

**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT THE CHURCH HALL**

**Part I**

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

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

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

Cllr P Walker declared a personal interest in St Johns Church as a member of the Church PCC.

Cllr T Hodges abstained from voting on planning application 24/02378/FUL as a neighbour.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

No public in attendance.

**4. MINUTES**

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

**5. PROGRESS REPORT**

- a. Lostock Gralam has been added to the mobile library route commencing in September.
- b. The bulb order has been placed, date for planting to be arranged once the bulbs have been received.
- c. WS Storage have been issued with an Enforcement Notice in relation to the land.
- d. The grass at the Hall Lane car garage has now been cut.

**6. POLICE**

- a. PCSO Hambleton gave a verbal report. See Appendix for report.
- b. PCSO response regarding speeding shared with the PC.
- c. PCSO response regarding parking along Manchester Road shared with the PC.
- d. The Clerk is awaiting to hear back when the new PCC will be able to attend a meeting with the PC.

Cllr Cobley queried whether the Police speed enforcement van could be moved from Lostock to Lostock Gralam, PCSO Hambleton advised that there are no suitable places for the van to park in the parish.

## **7. MARK STOCKS**

Cllr Stocks gave a verbal report:

- Enforcement Notice has now been issued to 23/01998/FUL at the old Octel site.
- Pressure to be put on the council to spend more on pot holes and gully emptying to reduce the decline in road surfaces.
- Cllr Stocks would be happy for the PC to use a £300.00 grant offer for Christmas lights on the cost of the 2024 Christmas tree (one off).
- Complaints received regarding vehicles travelling the wrong way along School Lane.
- Vehicle speed monitoring device available for the PC to book, although there is currently a 12 month wait.

Cllr Cobley queried how CWAC are deciding to spend money as other councils appear to be spending money on road maintenance. Cllr Stocks advised that CWAC is going to produce a document which shows where money is being spent.

Cllr Cashmore advised that the Harris Road wildflower meadow looks terrible.

Cllr Litton advised that the PC has reported overgrown hedge/trees on the Station Road bridge and that it remains a problem with vehicles having to drive in the middle of the road to avoid the hedge.

## **8. BOUNDARY SIGNS**

The Clerk is in the process of arranging a meeting with CWAC Highways. Defer agenda item until next meeting.

## **9. CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS**

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept NTC Christmas tree quote for a 20ft tree including additional services.
- b. The PC agreed to defer purchasing new Christmas tree lights. The existing white lights will be used unless additional funding can be secured to purchase new lights.
- c. The PC agreed that the Christmas light switch on date should be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- d. The PC agree that the School PTA should be invited to a meeting to discuss any fund raising plans at the Christmas light switch on this year.

## **10. PLAY AREA**

- a. Cllr M Venables gave a verbal update and advised that the new recycling bin had arrived, Cllr Venables purchased a flagstone for the bin to sit on, the bin has also been secured to the flagstone to ensure that it is secure. The old bin will also be attached to a flagstone and relocated to the toddler play zone.
- b. Cllr M Litton advised that he is unavailable to empty the bins at the weekend, Cllr T Smith advised that he should be available. Cllr Venables requested that Cllrs respond on the litter picking WhatsApp group even if they are unable to help.

## **11. PLANNING**

The council noted the Minutes of the Planning Committee decision.

<b>PC PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISIONS IN THE MONTH</b>	
24/02116/FUL	17 Hesketh Drive, Lostock Gramam, Northwich Replacement dwelling  No concerns raised at Cllr email consultation level
<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC</b>	
24/02378/FUL	-238 Manchester Road Lostock Gramam -Loft conversion, with existing hipped roof to be removed and replaced with gable, a front roof light and, dormer to the rear.  <b>No Objection</b> Cllr T Hodges abstained from voting and will submit any comments as a MOP
<b>CWAC PLANNING DECISIONS</b>	

## **12. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

### a. Matters for Consideration

1. Cllr I Parkinson shared concerns raised by local parents about crossing Manchester Road at the pedestrian refuge island. The PC discussed the topic and agreed that the Clerk should look back to see when the last pedestrian/traffic survey was carried out and ask CWAC Highways whether additional signage would be an option. Matter to be included on the next Agenda.

### b. Members updates

1. Cllr T Smith gave a verbal update with regards to the Finance Working Group activity over the past month. Letters have now been sent out to a selection of local businesses seeking funding, no responses have been received to date. The next Finance Working Group meeting was agreed for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm at the Slow & Easy.
2. Cllr M Venables gave a verbal update with regards to the 'Friends of Lostock Gramam Station' activity over the past month. Photos of the work carried out to be taken for the PC website.

### c. Members Reports

1. Cllr T Smith advised that the Townshend Road hill has not been cut this year, and that the steps on Townshend Road are overgrown, both matters require reporting to CWAC. He also advised that there is a litter bin not being used at the bottom of the steps which could be used at a better location. To be discussed at the next meeting.
2. Cllr P Cobley advised that ivy is growing over the footpath near to the Stubbs Lane footpath, and that it originates from a Lodge Lane property.
3. Cllr K Hodgkinson advised of a tree obstructing the view of motorists from School Lane to Stubbs Lane.
4. Cllr L Cashmore – can we ask ULOCKIT for a container? Item for next agenda.
5. Cllr P Walker – Several shrubs/hedges still encroaching over the public footpath on Smithy Lane, there are also some large vehicles which overhang driveways and block the footpath.
6. Cllr T Hodges – Neighbourhood Watch had a stall at the Community Centre Funday, MOPs are still using social media to raise concerns rather than report matters to the Police. Topic for the next newsletter.
7. Cllr L Cashmore raised concern about a vehicle which parks facing the Aitchison Road junction.

## **13. CLERKS REPORT**

- a. The Clerk gave a brief overview of the results from the public consultation run at the Funday, the public rated the following issues out of 10 for priority; dog fouling 10, litter 9.7, anti-social behaviour 9.5, speeding 9.5, Christmas tree event 9.0, Police presence 8.8, receiving a parish council newsletter 8.2, Facebook communication 7.7, no smoking on the park 7.5, PC website 7.0, PC meeting time/public speaking 4.8.
- b. Any CHALC updates have been shared via email in the month.

**14. FINANCE**

- Three Co-op bank signatories signed the bank closure form.
- PC **RESOLVED** to approve the budget vs. actual, cashflow forecast and bank reconciliation. Cllr L Cashmore verified the bank reconciliation and signed the corresponding paperwork.
- The external audit has now been completed with no issues to report.
- The PC **RESOLVED** to make the following payments and note income received.

<b>Payment type</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Online TRF	Lyndsey Sandison	£1,185.10
Direct Debit	Nest - (Direct Debit)	£64.35
Online TRF	Ash Waste Ltd	£179.52
Online TRF	CG Services Cheshire Ltd	£492.00
Online TRF	Boston Seeds Ltd *PO sent awaiting Invoice*	£148.99
Online TRF	Broxap Ltd	£932.94
	<b>Income</b>	
Online receipt	Leading Military Fitness	£130.00

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

- Boundary sign update/decision.
- Pedestrian refuge island.
- Townshend Road litter bin.
- Container storage.
- Finance WG update.
- Agree who will switch the Xmas lights on.
- Agree date for PC Christmas get-together.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm

**PART B – Confidential matter**

The PC **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 11 the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items.

The PC **RESOLVED** to contribute £200.00 towards the Clerks CILCA qualification, payable ASAP on the agreement that if the Clerk were to leave the council within two years that they would be required to repay the sum.

**15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

*L. Sandison*

## Appendix 1

### **Monthly PCSO Update**

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

##### Lostock Gralam

- Report of a drunk male on Townshend Road shouting at people who were walking past, patrols attended the male was shouting and swearing in the street and was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.
- Report of a drunk male trying to purchase alcohol at the Coop. Staff refused to serve the male, who initially refused to leave the store, but left prior to patrols attending.
- Report of a fight involving 3 males on Manchester Road by the crossroads. Prior to patrols attending the males had left the area.

#### **Burglary**

##### Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

#### **Theft**

##### Lostock Gralam

- Theft from the Coop. Female suspect enters the store, selects numerous grocery items and leaves the store without making payment. Left the car park in a red vehicle on foreign plates.
- Theft from the Coop. Two male suspects enter store select various bottles of alcohol and leave without making payment.
- Theft from the Coop. A barred female suspect enters the store purchases a bottle of Orange Juice on checking CCTV the female has concealed a bottle of wine in a bag.
- Theft of a sign from La Turka. Enquiries and investigation are on going.

#### **Road Safety**

##### Lostock Gralam

- One Speed enforcement session carried out on Manchester Road with 4 offences captured.
- Vehicle stop check Griffiths Road, following routine checks it was established the vehicle had no insurance and was subsequently seized.

#### **Parking/highway Obstructions**

##### Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

#### **Weekly PCSO surgeries**

##### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, between 10am – 11am.**

Princess Road, Allstock. A police vehicle will be parked near to the play area.

##### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September, between 5pm - 6pm.**

Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.

##### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, between 2pm – 3pm.**

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

##### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, between 5pm – 6pm.**

Lostock Green Church, Birches Lane, A Police Vehicle will be parked outside the Church.

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**