

**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL 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, T Smith, I Parkinson, P Walker and L Cashmore.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

**ALSO**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** CWAC Cllr M Stocks

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

PCSO Hambleton sent his apologies.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Cllr P Walker declared an interest in the Community Centre Association and St Johns Church PCC 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

**5. PROGRESS REPORT**

Thank you to all those involved in delivering the Talking Bench project which is now complete.

**6. POLICE**

- a. Report from PCSO Hambleton read out: See appendix 1.
- b. Cllr Smith expressed concern regarding ongoing thefts at the Co-op. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the PCSO to raise concerns about the impact on community morale.
- c. Cllr Venables advised of a possible break in attempt at his neighbours' property.

**7. MARK STOCKS**

-CWAC Planning Enforcement advised that some activity is permitted whilst others not at a site off Moss Lane.

-CWAC Planning is to ask for a revised housing target figure.

-CWAC have called in the Peak Cluster project due to concerns about the process. Cllr Stocks went on to talk about the Hynet application which would result in further pipework.

-Cllr Stocks has reported the Station Rd sinkhole.

Cllr Hodgkinson reported that the pothole on School Lane has still not been repaired. When speaking to an operative undertaking a road inspection outside No. 16 School Lane, the operative advised that the road is hollow and needs digging up.

## 8. YEAR END 2025/26

- a. PC **RESOLVED** to accept and approve Section 1- the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.

## 9. PLAY AREA

- a. *Noted* that the Annual Play Inspection is due in April.
- b. **Update and Repairs-** *Noted the* Clerk and Chairman will carry out a monthly play area inspection on the Monday following each Parish Council meeting.
1. The lower junior climber scrambler block broke in the month; the Clerk ordered a replacement step as an urgently required repair. The part cost is £205.89 + Vat. PC **RESOLVED** to accept expenditure.
  2. The chime bar beater is broken/missing, the Clerk therefore ordered a replacement part at a cost of £92 + Vat. PC **RESOLVED** to accept expenditure.
  3. The third pedestrian entrance gate nearest to the teen shelter has now been repaired.
- c. No concerns were raised regarding the play area bin or litter picking. It was noted that a litter pick appears to have been carried out. It's also noted that the bin at the bottom of the Townshend Road steps has been relocated to the Manchester Road business park area to relieve capacity pressure in that location.

## 10. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE / EMAIL CONSULTATION DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS	
25/02383/FUL	-Land At Cheshire Avenue Lostock -Change of use of Car Park (Sui Generis) to containerised self-storage (Sui Generis) <b>Refused</b>
PLANNING APPLICATION APPEALS	
26/00026/REF	-Tannery Cottage, Manchester Road -Part demolition of existing extensions and erection of a two-storey side and rear extension with side balcony and alterations to existing

## 11. NORTHSTONE HOUSING PROPOSAL

No updates to report.

## 12. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

### a. **Members matters for consideration**

1. Cllr Hodges is seeking to encourage the Police Inspector to deliver an educational talk to residents. He will raise this with the Inspector at the Neighbourhood Watch meetings he attends.

2. Cllr Venables asked the PC to consider a use for the recycled noticeboard he is currently storing at his home, the Council agreed that a suitable location would be at the Townshend Rd park.
- b. **Members updates-** *To receive updates from working groups, meetings attended etc.*
1. Friends of Lostock Station, verbal update received.
  2. Finance Working Group update: The Talking Bench project is now complete, this is the final task of this Working Group. As such, the Chair considers this to mark the closure of the group, with the Parish Council to decide at the May Annual Meeting whether to establish a new Working Group. The remaining funds of £104.02 will be held within an earmarked Community Reserve.

It was also noted that a public observation has been received suggesting the Talking bench location is not in a quiet or peaceful area.

Suggestion received that the Clerk inform local Care homes about the Talking Bench project and advise that its ready for use. Also suggestion received to install CCTV signage in the area.

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

-Cllr Walker was unable to attend the Police meeting as he attended the day after it had taken place. He also noted that Northwich is to receive a new cycle route and asked whether Lostock Gram could be included within the scheme.

- Cllr Smith noted that the bulbs at the traffic lights looked good, but suggested that more should be planted on the garage side. He also felt that "Keep off the bulbs" signs could help deter people from trampling the planted areas. He advised that the first week in May would be a good time to tidy the daffodils and mow the area.
- Cllr Cobley raised concern about the bottom of Townshend Road, noting that the railings at the junction have been broken for some time and that the area appears neglected. The Clerk will report the damaged railings to Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Council will consider options for planting in the area to improve its appearance.
- Cllr Cashmore requested contact details for CWAC wildflower team.

### **13. CLERKS REPORT**

- a. Planning Training Course – The Clerk has now completed the training course. Course presentation and notes shared to Cllrs.
- b. Assertion 10 -point 6– Training and Awareness, Councils should provide regular training on FOI, GDPR, and digital governance. Staff and councillors must understand their responsibilities under Assertion 10 and follow best practices for compliance. Suggested free learning material can be found on the ICO. Website. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/advice-for-small-organisations/training-and-resources/e-learning/#cybersecurity>
- c. PC **RESOLVED** to renew the MCRUA (Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association) membership for 2026 priced at £25.00 pa.
- d. Due to the increasing fuel costs ASH Waste have increased their Church bin prices.
- e. The defib pads expire at the end of April. New pads with CPR puck will cost £127 +vat.
- f. The Clerk & Cllr Venables wondered if maybe having a lockable outside tap and plug socket at the Community Centre might be an option. The Clerk has sent an enquiry to the Community Centre and awaiting a response.

## 14. FINANCE

- VAT correction – The Clerk has repaid £47.15 of input VAT that was incorrectly reclaimed in respect of expenditure by Friends of Lostock Station.
- The Parish Council considered a grant application from Lostock Gramam Community Centre. It was agreed to defer a decision until further supporting information is received. The Council requested that two additional quotations are obtained, along with professional confirmation regarding the cause of the CCTV failure and details of any measures to prevent a recurrence.

*Noted* that the Parish Council should also look to obtain surge protection for their CCTV system.

- The PC **RESOLVED** to invest £20,000 in a Lloyds 6 months fixed term savings account with a 2.04% interest rate.
- Reserves – The Parish Council **RESOLVED** that underspends in the 2025/26 financial year be transferred into Reserves and Earmarked Reserves, as set out below. The Council also considered the Clerk's recommendation to increase General Reserves over the coming years to a level equivalent to 50% of the annual precept.

Play Area Repairs	415.51	Under spend of £337.51 moved to ER
Defib Battery	130.00	Under spend of £130 moved to ER
Election Recharge	50.00	Under spend of £50 moved to ER
<b>EARMARKED RESERVE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>3,000.99</b>	
<b>GENERAL RESERVES</b>		
<b>CAPITAL</b>		
General Reserve	11,270.66	Grant £450 & Grass cutting £705 underspend + bank interest £111
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>11,778.10</b>	

- PC **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments which are due and note any income received:

*To Note*; the Friends of Lostock Station balance of £522.62 will be transferred out of the PC bank account once the Friends of Group bank account is fully set-up.

Payee	Payment Type	Amount
Lyndsey Sandison	TRF	£1,230.72
Nest	DD	£72.48
HMRC	TRF	£556.67
Ash Waste Ltd	TRF	£163.92
Lloyds Bank	DD	£4.25
CHALC	TRF	£52.50
Hags SMP Ltd	TRF	£1,653.47
Defib4Life	TFR	£152.40
Schoolscapes Ltd	TRF	£110.40
<b>Income</b>		
CWAC	Lostock in Bloom Grant	£221.00
NPower	Credit Balance refund	£181.83
CWAC	Precept	£34,932

## 15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

-Hall Lane/Townshend Rd improvements

## **16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual Parish Assembly (APA) will be held on Monday 11th May at 7.00pm in the Church Hall, followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC). Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided for attendees at the APA.

*Note: The Annual Parish Assembly (APA) must be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June (inclusive). Therefore, it will remain on the same night as the Annual Meeting for this year, with any change considered when setting the schedule for the next year.*

## **17. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to move into a Private and Confidential session to consider the outcome of the Clerk's appraisal.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to award the Clerk two additional days' annual leave in recognition of achievements over the past 12 months. The Clerk's targets for the coming year were also noted.

The meeting closed at 8.59 pm

*L. Sandison*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1

### Monthly Update for April 2026 for the Shakerley Ward

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

##### Lostock Gralam

- A report of a youths hanging around the school screaming and shouting. Youths held left prior to patrols attending.

#### **Burglary**

##### Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

#### **Theft**

##### Lostock Gralam

- Report of a wheelbarrow being taken from the Riding School on Hall Lane.
- Report of Laundry Products being stolen from the Coop, male suspect enters the store removes items from the shelves, and leaves without making payment, investigation is ongoing.
- Report of Chocolate being stolen from the Coop, male suspect enters the store, empties boxes of chocolate into a shopping bag, and leaves without making payment, investigation is ongoing.

#### **Road Safety**

##### Lostock Gralam

- Manchester Road, vehicle stop checked. The vehicle was in a dangerous condition and had no MOT, the vehicle was seized.

#### **Parking/highway Obstructions**

##### Lostock Gralam

- Reports about vehicles being parked on Wilson Crescent possibly causing obstructions, due to the development of a field on Manchester Road. Monitoring to be carried out and appropriate action taken when necessary.

#### **Weekly PCSO surgeries**

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

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, between 3pm – 4pm at Costa Coffee,  
Cheshire Avenue Lostock Gralam.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, between 6pm – 7pm at Costa Coffee,  
Cheshire Avenue, Lostock Gralam.

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, and when completing the survey, the Policing area is Shakerley.

**PCSO Phil Hambleton**  
**Northwich South Beat Team**