

MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 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, I Parkinson, and L Cashmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr T Hodges, Cllr P Walker and Cllr M Stocks. PCSO Hambleton also sent apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC FORUM

N/A

4. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2025, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. Leaves reported to CWAC on Stubbs Lane ref SC766530135
- b. Fly tipping on Townshend Rd reported to CWAC ref SC766528795- update:- arrangements have been made to resolve.
- c. Boundary sign update still awaited. Chased 29/09/2025, 28/10/2025 and 24/11/2025.

6. POLICE

- a. PCSO Hambleton sent a report: See appendix.
- b. The PC agreed to write to the Chief Constable with regards to the proposed PCSO redundancies.
- c. Cllr M Venables will attend the PCSO surgery on Friday 5th December.
- d. Cllr P Cobley raised concerns with regards to parked cars on Manchester Road opposite Bookers.

7. MARK STOCKS

Cllrs Stocks was not in attendance but Cllr P Cobley raised concern about activity on Moss Lane.

8. PLAY AREA

- a. No inspection reports received.
- b. Cllr M Venables gave a verbal update regarding works carried out at the play area in the past month to include wet pour repairs, general checks and that since the zip wire has been retentioned the seat appears to be too high, a new chain may be required. Clerk to chase up MUGA leaf blowing.

- c. Cllr M Litton advised that the teen shelter bin was full with what appeared to be party waste and nappies. Clerk to pass on a note to the Community Centre to remind hirers about taking their rubbish away in case it may have been from a hirer.

9. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
25/03638/TPO	<p>Lostock Gralam Church of England Primary School School Lime (T2) - 2m overall crown reduction and remove any deadwood throughout the tree. Crown lift lower hanging branches to 5.5m clearance. No cutting through the main stem and to include shortening of part limbs where they are growing close to the new renovated building. Any epicormic growth will be cut back off the lower trunk.</p> <p>No objection</p>
APPEALS	

10. BUDGET 2026/27

Cllr M. Venables presented a draft budget proposal for the coming financial year. The Parish Council agreed to the suggested proposal in principle, with the final precept calculation and budget to be formally approved at the January PC meeting. It was noted that the PC has agreed to pause the CHALC membership for 2026/27 to allow potential savings, bearing in mind that the Council will require a completely new website to move to a .gov domain—a cost that will need to be saved for, to avoid significantly increasing the precept for a second consecutive year.

11. 2026 MEETING DATES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** the following meeting dates for 2026- Monday 5th January, Monday 19th January, Monday 2nd February, Monday 2nd March, Monday 13th April, Monday 11th May, Monday 1st June, Monday 6th July, Monday 7th September, Monday 5th October, Monday 2nd November and Monday 7th December.

12. NEW POLICIES

To be considered at the January PC meeting after amendments have been made.

13. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. Members matters for consideration

None

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

1. Verbal update received regarding the work of Friends of Lostock station.
2. Finance Working Group: -
 - a. Cllr T. Smith thanked the Finance Working Group members for their hard work and for the support received in selling raffle tickets.
 - b. Cllr T. Smith reported that the Working Group had successfully raised around £5,000 and secured £500 worth of raffle prizes, which is a fantastic contribution to the community projects. After costs, the raffle generated £689.66 towards upcoming projects.

c. The Parish Council considered the Talking Bench project plans and **RESOLVED** to proceed with Option B, which includes a flag path and the use of the existing Manchester Road pedestrian park entrance gate. The works are expected to cost £1529 + signage and planter costs.

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

- Feedback received from MOP via Cllr. T Smith regarding the Christmas event.
- The PC agreed to hold a Christmas debrief meeting on 19th January.
- Cllr M. Venables advised that he had now removed the Lostock Green noticeboard and that Cllrs should think of where they would like to use it.

14. **CLERKS REPORT**

- a. Thank you to all the parish councillors, and their friends and family, who volunteered at the Community Christmas Event on Friday 21st November. Whether you helped with set-up, welcomed visitors, managed parking or queues, manage the gingerbread table, were Santa's helper, part of the raffle team, collected glasses and litter, or assisted with the tidy-up — your time and effort was appreciated and made the event possible. Thank you.
- b. As part of the forthcoming Police Reform White Paper, the Government intends to remove the current Police and Crime Commissioner model when existing terms end in May 2028.
- c. The Cheshire Chief Constable proposes to reduce the number of PCSOs in Cheshire as part of the 2026–27 budget, 60 PCSO's will be made redundant under the plan.
- d. MP Esther McVey will attend an extraordinary meeting with the Parish Council on Monday 19th January at 7.00 pm.
- e. Complaints about flooding at the Griffiths Road/Manchester Rd junction received. Cllr M Stocks has actively been involved in trying to resolve the matter with Highways.
- f. Public consultation expected early December with regards to proposed housing development in the parish.
- g. Two public consultation forms were completed at the Christmas event.
- h. Communication received from the Church Hall Chair with regards to antisocial behaviour whilst the hall is hired out, communication sent to the PCSO.
- i. Parish Council Christmas gathering with be Monday 15th December at 7.30pm. Cllr Venables to confirm arrangements.

15. **FINANCE**

- a. Bank Reconciliation received.
- b. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments which are due.

Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1,401.91
Nest	DD	£72.48
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£176.04
Lloyds Bank	DD	£4.25
Northwich Town Council	TRF	£5,128.80
DM Payroll Services Ltd	TRF	£72.00
St John Ambulance	TRF	£137.28
Tim Smith	TRF	£95.02
Mark Venables	TRF	£15.50
Income		
Raffle	CASH	£933.00

16. **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Spring work party for Townshend Road

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

-Ordinary Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 5th January 2026 at 7.00 pm, in the Church Hall.

To note the Clerk will be taking annual leave for the Christmas period.

The Parish Council will therefore close on Tuesday 23rd December and reopen Monday 5th January

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Report of youths posting items through an elderly resident's letterbox on lodge Lane.
- 3 reports of youths banging on the windows on a business on Cheshire Avenue and generally being a nuisance to workers. Patrols have taken place to deter the issue and no further reports received in the last two weeks.

Burglary

- No reports received.

Theft

- Report of the theft of a parcel left in the communal post room at Celandine Court.

Road Safety

- Vehicle stop, following checks it was established the driver didn't have any insurance, the vehicle was seized and driver reported.

Parking/highway Obstructions

- No reports received.

Weekly PCSO surgeries

Friday 5th December between 5pm and 6pm, at Costa Coffee.

Tuesday 30th December between 1pm and 2pm at Costa Coffee.