

MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT THE CHURCH HALL

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors; M Litton, K Hodgkinson, T Hodges, A Ross, T Smith, P Walker and L Cashmore.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

ALSO

IN ATTENDANCE: CWAC Cllr M Stocks and 9 Members of the public.

1. PLANNING APPLICATION PUBLIC FORUM

Public comments were received regarding planning application 26/02415/FUL – Erection of 61 dwellings on land at Manchester Road. Concerns raised included the 100% affordable housing provision and whether people from the local area would move into the homes, increased vehicles, the effect on air quality, safe crossing of Manchester Road, water pressure, concerns about flooding, no drainage, maintaining a pump, brook at the bottom of the field which floods, loss of greenspace, biodiversity, change to the village, the cumulative impact of development on the village and the pressure on local infrastructure, community and public services.

Public Comments were received regarding planning application 26/02486/OUT – outline planning application with all matters reserved except for principal means of access for up to 80 dwellings on land West of Station Road. Concerns about the site access were received, and again concern about the loss of greenspace, the impact on existing traffic levels and village infrastructure and the change in village character.

Public Comments were received regarding planning application 26/02632/FUL – demolition and replacement of Crossways for a new 3 storey, 54 bed care home. Concerns raised included parking, where will the existing residents go, HGVs and construction workers on an already tight site on Station Rd and the design of the building.

No public concerns were raised for planning application 26/02610/PIP for construction of new dwelling on land at Manchester Rd.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies and reason for absence for Cllr M Venables, Cllr P Cobley, Cllr I Parkinson and PCSO Hambleton.

3. COUNCILLOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to grant a leave of absence to Cllr I Parkinson until 31st December 2026.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hodges declared an interest in the Community Centre Association as a trustee.
Cllr Walker declared an interest in St Johns Church PCC as a member.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments received.

6. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

7. PROGRESS REPORT

- Street furniture licence approved in relation to the recycled noticeboard.
- Hanging branches covering Manchester Road Park gate CCTV now trimmed back.
- Thumb locks replacing key locks on left panel of village noticeboard installed due to the noticeboard being well used for public notices.
- New bin installed along footpath between Stubbs Lane and Cheshire Avenue.
- £300 Christmas Food Members Budget Grant received.

8. POLICE

Please see appendix for Police report.

9. MARK STOCKS

Councillor Stocks spoke about the number of unadopted developments in Cheshire West and Chester and the changes to the Ward Councillor planning call-in process from October.

Cllr Walker raised concern about multiple diversion routes/road closures at the same time resulting in traffic delays.

10. PLAY AREA

- a. PC **RESOLVED** to accept Groundworks and Leisure Services Ltd MUGA repair quote of £480 + vat.
- b. Verbal repairs update received.
- c. Play area bin emptying to revert back to twice per week with Cllr Venables doing Thursdays.

11. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
26/02343/TPO	-Lostock Tiny Tots Pre-School The Vicarage -Horse Chestnut (T1) - Reduce longer, heavier branches by 1m to 3m as appropriate to reduce the risk of major failures No objections
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
26/02002/FUL	-Land At Cheshire Avenue Lostock Gralam -Retrospective (temporary) change of use of a car park (Sui Generis) to containerised self-storage (Sui Generis), with associated landscape screening, fencing and gates No Objection
26/02415/FUL	-Land At Manchester Road -Erection of 61 dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure Objection
26/02610/PIP	-Land At Manchester Road Lostock Gralam -Construction of new dwelling No Objection
26/02632/FUL	-Crossways, Station Road, Lostock Gralam -Demolition and replacement of the existing 39-bed, 2-storey care home, with a new 3-storey, 54-bed care home that will provide specialist dementia accommodation and upgraded facilities. Objection (2/5)
26/02486/OUT	-Land West of Station Road, Lostock Gralam

	-Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved (except for principal means of access) Objection
PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS	
PLANNING APPLICATION APPEALS	

12. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

a. Members matters for consideration

None

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

An update from the Community Centre Lease Working Group was received. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr M Venables' resignation from the Working Group and to appoint Cllr P Walker in his place.

The Parish Council agreed how members' interests would be managed where a Parish Councillor is also a Trustee of the Community Centre.

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

- Cllr P Walker will not be present at the next PC meeting.
- Cllr L Cashmore advised that a consultation for electricity works on Harris Road is due to commence.
- Cllr T Hodges thanked those who helped at the Community Centre Fun day.
- Cllr A Ross advised that a tree which was felled at the end of School Lane some time ago has now re-sprouted and grown into a large bush.

13. BULBS

The PC **RESOLVED** to purchase a mixture of bulbs consisting of daffodils, tulips, snowdrops and crocuses to the value of £76.00.

14. CHRISTMAS 2026

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept Northwich Town Council Christmas Tree quote which was the lower of two quotes received.
- b. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept a Child Protection Policy document for the Community Christmas event.
- c. Overview received of a meeting held with the Slow & Easy to jointly hold a Community Christmas event. The Christmas event is proposed to be held on Friday 20th November starting at 5.30pm.

- PC **RESOLVED** to supply £1 children's food vouchers to Lostock Gramam Primary School Children.
- PC **RESOLVED** to purchase gingerbread and decorating materials.
- PC **RESOLVED** to not book the balloon artist this year and look at alternative options such as face painting to allow more children to benefit from the activity.
- PC **RESOLVED** to purchase selection boxes for Santa to give out.

15. CLERKS REPORT

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) new pay scales for 2026/27, effective from 1 April 2026.
- b. A report was received of a man sitting at the talking benches, watching children.

- c. The PC **RESOLVED** to adopt a revised Complaints Policy incorporating data protection provisions, together with revised Privacy and Data Protection Policies.
- d. The Clerk will be preparing the annual parish newsletter during September/October. Members were invited to suggest topics for inclusion.
- e. The next Northwich Biogas meeting will be held on 23 September at Lostock Works at 6pm. Responses received regarding smells have been circulated to councillors by email during the summer break.
- f. Kerry, who is in the process of setting up a community youth group, asked whether someone from the Parish Council would be willing to act as the group's safeguarding lead. No volunteers were received.
- g. The Clerk reminded the PC that consideration should be given to replacing the existing website with one that meets the WCAG 2.2 Level AA accessibility standard. Examples of websites and prices were shared with the PC.

16. FINANCE

- a. External Audit now complete – *Noted* that Section 1 comments were received, stating that the AGAR had incorrectly been completed as the PC website is not compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 AA standards. Other matters- AGAR required an amendment which is now completed.

Action: The PC will look to purchase a new (WCAG) 2.2 AA standard compliant website.

- b. Travel and Mileage Allowance – The PC **RESOLVED** to accept HMRC's updated Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAP) from 45p to 55p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles (25p thereafter). The new rate will take effect from the 1st April 2027.
- c. ASH Waste bin increase- With effect from September 1st 2026 the following price adjustment will be applied per lift: £2.93 per m3 or part thereof.
- d. The PC considered and **RESOLVED** to award Lostock Gralam Youth Club a grant of £350.00.
- e. The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments made in July and August, and **RESOLVED** to accept the September payments due.

Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1,216.84
Nest	DD	£72.48
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£198.66
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	TRF	£33.06
DM Payroll Services Ltd	TRF	£79.20
Northwich Town Council	TRF	£234.00
Lloyds Bank	SO	£4.25
Signs of Cheshire Ltd	TRF	£24.00
Payments made in July & August		

Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1241.69
Nest	DD	£72.48
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£179.38
Lloyds Bank	SO	£4.25
PKF Littlejohn LLP	TRF	£252.00
Income		
CWAC	Members Budget Grant	£300.00

17. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

-None

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th October at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Monthly Update for August 2026 for the Shakerley Ward

Anti-Social Behaviour

Lostock Gralam

- 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.

Burglary

Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

Theft

Lostock Gralam

- 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

Lostock Gralam

- 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

Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

Weekly PCSO surgeries

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

Wednesday 9th September, at Costa Coffee, Cheshire Avenue, Lostock Gralam between 1pm – 2pm.

Saturday 19th September, at The Venue, Gadbrook Road, Rudheath between 10am – 11am.

Thursday 24th September, on Hulme Lane, Lower Peover, A Police vehicle will be parked near to The Country Store, between 2pm - 3pm.

Thursday 1st October, Lostock Green Chapel, Birches Lane, as part of the Community Hub.

Wednesday 7th October, at The Venue, Gadbrook Road, Rudheath between 4pm – 5pm.

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