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

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors M Venables (Chair), M Litton, K Hodgkinson left at 8.40pm, A Ross, L Cashmore, T Hodges, T Smith, P Walker and P Cobley.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: CWAC Cllr M Stocks.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I. Parkinson remains on approved leave of absence until 31 December 2026. PCSO Hambleton sent his apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P. Walker declared an interest in St. John's church as a member of the PCC.
Cllr T. Hodges declared an interest in the Community Centre as he is a Trustee.

DISPENSATION

The Council considered a dispensation form for Cllr T. Hodges regarding Agenda Item 17, Community Centre lease. The nature of the member's Interest is that he is a Trustee of the Community Centre.

RESOLVED: That a dispensation be granted to Cllr T. Hodges under Section 33(2)(c) and (e) of the Localism Act 2011, on the grounds that it is in the interests of persons living in the parish and is otherwise appropriate for the Councillor to be present to answer factual questions and provide information to the Council.

Terms of Dispensation:

- The Councillor is permitted to remain in the room and speak solely for the purpose of answering questions from the Council during the consideration of this item.
- The Councillor must not otherwise participate in the Council's debate and must not vote on the matter.
- The dispensation applies to this meeting only.

The Parish Clerk formally signed and dated the dispensation form.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Youth Club update received. 21 young people are attending from the 30 forms issued, with the possibility of increasing to 45 forms. Membership is £1 per week. Outside lighting will be required for the final session of this term on 15th December. The hours may increase during the summer months. The Club is also seeking donations of selection boxes and additional volunteers. It was noted that all volunteers must be DBS checked. The PC agreed to promote the need for additional volunteers on the PC website.

4. MINUTES

The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2026, which had been circulated to members, as a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

-Townshend Road water leak reported to CWAC- TPC881204573
-Townshend Road uncut grass bank reported to CWAC - SC885189638
-Letter sent regarding Station Road fence requiring repair next to the train station.
-The Warrington bus timetable advises the last bus leaves the Northwich bus station at 18.32 and arrives at Langford Rd at 18.43, the last Warrington bus from Lostock Gralam to Northwich is 17.05.
-Hall Lane leaves on pavement reported to CWAC- SC889078859.
-Hall Lane fly tipping reported to CWAC - SC889082640.

6. POLICE

Please see the appendix for the police report.

7. CWAC CLLR MARK STOCKS

Cllr Stocks has called in housing development applications within the parish. The rules for calling in planning applications have now changed. Cllr Stocks advised that he voted against the changes as he considers the new system to be undemocratic.

CWAC has started its budget consultation. An increase in the green bin charge is expected, as the Council continues to work towards reducing its budget deficit.

Northwich Market is now open. Cllr Stocks also welcomed the return of M&S to the town.

Mayoral elections are due to take place next year, with the authority operating in shadow form. Cllr Stocks was unsure whether there would be a precept.

Cllr Stocks commented that it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to afford their Council Tax.

Cllr T. Smith asked Cllr Stocks about the call for further sites and queried the environmental label.

8. PLAY AREA

a. HAGS Operational Play Inspection circulated to Cllr prior to the meeting. The council agreed to hold off with the zip wire replacement parts due to the operational report advising to monitor and not replace, the PC will review in March 2027.
b. Cllr M. Venables advised that the cone climber requires a thinner grease and advised that he and the Clerk would tighten up any loose fittings as per the play inspection report.
c. No litter-picking or bin concerns were raised.

9. COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Parish Council considered a request from the Community Centre to raise funds for and install solar panels on the roof of the building.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to grant permission for the installation of solar panels. Councillors advised that checks should be carried out to ensure that the roof could safely support the additional weight of the panels and advised that any contracts should be carefully scrutinised, including consideration of their terms and implications.

The Clerk will send a letter to the Community Centre confirming the Parish Council's approval, which can be used to support funding applications

10. PLANNING

None

11. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. Members' matters for consideration

1. Cllr T. Smith – The PC considered and **RESOLVED** to purchase four bulbs planted here signs at a cost of £35.00 +vat.
2. Cllr T. Smith – The PC considered and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Smith can purchase four replacement laurel hedge shrubs to the cost of £50.00.

b. Members' updates – working groups and meetings attended

A meeting was held on Monday 12th October at 6.45 pm between the PC Community Centre Lease Working Group and the Community Centre Committee to discuss the Community Centre's requirements for a new lease. The minutes of the meeting were shared with the Council. Consideration of the responses received are proposed to be considered in a Private & Confidential Session at agenda item 17.

c. Members' reports – minor matters of interest not included on the agenda

- Thank you to Kelly for wrapping the 150 selection boxes.
- Two streetlamps out at the Hall Lane traffic lights.
- Planters have been planted up for winter.
- For sale sign on the Hall Lane traffic lights pointing up Station Rd.
- Rattley manhole opposite church lynch gate and near Topfloors.
- Light out at the railway station.
- Cllr M. Venables gave a verbal overview of the PCC meeting he attended.

12. CHRISTMAS 2026

a. PC considered concern about parking when the Christmas event will be held on 20th November. The Council agreed that the Clerk should put a message on the PC website about considerate parking and walking to the event where possible.
b. Face painter booked from 4.30 pm for 2.5 hours.
c. 150 selection boxes have been purchased for Santa. Many thanks to Kelly for wrapping the selection boxes and providing the wrapping paper.
d. Clerk to arrange an update meeting with Emma to go through procedures for the event.
e. Notes of the meeting held on 8 October 2026 were *noted*.
f. The PC **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should purchase around 100 gingerbreads, icing pens and sweets for decoration.
g. The PC discussed general matters relating to the Christmas event. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Parkinson to invite her to be involved, should she wish to do so.
h. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the below anticipated costs:

PC £500 budget		
Face Painting	£150.00	Confirmed price
150 Selection Boxes	£209.57	Confirmed NET price
Contingency	140.43	
Total	£500	

Mark Stocks £300 grant		
Children's Meals	£174.00	Max cost
Gingerbread & decorations	£126.00	Budgeted cost
Total	£300	

13. CLERK'S REPORT

a. LSEP has advised that, instead of the PC receiving £2,000 for the Community Tool Shed project, the PC must either submit invoices to the value of the grant for reimbursement after purchasing the items, or provide details so that LSEP can make the purchases directly.

b. CWAC have started a 'Call for Sites' exercise. They are only accepting new sites which have not been previously submitted.

c. Verbal update given regarding potential developer sums for the Stubbs Lane play area.

d. Sunday 8th November, 10.50 am - Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. Parish Council wreath to be laid.

e. There is now a dedicated reporting route intended for Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks for the CWAC Report It app - Report a fault Town and Parish Council - Self

f. Many thanks to councillors for their help in delivering newsletters, putting up poppies, bulb planting and taking part in the community litter pick.

g. Public complaint received regarding flooding at the Griffiths Road junction after rainfall. CWAC Highways responded.

h. Public communication received regarding concerns about hare coursing. INOVYN has been made aware of damage caused to fencing, and the matter has also been reported to the Police.

i. PC discussed possible locations for this year's Christmas meal.

j. To note the Harlequin Theatre in Northwich have asked if they can put a banner on the play area fence to promote their 80th year in theatre. The PC agreed that the banner can stay up until the last show date.

14. FINANCE

a. The PC **RESOLVED** to award Lostock Tiny Tots a grant for £250.00 for a Christmas party for the children to include full Christmas dinner, party games, decorations, and books as presents from Father Christmas.

b. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept and approve payments which are due and note any income received:

Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1520.23
Nest	DD	76.55
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£217.02
Freeola	DD	£21.60
Naela Rasool	TRF	£150.00
Simon Roberts	TRF	£234.00
Mike Thompson	TRF	£710.33
Lloyds Bank	SO	£4.25
HAGS Ltd	TRF	£120.00
DM Payroll	TRF	£79.20
Income		

15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th December at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

Noted: it was agreed that there will be tea and biscuits at the next PC meeting, to be funded from the Chairman's Allowance.

Cllr K. Hodgkinson left the meeting at 8.40pm

17. Community Centre Lease – Private & Confidential

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to move into Private and Confidential session under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, excluding the press and public from the meeting for this item of business, as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Community Centre and the Parish Council (Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

The Parish Council considered the outcome of the Parish Council Community Centre Lease Working Group meeting with the Community Centre Committee. It was agreed that the Working Group should seek quotes from solicitors to draft a new lease. Councillors considered that the responses received were broadly reasonable; however, the Working Group should obtain legal advice and report back to the Parish Council before any formal decisions are made regarding changes to the current terms of the lease.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Monthly Update for October 2026 for the Shakerley Ward

Anti-Social Behaviour
Lostock Gralam
- Report of a male razzing around Silverlea Road on a ebike. The male had left the area prior to patrols arriving.

Burglary
Lostock Gralam
- No reports received.

Theft
Lostock Gralam
- Report of a ring the changes theft at the Post Office, where two suspects have been exchanging numerous notes and confused the staff member, resulting in the suspects gaining £100.
- Report of the theft of food items valued at £33.20 from the Coop. CCTV requested to assist in identifying the suspect.

Road Safety
Lostock Gralam
- Vehicle stopped on Manchester Road the driver provided a positive drugs wipe and arrested. The investigation continues.
- Vehicle stopped A556, following an inspection of the vehicle, it was deemed not to be in a fit state to be driven on the road and recovered.
- Vehicle stopped on Manchester Road the driver provided a positive breath test, was arrested and charged.

Parking/highway Obstructions
Lostock Gralam
- No reports received.

Weekly PCSO surgeries

The surgeries covering both Witton & Rudheath and Shakerley areas will be held on

Saturday 7th November, on Hulme Lane, Lower Peover, A Police vehicle will be parked near to The Country Store, between 2pm - 3pm.

Thursday 12th November, Lostock Green Chapel, Birches Lane, between 11am – 12pm, as part of the community hub.

Tuesday 17th November, at The Venue, Gadbrook Road, Rudheath between 2pm – 3pm.

Friday 27th November, on Princess Road, Allostock. A Police vehicle will be parked near to the play area, between 4pm – 5pm.

Wednesday 2nd December, at Costa Coffee, Cheshire Avenue, Lostock Gralam between 1pm – 2pm.

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, search for Residents Voice Northwich.
PCSO Phil Hambleton
Northwich South Beat Team