

**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th
APRIL 2025 AT THE CHURCH HALL**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

ALSO

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Hambleton

Noted: The Chairman agreed to include 15 Smithy Lane planning application as an additional item on the summons, and to propose to move item 13a to Private & Confidential.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr M Litton, Cllr A Ross and CWAC Cllr M Stocks.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P Walker, Cllr K Hodgkinson 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 3rd March 2025, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. The Clerk & Chairman met CWAC Highways to discuss overgrown hedge on Station Rd, it was agreed that Highways would contact the property owner to ask that the foliage be cut back. PC to review next meeting if the hedge has been cut back and consider writing a letter to the property from the PC.
- b. Ivy now cut from Stubbs Lane Street lamp.
- c. The boundary sign order has been placed, the Clerk has requested an update.
- d. The Clerk has enquired about installing a bus stop on Wells Avenue. The Clerk conducted a poll on Facebook, which received 13 positive votes. The Clerk will also contact Celandine Court and Lostock Lodge Care Home to gather information on how many people from these two properties might use a bus stop on Wells Avenue.

6. POLICE

- a. PCSO Hambleton gave a report – see appendix for report.
- b. Cllr Venables enquired about police contact for the parish when the PCSO is on annual leave, PCSO Hambleton advised that 101 should be used and that there are three PCSO's who cover several parishes, which due to annual leave and sickness may not always be available.

7. MARK STOCKS

Purdah- No report from Cllr Stocks.

8. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the 2024/2025 Annual Governance Statement. The Chair and the Clerk duly signed the AGAR section 1.

9. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the revised model Financial Regulations with amendments to the P/O and personal bank card limit from £250 to £500.

10. PLAY AREA

- a. The ROSPA annual play area inspection will take place in April.
- b. To note, the Clerk has asked for a quote to repair two play area entrance gates which are not fully closing, the quote received was in excess of £1000, therefore the Clerk will look to gain further quotes and report back at the next PC meeting.
- c. Cllr M Venables gave a verbal update with regards to maintenance jobs carried out in the past month.
- d. Cllr M Venables advised that three litter picks/bin emptying will likely be required over the school summer holidays.
- e. Daffodils have been picked at the play area, the Clerk put out a social media post asking members of the public not to pick the flowers. The PC agreed to mention about not picking the daffodils in the next PC Newsletter and remind residents before the daffodils flower next year.

11. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
25/00802/TPO	- Lostock Gralam Football Club Manchester Road - Tree 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Works to trees as per report issued by CWAC Highways Department No Objection
25/00762/FUL	-15 Smithy Lane, Lostock Gralam -Rear extension No Objection
APPEALS	
24/01426/FUL APP/A0665/D/25/3360 807	-316 Manchester Road, Lostock Gralam -Erection of detached garage and garden room The above Planning Appeal was started on 10 March 2025. As this appeal is proceeding under the Householder Appeals Service, there is no opportunity for you to submit comments. However, we have forwarded all the representations made to us on the application to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. These will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal. No Objection
23/02766/FUL APP/A0665/W/25/3359 30	-Land At Winnington Avenue, Northwich -Re-engineering, remediation (through the creation of a development platform), restoration, and subsequent installation of a commercial scale

	<p>photovoltaic solar park including a battery energy storage system (BESS) and other associated development</p> <p>The appeal will be determined on the basis of a hearing, We have forwarded all the representations made to us on the application to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. These will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.</p> <p>Same objections stand from original planning application</p>
--	--

1867

14. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. Members matters for consideration

1. Cllr T Hodges – Spoke about Neighbourhood watch, and recommended that all the Cllrs consider signing up.
2. Cllr P Walker – PC **RESOLVED** to leave out Remembrance Soldier silhouettes as a permanent display.
3. All- Christmas strategy. The PC agreed that the Clerk should formally write to the Slow & Easy to confirm that the Parish Council would like to work with them on a community light switch on event. The parish council would like to offer gingerbread decorating, balloon modelling and to provide mince pies. The parish council would also help to promote the joint event and have a banner made.

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

1. Lostock Gram Friends of Lostock Station, verbal update received.
2. Finance Working Group - Cllr T Smith gave a verbal update.
 - PC received and **RESOLVED** to accept 24th March WG Minutes.
 - PC agreed to source ID lanyards for all Cllrs, either by purchasing sleeves from Amazon priced at £6.99 or by Cllr donation of sleeves. Clerk to produce and print ID cards for lamination.
 - PC **RESOLVED** to accept WG suggested projects (inc. in minutes)
 - **Noted:** Cllr P Walker has been in communication with Jack Richards who would like to support the PC in purchasing new Christmas tree lights and support the community fun day with an HGV cab for display.

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

1. Cllr I. Parkinson again raised concern about the lack of a dropped kerb at the end of the Packhorse Close alleyway leading to Stubbs Lane. This causes a resident with mobility difficulties additional journey time to reach the shops, as they must avoid the kerb, which could be a trip hazard for them. The Clerk will contact CWAC Highways again to raise the matter.

15. CLERKS REPORT

- a. Item moved to end of Summons.
- b. Teenager via grandparent has enquired about volunteering opportunities to go towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award, they would be interested in getting involved with the station project and community litter picking (accompanied by grandparent).
- c. The Clerk attended a Storengy meeting on Friday 28th March- verbal overview given.
- d. The Clerk will be working on the internal audit over April.
- e. The Clerk has invited MP Esther McVey to a catch-up meeting with the PC, Esther tends to be unavailable on Mondays, therefore PC to offer an alternative date towards the summer to hold an extraordinary meeting.
- f. The Slow & Easy will be holding a festival on 25th May, and are seeking stewards. Cllr L Cashmore advised that she would be willing to help.
- g. CWAC are running a Charitable Street Collection Policy Consultation, cllrs provided with consultation details.

- h. Community Litter Pick – Saturday 26th April, 3pm -4pm.
- i. The **Northwich South Parish Council Connections** meeting scheduled for 16 April 2025 at Northwich Memorial Court is postponed due to the Runcorn and Helsby by election called last week. The **West Cheshire Town and Parish Council Conference** on Wednesday, 30 April 2025 has been rescheduled for Wednesday 16th July which Cllr Venables and the Clerk will attend.
- j. There will be a Manchester Airport Parish Council Forum, which will be held on 7th May at 2pm, Cllr M Venables advised that he will attend the online meeting.

16. FINANCE

- a. PC **RESOLVED** to renew the MCRUA (Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association) membership for 2025 priced at £25.00 pa.
- b. PC received Y/E Budget Vs Actual and bank reconciliation, Cllr L Cashmore verified and signed the bank reconciliation and bank statements. A Budget vs Actual over four years was also shared with the PC to show the precept percentage increase vs expenditure from 2022 to date.
- c. The PC reviewed and **RESOLVED** to agree Earmarked Reserves and Reserves for 2025/26.

RESERVE FUNDS	
EARMARKED RESERVE FUNDS	
Play Area Wet Pour	
Boundary Signs	1,750.00
Lostock in Bloom	83.45
Play Area Cleaning budget	14.28
Play Area Repairs (Mark Venables)	167.55
Play Area Trees	666.06
MUGA	1,000.00
EARMARKED RESERVE FUNDS TOTAL	3,681.34
GENERAL RESERVES	
CAPITAL	0.00
<i>CAPITAL PROJECTS</i>	10,000.00
	0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	10,000.00
Friends of Lostock Gralam Static Total	
Friends of Lostock Gralam Station	165.12
EARMARKED + GR + FOLGS	13,846.46

- d. PC **RESOLVED** to move £20,000 into a 6 months fixed term saver with Lloyds at 2.56% interest.
- e. The PC reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments which are due.

Payment	Payee	Amount
TRF	Lyndsey Sandison	£400.00
		£1,169.81
DD	Nest	£68.65
TRF	HMRC	£410.60
TRF	ASH Waste Ltd	£145.20
DD	Lloyds Bank	£4.25
DD	Freeola	£13.46
	Income	

15a. CLERKS APPRAISAL

The PC **RESOLVED** to move into Private & Confidential session to discuss the clerk's appraisal which was held on Friday 28th March. The PC **RESOLVED** to award the Clerk two additional holiday days for 2025/26.

17. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- WG feedback.
- Traffic calming

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting to be held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

L. Sandison

Appendix

Monthly Update for March for the Shakerley Ward

Anti-Social Behaviour

Lostock Gralam

- Smithy Lane property damaged.
- Off road bikes reported in the woods, PCSO carried out visit to the area whilst off road bikes were in the woods, they then left the woods on seeing the police.
- Cannabis farm drug raid on property, investigation on going.

Burglary

Lostock Gralam

Theft

Lostock Gralam

- £100 of chocolate stolen from the co-op, thief had been caught trying to steel dishwasher tablets which were returned.

Road Safety

Lostock Gralam

- One Speed Enforcement session carried out; 5 offences were captured.

Parking/highway Obstructions

Lostock Gralam

PCSO surgery

Thursday 17th April, between 6pm – 7pm.
Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.

PCSO Phil Hambleton
Shakerley Police Beat Team