

MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2025 AT THE CHURCH HALL

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors; M Venables (Chair), M Litton, T Smith, P Cobley, K Hodgkinson, A Ross, T Hodges, L Cashmore, P Walker and I Parkinson 7.06pm.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

ALSO

IN ATTENDANCE: CWAC Cllr M Stocks and PCSO P Hambleton.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P Walker, Cllr T Hodges and Cllr K Hodgkinson declared a personal interest in Lostock Gralam Community Centre as members of the Community Centre Association Committee.

Cllr P Walker declared an interest in the St Johns Parochial Church Council.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

None

4. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 7th July 2025, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. The Clerk advised that CWAC Highways are to meet the contractor early this week to mark out the location of the boundary signs, the highway officer will ask about an installation date whilst onsite with the contractor.
- b. No further Highway S106 project update – Chaser email sent 7/8/2025
- c. Sink holes on Station Road (ref: HW731384820) and Stubbs Lane (ref: HW731382266) have been reported to CWAC, both locations have been updated to: action to be scheduled.
- d. A leak on Station Road has been reported to CWAC and United Utilities. CWAC ref HW737130004; UU ref 07949114.
- e. The D&G bus timetable change to 8.55am on Langford Road is due to a timetable change effective from the 2nd June, to a special service during the bridge closure between Tabley and Pickmere. It is expected that the timetable change is temporary whilst bridge works are carried out.

6. POLICE

- a. PCSO Hambleton read out reports for July and August – see appendix 1 for reports.
- b. PCSO Hambleton advised that he had received an email from a Police superior about him not attending PC meetings. Cllr T Hodges advised that at a home watch meeting with the Police he had spoken highly of the PCSO but mentioned about a time when there was no police cover in the parish, which is likely where the email stems from. The Parish Council agreed to write to the Police to advise that the Parish Council is happy to receive a police update report when the

PCSO cannot attend meetings and that the time the parish was left without police cover was likely a one off due to the circumstances.

7. MARK STOCKS

Cllr Stocks gave a verbal report which covered, CWAC S106 expenditure for Townshend Road park repairs/upgrade, the A556 closure due to a sink hole, a request to highways to check the sinkhole repair surface due to reports of an uneven surface, concerns about how quick the planning appeal decision was reached for the Winnington solar farm, a volunteer group against the Winnington solar farm has been advised they will not likely be able to get a judicial review as can't win. Cllr Stocks went on to talk about devolution, the local plan consultation, issue regarding a Gibbon Drive property and that Northern Power House are due to make an announcement at an upcoming conference.

Cllr Cobley asked if HS2 will still go to Crewe.

Cllr Smith asked whether the solar farm would have to be built after the infill of soil and whether there would be a restriction on how far HGVs can travel.

8. PLAY AREA

- a) Play inspection reports and tree inspection reports have been received. The Clerk and Cllr Venables will review the play inspection reports on site. Cllr P Walker reported that the Community Centre has had a tree felled following the tree inspection findings. The Parish Council may also need to instruct an arboriculturist to trim branches currently touching an overhead wire.
- b) Cllr Venables gave a verbal update with regards to maintenance jobs carried out.
- c) The PC **RESOLVED** to reallocate £150 from the Play Area Maintenance budget to the Mark Venables Play Area Repairs earmarked reserve budget.
- d) Litter picking and bin emptying will return to twice weekly. It was noted that Cllr Cobley will cover this week's mid-week bin emptying and litter pick. A comment was noted regarding the lack of volunteers to cover a third bin emptying/litter pick during the summer break; this will be discussed next year prior to the start of the summer holidays.

9. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
25/02383/FUL	-Land At Grid Ref 369866 375223 Cheshire Avenue Lostock Gralam -Change of use of Car Parl (Sui Generis) to containerised self storage (Sui Generis) with associated fencing and gates. Appendix 1 No objection with caveat
25/02389	-Tannery Cottage, Manchester Road -Part demolition of existing extensions and erection of a two-storey side and rear extension with side balcony and alterations to existing elevations No objection
APPEALS	
APP/A0665/W/25/3359 308 25/00039/REF	Land At Winnington Avenue Northwich Description of development: Re-engineering, remediation (through the creation of a development platform), restoration, and subsequent installation of a commercial scale photovoltaic solar park including a battery energy storage system (BESS) and other associated development Appellant's name: Infinis Solar Developments Ltd and Green Earth Developments Approval on Appeal by Planning Inspector

10. CHRISTMAS 2025

- a. Cllr M. Venables and the Clerk met with the Slow & Easy on 18/08/2025 to discuss the joint Christmas event. A verbal update was given. The PC agreed to invite the primary school choir to sing at the event which will be held on Friday 21st November, with Christmas lights being switched on at 5pm. Cllr Venables mentioned that car parking may be an issue due to the Slow & Easy closing off their car park for safety reasons, it was agreed to ask if the ex-Motorite site opposite could be used, including the Church Hall car park, noted that the Community centre car park may be a little too far.
- b. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to spend £500 as its contribution to the Christmas event. This will cover St John Ambulance provision, balloon modelling, gingerbread decorating, and the purchase of a new advertising banner. Parish Councillors and the Clerk will assist at the event. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with the Slow & Easy one week prior to the event to review plans and confirm help required.

11. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. **Members matters for consideration**

1. The PC **RESOLVED** to hold a Community Litter Pick on Sunday 28th September at 2.00pm.
2. The PC **RESOLVED** to conduct a parish walk on Sunday 28th September at 12 noon (*noted the Clerk is unable to attend at this time*).
3. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to grant permission for Cllr Hodges and fellow councillors to arrange visits to local care homes to discuss Parish Council minutes and keep residents informed of local issues and updates.

b. **Members updates-** *To receive updates from working groups, meetings attended etc.*

1. Friends of Lostock Station, verbal update received. *Noted: Cllr Hodges asked the group to enquire again about disabled access at the station.*
2. Finance Working Group- Cllr T. Smith advised that some grant applications are submitted through the Community Centre, as it is a registered charity, while some are joint with the Parish Council. The WG group are still out meeting people.

Cllr Smith asked the Parish Council to help with £200 to enable the WG to buy raffle prizes including a star prize like a hamper. He went on to advise raffle prizes so far.

The Slow & Easy has confirmed that they are happy for raffle tickets to be sold at the Christmas event, and that they will also provide a raffle prize.

- I. Cllr Venables, Cllr Hodgkinson, Cllr Cobley and Cllr Ross (excluding WG members) **RESOLVED** to contribute £200 for the purchase of raffle prizes, with the expectation that the PC will be repaid from the raffle proceeds. It was noted that the WG need to firm up raffle prizes, get the detail together, and advise where tickets can be purchased from.
- II. The PC **RESOLVED** to permit advertising on the MUGA and within the play area fence priced at £10 per month per m² - £100 for 12 months, minimum 6 months commitment, payment in advance.
- III. WG Minutes received.
- IV. Summary of Finance WG progress received.

c. **Members' Reports-** *to receive minor matters of interest not included on the agenda.*

-Cllr Cobley advised of MOP comments received regarding a hedge encroaching the footpath on Bateman Rd. PC agreed that the Clerk should write to property in question.

-Drop kerb now complete on Stubbs Lane, Cllr Parkinson passed on mop thanks.

-Cllr Walker advised that the Reverend has now handed in their notice (Church).

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 3(x) to allow the meeting to continue beyond the two-hour limit.

12. CLERKS REPORT

- a. The Clerk applied for a £500 Christmas members budget grant which has now been approved.
- b. There will be a Connections Locality Meeting: Wednesday 29 October 2025, 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Cllr P Walker and Cllr M Venable to attend.
- c. The Parish Council has been awarded £1,499 from the National Lottery to purchase a village noticeboard. Item to be considered at the next PC meeting.
- d. Communication received from resident concerning the HGVs which would travel via Manchester Road to the Winnington Solar Park.
- e. Newsletter – Clerk to prepare a newsletter for mid-October to include updates from the Church and Community Centre, details about the Christmas event and Library van visiting dates.

13. FINANCE

- a. The external audit has now been completed with no issues to report. The PC should however note changes for next year due to the amendments which have been made to the practitioners guide 2025.
- b. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation and receive budget vs. actual
- c. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments which were made on 8th August.

Payee	Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	Transfer	£1,213.99
Nest	Direct Debit	£68.65
Ash Waste Ltd	Transfer	£146.04
Lloyds Bank	Standing order	£4.25
Mark Venables	Transfer	£106.97
WAP Lawton & Sons Ltd	Transfer	£696.00
DM Payroll Services Ltd	Transfer	£72.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Transfer	£252.00
Hags SMP Ltd	Transfer	£708.00

- d. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments which are due and note any income received:

Payee	Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	Transfer	£1,187.40
Nest	Direct Debit	£68.65
Ash Waste Ltd	Transfer	£176.74
Lloyds Bank	Standing Order	£4.25
Income		
Lotto	Transfer	£1499.00

14. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cllr P Walker sends his apologies for the next meeting.
- Village noticeboard.
- Raffle.

15. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to move into private and confidential session as per Local Government Act 1972, Section 100A–100C.

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the NALC revised pay scales from 1st April 2025.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 6th October at 7.00 pm, in the Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Monthly Update for July 2025 for the Shakerley Ward

Anti-Social Behaviour

Lostock Gralam

- Report of a male sat on the grass on Station Road, playing loud music. Male had left prior to patrols attending, he was identified and spoken with by patrols on the same evening.
- A drugs warrant was executed, one suspect was found in possession of a small amount cannabis, which was dealt with by means of a Community Resolution.

Burglary

Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

Theft

Lostock Gralam

- A report of registration plates being stolen from a vehicle parked at the Railway Station.

Road Safety

Lostock Gralam

- One Speed Enforcement session conducted 8 offences were captured.
- Report of a Motorbike being ridden erratically along Manchester Road, no details of the motorbike provide to assist with taking any action.
- Report of a vehicle being driven on Cheshire Avenue in an erratic manner, unable to trace the vehicle from the details provided.
- Vehicle seized twice in two days for no insurance, due to the driver having incorrect documents to drive it.

Parking/highway Obstructions

Lostock Gralam

- Parking complaints received following the change of use of the car park at the end of Cheshire Avenue, on attending there were no obstructions or offences.
- Parking issues reported on Holford Avenue, this resulted in one neighbour parking their vehicle on a neighbours driveway and a verbal exchange between the parties involved

Weekly PCSO surgeries

Thursday 28th August, between 11am – 12pm.

Lostock Green Chapel, Birches Lane, as part of the Community Hub or a police vehicle will be parked outside.

Tuesday 2nd September, between 5pm – 6pm.

Princess Road, Allostock, WA16 9LQ. A police vehicle will be parked near to the play area.

Monday 8th September, between 2pm – 3pm.

Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam, CW9 7UA.

Wednesday 17th September, between 10am – 11am.

Hulme Lane, Lower Peover, WA16 9QE. A Police vehicle to be parked near to the shop.

Wednesday 24th September, between 2pm – 3pm.

Lach Dennis Village Hall, Holmes Chapel Road, CW9 7SZ.

A Police vehicle will be parked on the car park.

Monthly Update for August 2025 for the Shakerley Ward

Anti-Social Behaviour

Lostock Gralam

- Report of a male being abusive towards a staff member at the Coop. Awaiting CCTV footage of the suspect.
- Report of youths playing football on Vale Royal Close. Report suggests the football was hitting houses, cars and fences and causing damage. There have been no reports of damage at the location.

Burglary

Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

Theft

Lostock Gralam

- Report of a parcel being stolen from the door stop on Langford Road. No witnesses or CCTV to assist with an investigation.

Road Safety

Lostock Gralam

- One Speed enforcement session carried out on Manchester Road with 0 offences captured and reported.
- Report of a Ford Ranger being driven in a dangerous manner on Manchester Road, there was no trace of the vehicle at the time.
- Vehicle stop check on Wells Avenue, believed to be involved in the supply of drugs, the vehicle and occupants were searched nothing was found on this occasion.
- Report of a vehicle being driven erratically on Manchester Road, which had been followed from Knutsford, having failed to stop following a collision. The vehicle was located and the female driver arrested for drink driving, failing to stop at the scene of a collision and child neglect due to a baby being found in the rear footwell of the vehicle.

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Wednesday 24th September, Between 2pm – 3pm.

Lach Dennis Village Hall, Holmes Chapel Road, CW9 7SZ, as part of the coffee morning.

Everyone is welcome to come along to say hello and discuss any local issues or concerns.

I am aware that not everyone will be able to attend these surgeries, if you wish to raise any concerns please complete the Residents Voice Survey on the Cheshire Police Website, search for Residents Voice Northwich, and when completing the survey, the Policing area is Shakerley.

PCSO Phil Hambleton

Shakerley Police Beat Team