

**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th
JANUARY 2024 AT THE CHURCH HALL**

Part I

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors T Smith (Temporary Chair), L Cashmore, P Cobley, A Ross, P Walker, T Hodges, and K Hodgkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk

PUBLIC/PCSO: None

Cllr T Smith was elected as the temporary Chairman for the meeting as both the Chair and Vice Chair were not in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr I Parkinson, Cllr M Litton (Chair), Cllr M Venables (Vice Chair), CWAC 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.
Cllr T Hodges is a member of the Community Centre Association Committee.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr P Cobley raised concern that a vehicle has driven along the footpath leading from Stubbs Lane to White Hill, the vehicle has then caused damage to a park bench at the open space area at the bottom of Silverlea Road. It is presumed the driver was following sat-nav, Cllr Cobley understands this is the second time a car has driven along the footpath. *Action:* The Clerk will enquire about the cost of a bollard.

Cllr T Smith has reported a defective Townshend Road Street lamp near to the steps, which is yet to be repaired. *Action:* The Clerk to contact CWAC for an update.

Cllr A Ross asked if there is something better the PC can do, other than the Christmas tree this year.

Cllr P Cobley advised that the Stubbs Lane sink hole which was temporarily repaired is sinking again.

Cllr K Hodgkinson advised that the parish litter bins are overflowing.

Cllr P Walker spoke about the financial pressure the Church is facing, the Lach Dennis Church needs underpinning and the St Johns Church in Lostock Gralam has had spire repairs carried out which cost £5,000.

4. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- The Clerk reported a flood at the Griffiths Road junction. Ref HW568180995. CWAC update advises that: Your report has now been investigated and a works order has been raised.
- A letter has been sent to WVHT with regards to residents driving over the Townshend Road pavement to park on the grass green in front of properties. Response awaited.
- The Clerk is yet to receive an update as to when the gullies will be cleansed. The PC agreed that the Clerk should contact Highways again and copy in CWAC Cllr Mark Stocks.
- The Clerk has reported the Townshend Road french drain. Ref: HW569145675, CWAC update advises that: Your report has now been investigated and action has been taken to resolve this issue.
- The missing Stubbs Lane bin has now been replaced.
- 2 x Litter Picking kits ordered from CWAC ref: TK573254877.
- The Clerk read out a response from the police regarding a Manchester Road dog which barks along the property perimeter wall when pedestrians walk past. The Clerk will again write to the dog owners about concerns raised.

6. POLICE

PCSO P Hambleton sent the following update:

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Report received of damage to a residential property gate, enquiries are ongoing.
- Report of a rock being thrown through the rear window of a vehicle. There are no lines of enquiry to assist with an investigation.
- Warrant executed at a property, cannabis and white powder found. Investigation is ongoing.

Theft

- There have been a couple of reported thefts alcohol and laundry products, CCTV images provided awaiting identification of the suspects.

Road Safety

- One speed enforcement session carried out on Manchester Road, 2 offences reported.

Police Surgeries

- Saturday 6th January, between 10am -11am. Princess Road, Allstock. A Police vehicle will be parked near to the play area.
- Thursday 11th January, between 4pm – 5pm. Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.
- Friday 19th January, between 10am – 11am. Hulme Lane, Lower Peover. A Police vehicle to be parked near to the shop.
- Saturday 27th January, between 2pm – 3pm. Lach Dennis Village Hall, Holmes Chapel Road. A Police vehicle to be parked on the car park.

7. MARK STOCKS

N/a

8. PLAY AREA

-The Parish Council considered three tree quotes, the PC **RESOLVED** to accept the lowest quote on the basis that a positive customer reference be obtained before awarding the contract to OJT Tree Services.

-The Parish Council considered issues raised by the Community Centre Ass. involving hall hirer complaints that balls are being hit against the community centre windows and fire door whilst hires are in progress. The PC agreed to look at possible solutions but also requested that the Community Centre Ass. provide further insight into the frequency of the issue and whether footballs are deliberately being kicked at the centre or whether they are stray balls from the MUGA.

9. 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>	
23/03856/FUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costa Coffee Cheshire Business Park Cheshire Avenue - Installation of additional two rapid electric vehicle charging stations to two existing parking spaces to become EV charging bays with associated equipment and replacement of existing feeder pillar with updated kiosk <p>-No objection</p>
NEW PLANNING DECISIONS	

10. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

N/a

11. ACTION PLAN FOR 2024

The Parish Council discussed and agreed the focus for 2024.

Increase Parish Council fundraising, Clerk to obtain a list of all businesses in the parish, PC to consider sponsorship for the next newsletter and consider sponsorship for the play area fence and MUGA.

12. CLERKS REPORT

-The Clerk has attended an LSEP meeting in December – a verbal update was given.

-Tata has a funding opportunity available. The PC expressed an interest in applying for funding for MUGA solar powered lighting.

-Complaint received that a car is damaging the grass verge on Townshend Road by driving over it. The Clerk reported the matter to CWAC who have updated the complaint with: Your report has now been investigated and action has been taken to resolve this issue.

-Response from the Lostock Gralam Primary School PTA regarding the grant outcome and invitation to a PC meeting in the summer was shared.

-The Clerk shared an update from Highways regarding the PC S106 Highways Townshend Road traffic calming project.

13. FINANCE

-The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the Q3 Budget Vs. Actual and bank reconciliation.

-The PC **RESOLVED** to award the St. Johns Church a Churchyard maintenance grant of £1,600.00.

-The PC considered various percentage increases for the 2024/25 precept request. The PC was mindful that it would not want to increase the precept by more than CWAC, the CWAC increase has yet to be agreed. The PC therefore considered the increased running costs of the Parish Council from 2024 and the fact that a number of trees at the play area have ash dieback. The PC **RESOLVED** to increase the precept for 2024/25 by 3.9%. The PC will submit a precept request for £28,140.

-The Clerk advised that the Lloyds bank account application has now been approved.

-The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments which are due:

Noted that CG Services Cheshire Ltd will be paid by online bank transfer once the new Lloyds bank account is active. *.

Cheque	Payee	Amount
301026	Lyndsey Sandison	£1,295.62
DD	Nest	£90.53
301027	HMRC	£286.08
301028	Ash Waste Ltd	£195.06
301029	Lostock Gramam Church Hall Ass.	£363.00
*	CG Services Cheshire Ltd	£252.00
301030	DM Payroll Services Ltd	£60.00
301031	Northwich Town Council	£3,246.00
301032	Mark Venables	£15.99
301034	St Johns Church PCC	£1,600.00
Income		
Bank Trf	CWAC	£200.00

15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Future Christmas tree ideas.
- Receive a list of businesses in the parish.
- Footballs hitting the Community Centre windows/fire door.

The meeting finished at 8.20 pm

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

L. Sandison