

**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th
DECEMBER 2023 AT THE CHURCH HALL**

Part I

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors M Litton (Chair), M Venables (Vice Chair), L Cashmore, M Parkinson, P Cobley, T Smith, A Ross, P Walker, and K Hodgkinson^(7.15pm).

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk

PUBLIC/PCSO: Two members of the public (MOP)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P Walker is a member of the Community Centre Association Committee and PCC.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

MOP enquired whether planning application 23/01630/FUL (car sales facility at the overflow carpark on Cheshire Av.) has been determined, the Clerk confirmed that the application is still awaiting a decision from CWAC Planning.

MOP enquired whether there has been any progress with regards to a request for a bus stop on Cheshire Av. The Clerk gave an update on the initial response received. **Action:** The Clerk will chase up for any further updates in the New Year.

MOP raised litter concern on the overflow carpark. MOP advised that they would be happy to carry out litter picking in the area. **Action:** The Clerk will arrange for the MOP to have their own litter picking stick, gloves, bags and provide a Risk Assessment/Volunteer Policy etc.

MOP introduced themselves as a new resident to the parish and advised that they would be happy to get involved in litter picking etc.

Cllr T Smith raised the following:

Asked if the Christmas tree lights could come on from 3.30 pm in line with the Towns Festive lighting.
Enquired why so many newsletters were left over from the latest newsletter leaflet drop.
Enquired whether a gully update has been received.

Cllr M Parkinson advised that excavation work appears to be going on at the WS Storage site which is still awaiting a planning permission outcome.

Cllr P Walker advised that the litter bin outside of the Premier store does not appear to be being emptied when other parish litter bins are emptied.

4. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a

correct record. The Minutes will be signed at the January meeting due to the printed Minutes being unavailable for signature in the December meeting.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- Response received with regards to Manchester Road highway concerns in Lostock- See Appendix.
- The Clerk has for a third time reported the missing litter bins on Stubbs Lane to CWAC. Ref SS565011991.
- The Clerk has requested a gully update three times from CWAC Highways, with no update received.
- Highways and INOVYN have been working together to try and resolve the Lostock Hollow flooding, the Clerk has requested that the road sweeper be deployed to ensure that the now cleared gullies do not get clogged again with debris off the road.

6. POLICE

PCSO P Hambleton sent the following update:

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Report from the Travel lodge of 2 drunk males reusing to leave and swearing at staff, either of the males were booked in as guests and were removed by request of police.

Theft

- There have been a couple of reported thefts from the Coop. One report relates to alcohol being stolen, CCTV images provided of the suspect, pending identification of the suspect. The second relates to the theft of a soft drink stolen by a youth in school uniform.

Speeding

- One enforcement session on Manchester Road, 7 offences captured.

7. MARK STOCKS - N/A

8. CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH ON REVIEW

Recommendations for the 2024 light switch on include a minimum of 180 cakes, 50 bottles of water, 75 juice drinks, 70 gingerbread, 2 ketchups, fruit (tangerines), bins located in the hall, roped off public standing area at the tree side to ensure that the public are kept behind the footpath/choir.

Noted that the school choir children need a clear path to/from the tree side, and an announcement that choir children are to be collected from the school grounds and not at the tree side.

A raffle or Church tombola would be desirable.

Clerk to look at cost/funding for coloured Christmas tree lights in line with Northwich Town for 2024.

9. PLAY AREA

-Cllr M Venables and the Clerk have now reviewed the latest play area inspection report and identified items which require further action. A bongo drum will be removed for painting, the glockenspiel also requires strengthening due to the frame splitting, one of the MUGA goal support posts is a little loose in its foundation.

-The latest tree inspection report has now been received. Three quotes will be presented at the next PC meeting.

-The Clerk will look for funding to purchase an additional litter bin for the play area. Over winter the play area bins will likely be ok being emptied once per week.

10. PLANNING

The Council considered the following planning applications and **RESOLVED** to respond as below:

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS –	
<i>The PC no longer automatically receives paper copy plans, please view documentation at https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/</i>	
23/03318/FUL	-Units 1 and 2 469 Manchester Road Lostock Gralam -Proposal to use an external area for outdoor seating. The area will include planters, seating, and a new surface finish. -Conditional No Objection
NEW PLANNING DECISIONS	

11. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

-Lostock in Bloom – the purchasing of further daffodil bulbs will be moved to next year.

-Cllr T Hodges – **Noted** that the PCC has 9 assessment kits for checking on average speed, the Clerk has requested that Manchester Road be considered.

-Cllr A Ross – discussion regarding the removal of litter bins on the Cheshire Limes and CWAC Stubbs Lane bin.

12. CLERKS REPORT

-The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible. For all spinal points to 43 the agreed award was a flat rate payment of £1,925, this equates to a £1 per hour increase. The PC **RESOLVED** to pay the Clerk backpay to the 1st April 2023, and apply the £1.00 per hour increase.

- The PC discussed a draft Biodiversity Policy, it was agreed that the PC will discuss and set targets in the new year.

- The precept will be set in the January PC meeting.

- The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the below meeting dates for 2024:

Monday 8th January 2024 – 7.00 pm (1st New Years Day)
Monday 5th February 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 4th March 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 8th April 2024 – 7.00 pm (1st Easter Monday)
Monday 13th May 2024 – 7.00 pm (6th May Bank Holiday)
Monday 3rd June 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 1st July 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 5th August 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 2nd September 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 7th October 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 4th November 2024 – 7.00 pm
Monday 2nd December 2024 – 7.00 pm

-To note that the defib was dispatched in the month, the defib and accessories were not used. The defib will require replacement pads in February due to the use by date approaching.

-The Clerk will attend the next LSEP LLC meeting on the 14th December, 1pm to 3 pm via Teams.

-Many thanks to the Cllrs who helped putting up and taking down the Remembrance poppies and tommy soldiers.

- Many thanks to those who carried out a litter pick along Manchester Road on the 25th November.
- Complaint received regarding the Hall Lane gullies and damage being caused to the grass verge from a vehicle parking on the grass green on Townshend Road, the Clerk will write to WVHT with regards to vehicles driving over public footpaths to get to the grass green.

14. FINANCE

- The PC **RESOLVED** to award Lostock Gralam Mother + Toddler a £200.00 S137 grant to provide a Christmas party.
- The PC considered an S137 grant application from Lostock Gralam Primary School PTA to purchase a Tommy Soldier. As Remembrance Sunday has now passed, the PC agreed to not award a grant at this time but to invite the PTA to a Parish Council meeting in the summer to discuss Remembrance Day and the the Christmas Light Switch on.
- The Clerk advised that the Co-op bank cannot provide online two-person authorisation in addition to the Clerk, this would therefore be a breach of the Financial Standing Orders. Lloyds Bank however offer a two-person authorisation excluding the Clerk, with no monthly fee for Parishes with an income less than £50,000. The Clerk will therefore look at the application process.
- The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments which are due:

Cheque	Payee	Amount
301017	Lyndsey Sandison -PAID	£308.60
301018	Mark Litton -PAID	£3.90
301019	Lyndsey Sandison	£947.01
S/O	Nest - (Direct Debit)	£33.20
301020	Ash Waste Ltd	£160.51
301021	CG Services Cheshire Ltd	£252.00
301022	Mark Venables	£13.17
301023	Indigo Surveys	£432.00
301024	Lostock Mother & Toddler	£200.00
Income		
INOVYN	Xmas Light Switch on grant	£500.00
Anderton Concrete	Lostock in Bloom grant	£500.00

15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cllr M Venables gave his apologies.
- Observation received that there are no litter bins between Northwich and Lostock along Manchester Road.
- A barking dog at a Manchester Road property jumps up along the property perimeter wall which is intimidating for pedestrians passing, especially as the dog looks as though it would be capable of jumping over the wall.
- Townshend Road French drain is failing and requires reporting to CWAC.

The meeting finished at 8.26 pm

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

L. Sandison

Appendix

Good afternoon, Lyndsey,

The bins have been removed in the interest of health and safety of residents, public and my staff. POSL took ownership of the public open space on Cheshire Limes in 2017. There were 2 small basket litter bins at the time of transfer which, upon emptying were filling up with general rubbish, bottles, crisp packets, cans etc. We did have the odd dog waste bag which is not out of the ordinary. In 2019 we installed much bigger bins in the same location as our frequency of visit (fortnightly) was not sufficient to cope with the litter in the bins. In more recent years it is now deemed acceptable to use any bin in a public area for dog waste. These bins are now 99% dog waste and the contents of each bin weighs around 60kg. My operatives were double bagging the contents, loading onto a trailer and bringing it back to our depot 70 miles away to dispose of in a skip. During the journey often bags would split or rain water mixed with faeces would leak out onto the trailer and our equipment which would subsequently have to be cleaned.

We have received various concerns from residents on the development about the smell coming from the bins. Our first approach was to sign the bins with 'No Dog Waste' stickers which were removed by the time of our next visit. The bins have also been vandalised and now appear unsightly. As bins on a lot of our sites are no longer used for their intended purpose, we have trialled the removal of bins on other sites and have found this a successful approach with dog walkers more conscientiously taking their dog waste home with them. POSL will maintain a fortnightly litter pick of the area and continue to monitor the situation.