an update on the bus routes.
- f. Parking is of concern over the canal bridge due to parked cars visiting the food hub.
- g. The retail unit next to the Fryer Road junction is looking scruffy with the litter bin often overflowing.
- h. Query whether the Church bells will be rung for D-Day.
- i. Cllr Venables suggested that volunteers can get DBS checked for free and advised that those volunteering at the play area could get checked.
- j. Cllr Venables sends his apologies for the next meeting.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 3rd June 2024 in the Church Hall at 7.00 p.m.

The Clerk will be on Annual Leave from Monday 19th August to Friday 30th August.

The meeting finished at 8.47 p.m.

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Anti-Social Behaviour

Lostock Gralam

- Report of kids playing in the street, one with a baseball bat, youths found and advised, the baseball bat was taken from them and returned to the home address, where their parents spoken with.
- Report of youths on the railway line by the railway station, patrols attended the youths had already left.
- Unauthorised Encampment on Cheshire Avenue, all vehicle and caravans left within a few hours.
- Further reports of the smell of cannabis from a property on Wilson Crescent. Joint visits completed with Weavervale Housing, the tenant refused to engage at the time. Weavervale Housing considering various options to tackle this issue.

Burglary

Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

Theft

Lostock Gralam

- Theft from the Coop, two unknown females have taken medicines, alcohol, sandwiches and sweets.

Road Safety

Lostock Gralam

- Two speed enforcement sessions carried out on Manchester Road, 3 offences reported.
- Stop check of a vehicle on the A556, the vehicle was uninsured and subsequently seized.
- A report of a vehicle left abandoned and untaxed on Highfield Avenue the vehicle was seized for no tax.
- Stop check of a vehicle, the driver provided a positive drugs wipe, investigation is ongoing.

Parking/highway Obstructions

Lostock Gralam

- Numerous reports of vehicles parked across an access road to the rear access to properties on Station Road. Two vehicles' details provided and owners advised.

Other

Lostock Gralam

- A search warrant was executed on Hesketh Drive, Richard Grainger was arrested and charged with being concerned in the supply of drugs. He has been sentenced to 40 months in prison for these offences. An Anti-Social Behaviour Closure Order was granted for the property for a period of three months at the end of April, and housing are seeking possession of the property following the closure.

PCSO surgeries

Saturday 18th May, between 4pm – 5pm.

Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.

Tuesday 11th June, between 10am – 11am.

Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.