

MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2026 AT THE CHURCH HALL

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors M Venables (Chair), M Litton, K Hodgkinson, A Ross and P Cobley.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Hambleton and PC Aston.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr T Hodges, Cllr T Smith, Cllr P Walker and Cllr L Cashmore. Cllr I Parkinson has an approved leave of absence until 31 December 2026. CWAC Cllr M Stocks also sent his apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received.

4. MINUTES

The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2026, which had been circulated to members, as a correct record.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- Planning responses have been submitted.
- The Parish Council newsletter has been written.

6. POLICE

PCSO Hambleton introduced PC Aston, who has been a police officer in Northwich for 14 years and will be covering Lostock Gralam from November. PCSO Hambleton will continue as the PCSO for the area.

Noted: Cllr Venables will ask the Police and Crime Commissioner about PCSOs at the PCC meeting on 7 October 2026.

Please see the appendix for the police report.

7. CWAC CLLR MARK STOCKS

No report.

8. PLAY AREA

a. The next HAGS Operational Play Inspection is due in October.

b. The PC considered quotes and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the CG Services Ltd quote for replacement zip-wire parts, subject to the findings of the next HAGS Operational Play Inspection.

- c. No repair updates were received.
- d. No litter-picking or bin concerns were raised.

9. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
26/02592/FUL	-2 Arthur Street Lostock Gralam Erection of catio at front of property (retrospective) No objection
26/01251/FUL	Planning Committee hearing- -Renescience Northwich Griffiths Road - Extension of the Northwich Biogas Facility Anaerobic Digestion plant including new infrastructure for biogas conversion to biomethane for injection to the gas grid. Objection submitted in writing
PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS	
PLANNING APPLICATION APPEALS	

10. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. Members' matters for consideration

1. The PC agreed to arrange a community litter pick for Thursday 29 October at 11.00 am.
2. The PC agreed that Cllr Venables and Cllr Cobley would install the lamppost poppies on or around Monday 19 October.

b. Members' updates – working groups and meetings attended

The Parish Council Community Centre Lease Working Group will meet with the Community Centre Committee on Monday 12 October at 6.45 pm at the Community Centre to establish the Committee's requirements for a new lease.

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

- The French drain on Townshend Road is still leaking. The Clerk will chase this up.
- It was suggested that, when members of the public attend planning meetings, the PC should explain the meeting process before inviting members of the public to speak. It was also suggested that councillors use nameplates or introduce themselves.
- Bus times have changed, with the last bus now at 5.45 pm instead of 6.45 pm.
- A query was raised about whether the mobile library van could stay for longer than 20 minutes.
- The fence on Station Road next to the station has fallen down. The Clerk will write to the landowner.
- Tim H's email address needs fixing.

11. CHRISTMAS 2026

a. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept a face-painting quote for the Christmas event. Face painting will be booked for a 2.5-hour session at a cost of £150.

b. A meeting with The Slow & Easy is arranged for Thursday 8 October at 11.00 am. All councillors are welcome to attend.

It was suggested that a tea and coffee stand and a children's drinks stand be provided so that those wanting to buy non-alcoholic drinks do not need to queue at the bar. Improved lighting was also suggested.

c. The PC agreed that the Christmas tree lights should be on from 5.00 pm to midnight and from 6.00 am to 7.00 am.

d. The school choir has confirmed its attendance.

e. The PC **RESOLVED** to order 150 selection boxes for Santa. The PC will purchase gingerbread and decorations and supply the primary school with children's meal tickets for the event.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

a. The PC has been successful with its LSEP grant application for Community Tool Shed equipment.

b. A Member of the Public (MOP) communication was received regarding the talking bench location. The PC discussed the proposed location, including comments from Cllr Cobley regarding whether people experiencing mental health difficulties would feel comfortable using a talking bench in a park. The PC agreed that further consideration was required.

c. The PC considered a MOP request for a new Lostock Gralam sign opposite the Griffiths Road junction. The PC agreed to clean the existing sign.

d. The PC **RESOLVED** to purchase a medium-sized Remembrance wreath.

e. The PC will plant bulbs on Sunday 18 October.

f. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £234 for newsletter printing. The PC agreed that the People's Emergency Briefing item should be removed from the newsletter.

13. FINANCE

a. The PC approved the Q2 bank reconciliation and budget-versus-actual report.

b. The PC **RESOLVED** to reinvest £10,000 with Lloyds at the end of the £20,000 fixed-deposit term on 14 October 2026.

c. The PC **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments and note the income received.

Payee	Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1,384.49
Nest	DD	£96.92
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£180.34
HMRC	TRF	£663.81
WAP Lawton	TRF	£1314.00
Boston Seeds	TRF	£95.99
Groundwork & Leisure Services Ltd	TRF	£576.00
Lloyds Bank	SO	£4.25
Lostock Gralam Youth Group	TRF	£350.00
Income		
Leading Military Fitness	6-month open space charge	£96.00

14. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Grass bank on Townshend Road.
- Christmas meal.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2 November 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

L. Sandison

Annual Leave

The Clerk will be taking annual leave on 26 and 27 October 2026.

Appendix 1

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Report of a suspicious male by the bridge on Octel. Patrols attended, enquiries established that the male was a suspect for a burglary in Middlewich.
- Drunk e flying over the primary school was Network rail.
- Drunk lady at the Weavers Whistle
- Motorbikes reported at the back of Langford Road.

Burglary

- No reports received.

Theft

- A report of a theft of general groceries and alcohol from the Coop. CCTV provided, suspect identified, arrested and charged.
- A report of theft of soap, medicine and coffee from the Coop. CCTV provided, suspect hasn't been identified to date.
- A report of theft of cigarettes. Suspect went to make the purchase, card payment declined, the suspect took the cigarettes. Suspect has been identified from CCTV. Investigation is ongoing.
- A report of theft of chocolate from the Coop. male suspect has emptied a box of chocolate into a bag and left without making payment. Value of the chocolate was £309. CCTV to be supplied.

Road Safety

- One Speed Enforcement session on Manchester Road, 2 offences captured and reported.
- Vehicle stop on Manchester Road. Enquiries established the driver wasn't insured, ticket issued and vehicle collected by an insured person.
- Vehicle stop on Cheshire Avenue. The driver provided a negative drugs wipe, enquiries established the driver didn't have a driving licence. Vehicle was seized.
- Vehicle stop on Manchester Road. The driver provided a positive drugs wipe and during the vehicle search a small amount of cannabis was found. Driver was arrested.

Parking/highway Obstructions

- No reports received.

PCSO surgery

Thursday 20th October, at Costa Coffee, Cheshire Avenue, Lostock Gralam between 10am – 11am.

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