

**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2025 AT THE CHURCH HALL**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

**ALSO**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** CWAC Cllr M Stocks

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr K Hodgkinson, Cllr I Parkinson was absent. PCSO Hambleton sent his apologies.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr P Walker and Cllr T Hodges 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**

No public present.

**4. MINUTES**

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

**5. PROGRESS REPORT**

- a. The boundary sign order has been sent, and the plans received from Highways which on review are fine to accept, the street furniture license is yet to be received. The PC agreed to proceed with the order and accept the plans.
- b. Response received from Highways regarding parking on Townshend Rd pavement and grass verge. The PCSO will monitor the situation and take appropriate action when required.
- c. Cllr Venables has reported the lamp posts covered in ivy on Stubbs Lane – ref HW686357160. The report was closed advising that any action required has been taken although the street lamp is still covered in ivy. Cllr M Stocks agreed to investigate what action has been taken to resolve the issue.
- d. Cllr Cashmore has reported a highway fault at Stubbs Lane/Aitchison Rd junction – ref HW684632949. This report also appears to have been closed without action.
- e. Response received from TATA regarding the cessation of the soda ash plant. There are currently no plans to demolish the old plant as there is a small packing operation at the site.
- f. Litter bins- Landlord of the Manchester Road retail units has asked the shopkeeper to work with the parish council on litter/bin concerns. CWAC are also looking into bin capacity.

**6. POLICE**

- a. PCSO Hambleton sent a report – see appendix for report.

*Noted: Query who will cover PCSO Hambleton's annual leave.*

*Noted: Clerk to share Neighbourhood Alert sign up link with Cllrs and on social media.*

## 7. MARK STOCKS

- CWAC to increase the budget by 4.99%.
- Motion accepted to roll out 20 mph speed limit for 24 schools which are on roads with a speed limit more than 20 mph.
- CWAC looking to increase the highway budget, although the increase will still fall short of what's needed.
- Cllr Stocks spoke about devolution advising that there would be additional funding although the creation of a mayor would come at a cost.
- The Members Budget will be open from the new financial year, Cllrs Stocks is happy to support the PC Christmas event and/or additional bin capacity although any new bins would have to be on an existing route.
- Cllr Cashmore asked if Lostock Tiny Tots could be included in the 20 mph roll out.
- Cllr Smith asked about devolution and the financial implications, Cllrs Stocks advised that debts would not be shared between Cheshire West/East and Warrington but if an authority fails then this is when there would be an issue, the Police and Fire authorities would not change.
- Cllr Cobley commented that Northwich Town looks shabby and where is the money going.
- No further update known about Winnington solar park.

## 8. ASSET REGISTER

- a) The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the 2025 Asset Register, the Clerk and Chairman duly signed the document.

## 9. RISK ASSESSMENT

- a) The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the 2025 Risk Assessment, the Clerk and Chairman duly signed the document.

## 10. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

- a) The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the 2025 Annual Governance Statement & Administration policy.

## 11. PLAY AREA

- a. No inspection reports or quotes to consider.
- b. Cllr Venables gave an update with regards to maintenance jobs carried out at the park, the shrubbery is currently being tidied up, Cllr Venables has replaced the grease nipples in the four-bay swing, the cone climber has also been regreased, Cllr Cobley will assist Cllr Venables in having a closer look at the cone climber mechanism.
- c. Cllr Litton continues to litter pick and empty the play area bins at the weekend, unfortunately some park visitors continue to drop litter even whilst the park is being litter picked.

It was agreed that there should be another community litter pick, the PC agreed that a community litter pick will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 3 pm starting on Stubbs Lane opposite the Community Centre.

Cllr Venables advised that the PC regularly gets requests for litter picking equipment from the public, it may be that the PC want to include an amount in the budget for litter picking sticks, in the mean time any Cllrs with litter picking sticks which are not being used, if they could be surrendered to allow these to be given out to members of the public who want to litter pick in the parish.

## 12. CHRISTMAS 2025

- a. The PC agreed that the Christmas tree will be located at the Hall Lane traffic lights for 2025 and that there will not be an attended light switch on at the tree side.
- b. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the NTC quote of £1235 Net for a complete new set of Christmas tree lights comprising of 20 strings of white static LED lights and warm white twinkly lights.
- c. The PC agreed that the preferred community Christmas event location for 2025 is the Slow & Easy. The Clerk will write to the Slow & Easy to advise that the PC would like to work with them on a community Christmas event. PC to discuss Christmas further and prepare a plan.

### 13. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
APPEALS	
25/00005/ENF	-Associated Octel Limited, Moss Lane, Lostock Green -The material change of use of the land to storage and distribution (Class B8) use for the storage of refrigerated trailers, plus an open sided structure with plastic panelled dual pitched roof and the construction of earth bunds.  The PC has submitted an objection response to the planning inspectorate.

### 14. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- a. Matters for Consideration
  1. Cllr P Walker enquired whether the PC formally agreed to leave out the Remembrance soldiers. The agreement to leave out the soldiers was an informal decision.
- b. Members updates
  1. Cllr T Smith gave a 'Friends of Lostock Station' update. Suggestion received to share Northern Rail Friends of Lostock Station social media posts with the community.
  2. Cllr M Venables advised that he and the Clerk had supplied Parish Council CCTV footage to the Police to help with their enquiries regarding a break in on Stubbs Lane.
- c. Members Reports
  1. Sink hole on Stubbs Lane is getting worse – Clerk to chase up CWAC.
  2. Litter/fly tipping on the A556 lay-bye.
  3. The next Finance Working group meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in the Slow & Easy.
  4. The Station Rd hedge still has not been cut back, Clerk to chase up CWAC.

### 15. CLERKS REPORT

- a. On 5 February, Government confirmed that Cheshire and Warrington have been accepted as part of a Devolution Priority Programme. Further information can be found at: <https://www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com/>

**MHCLG Cheshire and Warrington Devolution Consultation-** This is a central government consultation on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined Authority for the local government areas in Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Chester and Warrington Borough. Please see link below: - [Cheshire and Warrington Devolution Consultation - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

- b. Clerk to attend a Storengy open day on Friday 28th March.
- c. The Clerk attended an LSEP meeting in the month – verbal update was given.

## **16. FINANCE**

- a. The PC reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments which are due.

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
TRF	Lyndsey Sandison	£1,169.81
DD	Nest	£68.65
TRF	ASH Waste Ltd	£185.40
TRF	CG Services Cheshire Ltd	£504.00
TRF	Freeola Email & website hosting	£22.10
TRF	Mark Venables	£193.95
	<b>Income</b>	

## **17. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Neighbourhood watch.
- Christmas – agree a strategy.
- Clerks Appraisal – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am, Costa Coffee.

## **18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

*L. Sandison*

## Appendix

### Monthly Update for February for the Shakerley Ward

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

##### Lostock Gralam

- One report of people attending a property within Celandine Court, being drunk, shouting and swearing at other residents.
- One report of males walking around the Cheshire Limes Estate wearing masks and having arrived in a van. Details of the vehicle obtained. The report was not made until the following morning, therefore no patrols were deployed.

#### Burglary

##### Lostock Gralam

- One reported, a resident woken up by a noise within the property, and observed a figure run out of the address. Nothing reported as being taken/missing. Investigation is ongoing.

#### Theft

##### Lostock Gralam

- A report of a resident being sent mobile phones via a courier, and shortly after the delivery, a second delivery driver turns up to collect the parcel stating it has been delivered to the wrong address. Enquiries are ongoing.

#### Road Safety

##### Lostock Gralam

- One Speed Enforcement session carried out, 4 offences were captured.
- A vehicle stop check on Manchester Road, following enquiries it was established the vehicle wasn't insured and therefore seized and the driver reported for the offence.
- Report of a vehicle being driven erratically on Manchester Road. The vehicle was stopped, the driver provided a positive breath test, arrested and charged.
- A vehicle was seen being driven on Townshend Road it was believed the driver drove under the influence of drugs. The vehicle was stopped the driver provided a positive drugs wipe, both the driver and vehicle were searched, resulting in a quantity of cannabis being found. The driver was arrested for drug driving and for Possession with Intent to Supply drugs. The driver's property was searched and a large quantity of drugs and drug dealing related items were found. The investigation is ongoing.

#### Parking/highway Obstructions

##### Lostock Gralam

- One report received regarding vehicles obstruction the pavement on Townshend Road, following the report numerous patrols have taken place, and no obstructions have been observed. Patrols will continue and the most appropriate action will be taken.

#### **Weekly PCSO surgeries**

Monday 3rd March, between 10am – 11am.

Hulme Lane, Lower Peover.

A Police vehicle to be parked near to the shop.

Saturday 8th March, between 2pm - 3pm.

Lach Dennis Village Hall, Holmes Chapel.

A Police Vehicle will be parked on the Car Park.

Wednesday 9th April, between 5pm – 6pm.

Princess Road, Allstock.

A police vehicle will be parked near to the play area.

Thursday 17th April, between 6pm – 7pm.

Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.

Tuesday 22nd April, between 2pm – 3pm.  
Hulme Lane, Lower Peover.  
A Police vehicle to be parked near to the shop.

Tuesday 29th April, between 3pm - 4pm.  
Lostock Green Church, Birches Lane, Lostock Green.  
A Police vehicle will be parked outside.

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, <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/campaigns/northwich/residents-voice> when completing the survey, the Policing area is Shakerley.

PCSO Phil Hambleton  
Shakerley Police Beat Team