

MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2024 AT THE CHURCH HALL

Part I

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors M Venables (Chair), M Litton, T Smith, A Ross^{833pm}, P Walker, P Cobley and K Hodgkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: L Sandison, Clerk & RFO

ALSO

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Hambleton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr T Hodges, Cllr I Parkinson and CWAC Cllr M Stocks. Cllr L Cashmore was absent (*Apology sent but not picked up by the Clerk until after the meeting*).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr K Hodgkinson and Cllr P Walker declared a personal interest in Lostock Gralam Community Centre as members of the Community Centre Association Committee.

Cllr P Walker declared a personal interest in St Johns Church as a member of the Church PCC.

ORDER OF BUSINESS CHANGED AS PER CHAIRMAN – PUBLIC FORUM MOVED FROM ITEM 3, TO ITEM 8.

3. MINUTES

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary Meetings held on Monday 4th November 2024, having been copied to members was taken as read and confirmed as being a correct record.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. Ivy has now been cut back along Stubbs Lane footpath, noted however that the clippings have been left piled up on CWAC grass verge. Clerk to photograph.
- b. Remaining daffodil bulbs have now been planted.
- c. The church has granted the PC permission to install a boundary sign on the Church Hall grass verge. The Clerk will obtain sign costings and report back to the PC.
- d. The mud has now been cleared from Manchester Road field entrance.

5. POLICE

- a. PCSO Hambleton gave a verbal report and spoke about Mini Police – see appendix for report.

6. MARK STOCKS - Cllr Stocks was not in attendance.

7. CHRISTMAS 2025

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the 2024 Christmas light switch on event.

The PC discussed Christmas 2025 but **RESOLVED** to defer the item to allow further discussion in the new year.

Noted that a complaint may be received with regards to the church hall floor.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr P. Walker read out a statement from the church, expressing thanks to the Parish Council for providing previous churchyard grants. The statement emphasized how the grant contributes toward the annual grass-cutting costs of the churchyard and highlighted that the churchyard serves the entire community.

9. GRANT POLICY

Cllr A. Ross proposed that the parish council review its existing grant policy and draft a new one to ensure greater consistency in awarding grants. Cllr Ross highlighted the two grant funds in the budget and discussed the current method of allocating grants. The motion was seconded by Cllr M. Litton, and the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to write a new grant policy which will take effect from April 2025.

10. MEETING DATES FOR 2025

- a. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to not hold a parish council meeting in August 2025. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Clerk to process August payments.
- b. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the following meeting dates for 2025 with all meetings starting at 7.00 pm.

Monday 6th January, Monday 3rd February, Monday 3rd March, Monday 7th April, Monday 12th May (APA & AM), Monday 2nd June, Monday 7th July, no meeting in August, Monday 1st September, Monday 6th October, Monday 3rd November, Monday 1st December.

11. BUDGET 2025/26

The Parish Council considered the 2025/26 budget proposal.

The PC **RESOLVED** to combine the churchyard grant fund with the grants & donation fund. From April 2025, all grants will be considered under one grant policy and paid from one budgeted grant fund.

The PC agreed to budget option A, and to include an additional £700 provision in the general reserves to fund new Christmas tree lights. The total budget required for 2025/26 was agreed at £33,210.

12. PLAY AREA

- a) No inspection reports or quotes to consider.
- b) Cllr M Venables gave a brief verbal update regarding the play area.
- c) No concerns/issues regarding the park bin emptying/litter picking raised.

13. PLANNING

PC PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISIONS IN THE MONTH	
PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PC	
CWAC PLANNING DECISIONS	

a. Matters for Consideration

1. Cllr T Smith suggested that the Townshend Road bin at the bottom of the steps could be put to better use near to the Manchester Road retail units as the bins are often overflowing in this area. The PC agreed that the Clerk should enquire with CWAC if this is an option.

b. Members updates

1. Cllr T Smith gave a Finance Working group update and advised that no responses to follow up letters have been received. A second batch of letters is still awaiting to be sent due to Cllr input still awaited. Cllr Smith advised that the WG will meet in the new year to review the current approach and consider alternative fund-raising methods.
2. Cllr M Venables gave a 'Friends of Lostock Station' update, and advised that disabled access improvements at the station are highly unlikely but that the council should formally write a letter to submit a request to improve access.

c. Members Reports

1. Cllr P Cobley queried whether any library van posters had been received to help promote the service. The Clerk will enquire and ensure that mobile library dates are available on the PC noticeboard.
2. Cllr P Cobley queried how people know what is going on in the parish and advised that maybe a noticeboard at the community centre would be beneficial.

15. CLERKS REPORT

- a. The grass cutting contract is due for renewal in the spring, the Clerk will therefore be inviting contractors to tender.
- b. Many thanks to the Cllrs and volunteers who helped with the Christmas light switch on.
- c. Many thanks to the Cllrs who put up/took down the lamppost poppies.
- d. Cheshire West and Chester Design Code – Vision Engagement circulated via email 21.11.2024.

16. FINANCE

- a. The PC **RESOLVED** to award Lostock Gralam Mother & Toddler Group an S137 grant of £100.00 for a Christmas party and gifts from Santa.
- b. The PC **RESOLVED** to award Lostock Tiny Tots an S137 grant of £250.00 for a Christmas party and gifts from Santa
- c. The PC reviewed and **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments which are due.

Payment	Payee	Amount
TRF	Lyndsey Sandison	£1,736.35
DD	Nest	£98.77
TRF	DM Payroll Services Ltd	£60.00
TRF	Simon Roberts	£172.00
TRF	Mark Venables	£106.99
TRF	CWAC Lostock Gralam Primary School	£100.00
000003	Lostock Tiny Tots	£250.00
000004	Lostock Gralam Mother + Toddler Group	£100.00
TRF	Northwich Town Council	£3,456.00
TRF	CG Services	£252.00
TRF	Ash Waste Ltd	£176.04
TRF	Bailey Audios	£243.77
	Income	

17. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cllr M Venables sends his apologies for the next meeting.
- Arrange a meeting to discuss Christmas 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.59 pm

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Monday 6th January at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

L. Sandison

Appendix 1

Monthly PCSO Update

Anti-Social Behaviour

Lostock Gralam

- No reports received.

Burglary

Lostock Gralam

- Possible burglary being investigated.

Theft

Lostock Gralam

- Theft of vegetable oil from behind Manchester Road restaurant.

Road Safety

Lostock Gralam

- One Speed enforcement sessions carried out on Manchester Road with 2 offences captured.

Parking/highway Obstructions

Lostock Gralam

- Vehicle parked causing an obstruction on Langford Road.
- Vehicles reported travelling the wrong way on School Lane.
- Reports of vehicles causing an obstruction on School Lane.
- PCSO to set up community speed watch in the new year.

Weekly PCSO surgeries

Tuesday 3rd December, between 3pm – 4pm.

Princess Road, Allostock. A police vehicle will be parked near to the play area.

Monday 9th December, between 10am – 11am.

Costa Coffee, Lostock Gralam.

Saturday 14th December, between 4pm – 5pm.

Hulme Lane, Lower Peover. A Police vehicle to be parked near to the shop.

Friday 20th December, between 10am – 11am.

Lach Dennis Village Hall, Holmes Chapel Road. A Police Vehicle will be parked on the car park.

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.