

MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2026 AT THE CHURCH HALL

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors; M Venables (Chair), M Litton, P Cobley, K Hodgkinson, A Ross, T Hodges and L Cashmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

ALSO

IN ATTENDANCE: CWAC Cllr M Stocks

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies and reason for absence from Cllr I Parkinson, Cllr P Walker and Cllr T Smith, PCSO Hambleton also sent his apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr T Hodges declared an interest in the Community Centre Association as a member.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

N/A

4. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. A board on Stubbs Lane now removed.
- b. Pothole on School Lane reported to CWAC. Ref HW794326776. Report closed as not requiring repair. Clerk to re-report as its now got bigger.
- c. Planning Enforcement complaint logged re site off Moss Lane. Ref EN795189102.
- d. Christmas event debrief meeting held with the Slow & Easy – verbal overview given.
- e. Clerk contacted WVHT, PCSO and Cllr Stocks regarding the smell of cannabis at a property on Wilson Crescent. PCSO response shared with Cllr Smith and the Chair.
- f. A response has been received regarding public complaints raised while surveying works were being carried out on land off Manchester Road. The stones on the Manchester Rd. pavement are yet to be removed.
- g. Sponsor banner now installed on the Manchester Road park fence near Talking Bench project.
- h. The Parish Council discussed permission for banners to be displayed on the Parish Council park fence. It was agreed that banners would only be permitted where there is a clear benefit to the community.
- i. No life ring at water behind Salary Row reported to Greenbelt.

6. POLICE

- a. Report from PCSO Hambleton read out: See appendix 1.
- b. Cllr Cobley raised concerns about the smell of cannabis whilst walking in the area and concern about drug driving.
- c. Cllr Hodges advised that he will be attending a Neighbourhood Watch meeting with the police. He commented that PCSO surgeries require a clear purpose to encourage attendance and reporting of issues.
- d. Cllr Hodgkinson reiterated concerns regarding a blue van parking on the School Lane junction.

7. MARK STOCKS

Cllr Stocks provided an update report and advised of the following: a 4.99% council tax increase agreed by CWAC; the Police precept increase was higher to help fund retaining more PCSO's; ongoing issues at the Moss Lane site, noting that planning enforcement are managing a backlog; a cannabis-related issue at a property on Wilson Crescent; the UK's largest illegal waste dump at Holford Forest Farm, with a High Court case pending; concerns regarding a reduction in PCSOs and overall police presence; the importance of securing funding for road safety if housing planning permission is sought; and that gullies require proper cleaning, with debris removed from the site following maintenance.

8. YEAR END 2025/26

- a. PC **RESOLVED** to accept Asset Register. *Noted* the Chair of the Community Centre confirmed that he has no issue transferring the Talking Benches to the PC.
- b. PC **RESOLVED** to accept Risk Assessment.
- c. PC **RESOLVED** to accept Annual Governance Statement & Administration policies.

- d. PC **RESOLVED** to accept Earmarked Reserves (ER) and Reserves (R) making the following amendments: reduce Boundary sign ER to £1500 in line with original estimate, reallocate £250 from Boundary sign ER to Muga Repairs ER, rename Muga Repairs ER to Play Area Repairs ER. Rename Finance Working Group ER to Community Fund ER.

To note the Friends of Lostock Station fund will be transferred out of the PC bank account once the Friends of Group open their own bank account.

RESERVE FUNDS	£
EARMARKED RESERVE FUNDS	
Community Fund	501.32
Boundary Signs	1,500.00
Lostock in Bloom	304.45
Play Area Cleaning budget	3.46
Play Area Repairs (Mark Venables)	55.15
Play Area Tree Works	666.06
Play Area Repairs	1,250.00
EARMARKED RESERVE FUNDS TOTAL	4,280.44
GENERAL RESERVES	
CAPITAL	
<i>General Reserve</i>	10,381.03
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	10381.03
Earmarked Reserve + Reserve Total	14,661.47

- e. Assertion 10 – The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Website Accessibility Statement. The Parish Council *noted* that a fully .gov-compliant website and email addresses are not currently in place due to the disproportionate financial burden on the council. Members agreed to keep the matter under review and work towards compliance when financially feasible.
- f. John Henry is the appointed Internal auditor on a continuous contract until the PC decide to change.
- g. PKF Littlejohn LLP are appointed by Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd as the external auditor for the 5 financial years from 2022/23 to 2026/27.

9. PLAY AREA

- a. *Noted* that the Annual Play Inspection is due in April.
- b. Cllr Venables gave a verbal update regarding park maintenance carried out in the month.
- c. No bin or litter pick concerns raised.
- d. *Noted* Cllr Hodges advised that the Community Centre are looking to install new LED lighting at the community centre site.

10. PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION	
26/00195/FUL	10 Wilson Crescent Lostock Gralam Single storey rear extension Comments date 24/2/2026 No objection

11. NORTHSTONE HOUSING PROPOSAL

Further surveying work is expected.

12. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. Members matters for consideration

1. Cllr Venables – PC discussed splitting out the Annual Parish Assembly (APA) and Annual Meeting (AM) to try and encourage attendance from the public and community groups. Clerk to look at possible dates and report back.
2. Cllr Venables- The PC **RESOLVED** to spend £35 on lamppost poppies using the Chairmans allowance.

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

1. Friends of Lostock Station, verbal update received and confirmation that the group are in the process of opening their own bank account.
2. Finance Working Group:

-The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the following Talking Bench costs including Cllr T Smith purchasing the required materials and claiming back the expenses:

Item	Total Net Price	Fund	Purchaser
2 x Planters	£199.98 (Actual)	Lostock in Bloom Earmarked Reserve	Cllr T Smith
10m Grass Mat Roll + pegs and clips Grassmats Limited	£224.00 (Actual)	Finance WG Fund	Parish Council
Flagstones, compost and plants	£100.00 (Estimated)	Finance WG Fund & Lostock in Bloom	Cllr T Smith

-Official opening of the Talking Bench project to be held between 12th-19th March at 11am.

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

- The Clerk read out an update from Cllr P Walker regarding the Northwich Biogas LLC meeting he attended.
- Pothole in middle of School Lane.
- Grid is rocking near pedestrian refuge island on Manchester Rd.
- Streetlights are out along Manchester Rd, near cash and carry.
- Hedge now removed on Bateman Road.
- Advertising A board on Cheshire business Park lights.
- Overgrown hedges on Lodge Lane and Smithy Lane.
- Car sales at front of property on Manchester Rd.

13. CLERKS REPORT

- a. Freeola InstantPro and RQS prices are going up soon. InstantPro is changing from £3.74 to £4.00 per month (ex VAT). The price change will take effect from the 25/05/2026 invoice.

- b. Dog Fouling on School Lane – Members considered MOP’s suggestion to purchase posters from the Keep Britain Tidy website. The minimum order is five signs priced at £32 + VAT each (£160 + VAT total). Members felt the A2 size was too large, and the signs were relatively costly. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would contact the Dog Warden and speak with the local PCSO regarding the issue.
- c. To note the Clerks appraisal is due in March.
- d. PC **RESOLVED** to accept the Clerk attending a set of three Planning Training Courses priced at £110.00, it is *noted* that the Clerks other parish council has agreed to split the cost 50/50.
- e. Illegal Waste Dump – Members noted recent media reports referring to an illegal waste dump as being located in Lostock Gralam. Members confirmed that the site is not within the parish boundary. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** that the Clerk publish a press release on the Parish Council website to clarify this.
- f. Family Fun Day at the Slow & Easy- Members noted that The Slow & Easy has organised a Family Fun Day on Good Friday and asked whether the Parish Council would like to be involved. As most councillors already have commitments over the Easter weekend, the Parish Council agreed not to formally participate. However, two councillors indicated they would attend the event in a personal capacity as members of the public.
- g. PC *noted* Martyn's Law legally commences from April 2027.

14. FINANCE

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments which are due.

Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Grassmats Ltd	TRF	£268.80
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1,268.03
Nest	DD	£72.48
Mark Venables	TRF	£31.99
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£177.90
Lloyds Bank	DD	£4.25
CG Services Cheshire Ltd	TRF	£360.00
Hags SMP Ltd	TRF	£102.00
Tim Smith	TFR	£208.63
Income		

Noted: The Clerk advised that any unspent Lottery grant money would have to be returned to the Lottery regarding the noticeboard.

Noted: CWAC Members Budget Grant of £221.00 was expected to have been received.

15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

-Parish Council and Police involvement.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

-Ordinary Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.00 pm, in the Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Police update for February 2026

Anti-Social Behaviour.

- Report of a vehicle being damaged on Townshend Road, no witnesses or CCTV to assist with establishing how it has been damaged.
- Report of a moped being razzed up and down Stubbs Lane, limited details of the moped provided at the time and it left prior to patrols attending.
- On Manchester Road, a wanted male was arrested, following a search was found in possession of cannabis, and was subsequently arrested and charged with possession of drugs.

Road Safety.

- A556 a vehicle stop checked, resulted in the driver providing a positive drugs wipe and was also in possession of controlled drugs. Enquiries are on going.
- Report of a vehicle obstructing the junction of Grove Avenue and Langford Road, the vehicle was damaged and undriveable, it belonged to a local keeper and was awaiting recovery.
- Concerns raised are parking and speeding on Townshend Road and suggests that people have nearly be knocked over. Enquiries are on going.
- Report of a vehicle being abandoned on the junction of Fryer Road and Manchester Road, the vehicle was on a test drive and had broken down and was collected within an hour.

Surgeries.

- Wednesday 4th March between 10am and 11am at Costa Coffee, Cheshire Avenue, Lostock Gralam.
- Wednesday 11th March between 1pm and 2pm on Hulme Lane, Lower Peover.

Update following the PCSO restructure, I have been kept on at Northwich and will be the sole PCSO for Northwich South, covering Shakerley, Rudheath, Davenham, Moulton, Leftwich, Kingsmead, Greenbank and Hartford (4 wards). It isn't confirmed what is going to be expected within the 'new' role as yet, obviously there are currently no surgeries planned beyond next week. I am on leave from 11th March and return on Saturday 4th April, any reports it will either need to be via 101 or website.