

## **MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 AT THE CHURCH HALL**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors M Venables, M Litton, K Hodgkinson, T Hodges, I Parkinson, P Walker, P Cobley, T Smith, and A Ross.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** L Sandison, Clerk

**ALSO**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 3 members of the public (mop), Revd. A Ridley and CWAC Cllr M Stocks.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr L Cashmore and PCSO P Hambleton.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024, having been copied to members, were confirmed as being a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024.**

None.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

A copy of the Annual Report outlining the work of the Parish Council over the past 12 months can be found at the end of the minutes. Appendix 1.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF LOSTOCK GRALAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Community Centre Committee member Paul Walker gave a verbal update and read out a copy of the Annual Report outlining the work of the Community Centre over the past 12 months. This can be found at the end of the minutes. Appendix 2.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ST. JOHNS CHURCH**

Verbal report summary – Revd. Ridley

- The church currently has 50 people on the roll, with an average weekly attendance of 23.
- Lostock Gralam Primary School makes regular use of the church premises, weekly during term time.
- During the past year, the church held 6 christenings, 1 wedding, and several funerals.
- Total income for the year was £41,000, comprised of:

- £6,000 from fundraising,
  - £6,000 from fees (e.g. burials),
  - £21,000 from public donations.
- The church currently owes £10,000 to the diocese for the parish share.
- An insurance claim was successfully made following a tree falling in the churchyard, which caused damage to the lych gate wall.
- The church incurs grass cutting costs exceeding £1,000 per month during the growing season.
- This year, the church funded the tidying of the remembrance garden.
- A lime tree in the churchyard has been identified as needing to be felled, adding further financial pressure.
- Revd. Ridley will retire this year. As the role is only part-time, and the church cannot afford a full-time parish share contribution, it is expected that the parish will be without a reverend after Revd Ridley retires.

## **OBSERVATIONS OF THE CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCILLORS FOR THE PARISH**

Verbal report summary – Cllr M Stocks

- The WS Storage appeal decision is still awaited from the planning inspectorate; Cllr Stocks feels that the council (CWAC) made the right decision to refuse planning. If the appeal is refused, the site will need emptying of trailers.
- The gullies and footpaths need additional funding.
- Highways have had issues delivering projects such as the Townshend Road S.106 project.
- Activity on the Lime beds will likely be coming to a close as the company looks to be going into administration.

## **QUESTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

- Mop advised that there needs to be a bigger bin next to the Manchester Road retail site as the bins are often overflowing.
- Mops (3) advised that a property at the back of them has erected a long (30ft) shed at around 8ft high, which is around 6 inches away from their garden fence, the shed has no guttering and they are concerned about the shed being so close to the boundary fence.
- Parking on the junction of Fryer Road with Manchester Road is a problem particularly in the evening.

There being no further business, the Parish Assembly meeting closed at 7.34 p.m.

## **Appendix 1 APA-**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2024–25 THE COUNCIL**

#### **THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Mark Venables has served as Chairman for the past twelve months, with Councillor Mark Litton serving as Vice Chairman. The Parish Council has successfully kept all 10 seats filled throughout the year. The Council has been active, holding a community Christmas event at the Church Hall, planting additional daffodil bulbs, and continuing its Remembrance Day displays with lamp post poppies and a permanent display of soldier silhouettes.

#### **CESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL**

Cllr Stocks has regularly attended Parish Council meetings and remained in contact with both the Council and the Clerk throughout the year. He has again supported the Parish Council by awarding a grant for the Christmas light switch-on event and funding for new boundary signs.

#### **PLAY AREA**

The play area remains well-kept, with councillors managing litter picking and bin emptying. CG Services maintained the grassed area effectively during their three-year contract, which has now concluded. Lawtons have taken over the grass cutting contract from April 2025 on a new three-year agreement and have so far performed well. Some items in the play area need cleaning and others require a fresh coat of paint; this ongoing project is being managed by Parish Councillors. Although minimal spending occurred on park maintenance in 2024–25, it is expected that professional services will be needed to complete several maintenance tasks in the coming year.

#### **HIGHWAYS**

The Highways S106 project at Townshend Road remains disappointingly stalled, despite the Clerk's efforts to obtain updates. Overall, road surfaces, gullies, and manholes are not being maintained to a satisfactory standard. While some patching work has taken place, the general condition of the roads is declining. Station Road, in particular, has several sunken areas that the Clerk regularly reports to Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways.

#### **POLICING**

Phil Hambleton is the PCSO for Shakerley and is active in the parish. He works with the local primary school and attended the community fun day hosted by the Community Centre Committee in the summer. There have been several drug-related arrests in the parish, and we hope for continued police commitment to tackling drug offences locally.

#### **CHURCHYARD**

The Parish Council has continued its support of St. John's Church by providing a churchyard bin and awarding a churchyard maintenance grant. The Church is under increasing financial pressure, with funds becoming more limited.

#### **PLANNING**

The LSEP build is nearing completion and is expected to be operational by early 2026.

The outcome of a WS Storage planning appeal is awaited. It is looking unlikely that a car sales site will now be set-up at the overflow car park on Cheshire Avenue as the site is now being readvertised.

There has been no new activity regarding a lapsed planning approval to build 14 dwellings on the bowling green at the Slow & Easy. Ground works have now been started to build six apartments next to Lostock Lodge Care home.

### **COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETINGS**

The Parish Council is represented at meetings with Renescience, LSEP, and Manchester Airport. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss and comment on business plans and operational activities.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

The Parish Council is a member of the Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association, the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society, and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. A number of parish councillors also participate in the Friends of Lostock Gralam Train Station. The group has significantly improved the station's appearance by repainting railings and walls, planting flowers, tidying the area, and maintaining a welcoming environment.



## LOSTOCK GRALAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Lostockgralamcc@gmail.com

Good evening, everyone and thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about what's been happening at the Lostock Gralam Community Centre over the past year.

It's been a busy and positive year for the centre, with lots going on to support our local community. I'm pleased to share that we've welcomed a wide range of groups and activities throughout the week. We currently host Slimming World, yoga classes, Mini Magoos (baby sensory group), a parent and toddler group, Endorphins which is a group for SEND children, Chair stretch classes, & a local band rehearse every week.

It's great to see the centre being used by people of all ages and interests. Also the Family fun day last August.

We've also made some fantastic improvements to the building. I'm delighted to say we've had a brand-new kitchen installed, which is already proving a great asset for our users and events. In addition, the centre has been redecorated throughout, giving it a fresh, welcoming feel for everyone who comes through the doors. Toilets and kitchen to be done in a couple of weeks.

The hall remains available for hire for private parties, meetings, events, and other activities. We're always happy to hear from individuals or groups who'd like to make use of the space – whether it's for a one-off event or a regular booking. We are always looking for new members to join the committee.

Just leaves me to say a big thank you to the volunteers and organisers who help keep everything running smoothly. We're looking forward to another great year ahead, and we'd love to see even more people getting involved and making use of this valuable local resource.

Stubbs Lane, Lostock Gralam, Northwich, CW9 7PU  
Registered charity no. 515365