



You are hereby invited to attend the Annual Parish Assembly of Lostock Gralam to be held at the Church Hall on Monday 11th May 2026 due to commence at **7.00 p.m.**, for the purpose of transacting the following business:

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY- BUSINESS**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
3. To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
4. To receive an annual report of the Parish Council. See Appendix 1.
5. To receive an annual report from the Community Centre.
6. To receive an annual report from the Church.
7. To receive a report from CWAC Councillor Mark Stocks.
8. Questions to the Council.

Close of meeting

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2025–26 THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Mark Venables has served as Chairman for the past twelve months, with Councillor Mark Litton as Vice Chairman. The Parish Council has successfully maintained full membership, with all ten seats filled throughout the year.

It has been an active and productive year for the Council. Members jointly hosted a successful community Christmas event at the Slow and Easy, raising funds for local projects through a well-supported Christmas raffle. The Council also delivered a “Talking Bench” project in partnership with the Community Centre, providing a valuable space to support social connection and wellbeing.

In addition, the Council has continued its commitment to Remembrance, organising lamp post poppy displays and maintaining a permanent silhouette tribute to commemorate those who have served. Ongoing efforts to enhance the local environment have also been sustained, with seasonal planting across the parish, including planters and bulbs.

### **CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL**

Councillor Stocks has regularly attended Parish Council meetings and remained in contact with both the Council and the Clerk throughout the year. He has continued to support the Parish Council by awarding grants for the Christmas light switch-on event and Lostock in Bloom.

### **PLAY AREA**

The play area remains well maintained, with councillors undertaking regular litter picking and bin emptying. Lawtons have effectively maintained the grassed areas, with their three-year contract having commenced in April 2025.

Some items within the play area require cleaning and repainting; this ongoing work is being managed by Parish Councillors. The Council has also undertaken minor maintenance tasks and commissioned professional contractors to replace entrance gate mechanisms on three gates.

### **HIGHWAYS**

The Highways Section 106 project at Townshend Road remains disappointingly stalled, despite ongoing efforts by the Clerk to obtain updates.

More generally, road surfaces, gullies, and manholes are not being maintained to a satisfactory standard. While some patching work has taken place, the overall condition of the roads continues to decline. Station Road, in particular, experienced a prolonged sunken section which was only repaired once it deteriorated into an open hole. The Clerk continues to report faults regularly to Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways.

## **POLICING**

Phil Hambleton continues in his role as PCSO for Shakerley, although his area of responsibility has increased significantly following a reorganisation and reduction in PCSO numbers.

## **CHURCHYARD**

The Parish Council has continued its support of St John's Church by providing a churchyard waste bin and awarding a maintenance grant. The Church is, however, facing increasing financial pressures, with available funds becoming more limited.

## **PLANNING**

The LSEP project is entering its testing phase, with the site expected to be operational by the end of the year.

WS Storage has gained planning permission on appeal. A development of 14 homes on land adjacent to the Slow and Easy has also been approved. A self-storage container site at the overflow car park on Cheshire Avenue was refused planning permission. Apartments are currently under construction adjacent to Lostock Lodge Care home.

## **COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETINGS**

The Parish Council continues to be represented at liaison meetings with the biogas plant (formerly an Ørsted site), LSEP, and Manchester Airport. These meetings provide opportunities to discuss and comment on business plans and operational activities.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

The Parish Council is a member of the Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association, the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society, and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

A number of Parish Councillors are also involved with the Friends of Lostock Gralam Train Station. This group has made a significant contribution to improving the station's appearance, including repainting railings and walls, planting flowers, tidying the area, and helping to maintain a welcoming environment for passengers.