

Minutes of the meeting of ALLOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL held on Thursday 23rd July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Two residents were present.

Phil Hambleton the PCSO attended to give his report, he was welcomed.

He reported that a vehicle had been damaged on Brick Bank Lane.

There were no thefts etc. in Allostock in this period.

However there had been a tragic road accident.

There was then a discussion about the speed of traffic on Middlewich Road, from the Three Greyhounds to the 30mph area near the village.

Wash Lane is also a problem and Tracey agreed to contact Highways Dept to see if they could make it safer,

for example, widening or putting in a passing place.

A resident brought up the problem of HGV's accessing Robinson's business on the main road. They enter Chapel Lane and then reverse across the A50 into the driveway. They are supposed to have a Marshall but residents say they don't see one. This is a long-time problem and there appears to be insufficient staff parking on site and so staff park in Chapel Lane. This makes life difficult for residents and sometimes the School Bus getting round the corner.

The police will deal with obstruction when it happens.

Present: In the Chair Cllr. Mrs J. Wilson, Cllrs Mrs. Tracey Sanderson, Mrs Pam Adlington, Peter Moseley and Lee Carter.

Clerk Mrs. Hazel West.

1.Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs. J.Gibbison and M.Clough

2.Declarations of Interest. Nil

3.Minutes of the last meeting Proposed Cllr. Mrs Sanderson Seconded Cllr. Mrs. Adlington

Accepted and signed.

4.Matters arising

Following the resignation of Cllr. Still the two vacancies have been advertised and Lee Carter has been co-opted on to the council; He was welcomed this evening.

- Archiving of records. Allostock Gooseberry society would like their records which go back to 1898 stored in the Goostrey Archive which is open to the public on Tuesdays. This was agreed and Julia will let them know.

- Parish Council records date back over a hundred years and should be archived at Cwac. They are not accepting documents at the moment.
- Frequency of Parish Council meetings. Mixed feelings about increasing to monthly. Decided to remain at Bimonthly but if a councillor has anything urgent to discuss they will call an extraordinary meeting.
- Pipe cluster, they are starting surveys but there is a great deal of opposition to this development
However, it is government backed but it is proceeding slowly and hopefully there are many obstacles in its way.

5.Parish Field.

Emails re grass cutting have been sent and received. Weather has solved the problem for this year, no rain, no grass.

6.Village Hall

Big Lunch was a great success, good food. May thanks to the organizers.

There is a Deep South Music evening tomorrow.

7.Planning Matters.

All planning applications are available to view on CheshireWestandChester website.

Discussed tonight:

26/01828/Ful

Site Address: Highfield Farm Holmes Chapel Road Allostock Northwich WA16 9JZ

Proposal:

Proposed First Storey Extension over existing lounge to include extension to the south elevation. Introduction of a single window at first storey to the east elevation above the existing porch. Proposed alteration to existing east facing principle ground floor entrance door. Proposed replacement of existing ground floor window on the south elevation to the utility with a single door.

Following discussion the following to be submitted to CWAC Planning dept.

Allostock Parish Council has no particular objection to this application although they have concerns that the site is becoming overdeveloped in this rural area.

They ask that the planning officer checks the increase in size from the original building.

Allostock Parish Council

26/02103/FUL

Oak Cottage Independent School, London Road, Allostock WA16 9LU

Change of use of the land and building from Bed and Breakfast and Restaurant to the provision of Education (retrospective)

There was a great deal of discussion of this application for a school young vulnerable children. The fact that this is a retrospective application and the school has been in operation for several months is worrying. There was unanimous feeling that the A50 is the wrong place for this school and safe guarding is difficult especially at drop off and pick up time. However it was agreed that this is a much needed facility since provision in the area is very limited and demand is great.

The clerk felt it would be difficult to express these worries and keep within the planning portals rules for objections and that there was a risk that the planning department might disregard some objections as not complying.

It was agreed that an objection would be put together by a councillor and agreed by the rest of the Council before being submitted to CWAC.

Later

Allostock Parish Council Formal Objection: Application 26/02103/FUL

Allostock Parish Council formally **objects** to retrospective application **26/02103/FUL** on the absolute grounds of **Severe Child Safeguarding Failures, Inadequate Spatial Design, and Critical Highway Risk.**

While the Parish Council notes the school's May 2026 Ofsted inspection, Ofsted evaluates internal educational policies at a heavily reduced, temporary capacity (~16 pupils). Ofsted does not possess the statutory authority to evaluate external physical design, spatial safety, or highways infrastructure. That legal duty falls entirely on the Local Planning Authority.

The child safety and operational flaws of this site are entirely unacceptable for a Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility:

1. Critical Safeguarding Failure & Flight Risk (Unsecured Front Entrance)

The physical safety of vulnerable children with complex Social, Emotional, and Mental

Health (SEMH) needs is the single most important factor, and this layout completely fails them:

- **The Main Door is Exposed:** The main reception entrance opens directly into a public, completely unsecured staff and visitor car park. Unlike purpose-built SEN schools, the front door is not contained behind a secure perimeter.
- **Substandard Front Fencing:** The applicant has installed secure 2.0m fencing to the sides and rear, yet the front boundary facing the highway drops to an unsafe 1.2m–1.5m. For children prone to sudden, severe dysregulation and flight, a 1.2m fence presents zero barrier. A child exiting the front door can clear this fence and enter the fast-moving A50 (London Road) in a matter of seconds.

2. Complete Absence of a Secure "Airlock" Drop-Off Zone and Spatial Conflict

Direct physical observation of the site layout confirms an unresolvable layout failure regarding vehicle and pedestrian segregation:

- **No Secure "Airlock":** The layout completely lacks a dual-gated, physically segregated "airlock" vehicle compound to safely enclose children as they transition from local authority transport into the school building. Standard safety guidelines dictate that the area directly outside the main door should be fenced off entirely to protect pupils from active vehicular movements.
- **The Spatial Impossibility:** If the applicant were required to install a secure, 2.0-meter high fenced airlock zone directly outside the front doors to safeguard the children, it would physically obliterate the parking spaces designated on the left side of the site plan. The site is physically too small to simultaneously provide a safe, secure boundary for vulnerable children and the required amount of parking spaces.

3. Total Parking Deficit and Cumulative Impact on the A50

The proposed 18 parking spaces are mathematically impossible for a school registered for a maximum capacity of 32 high-needs pupils:

- **Staff Saturation:** Due to the intensive 1:1 therapeutic and staff-to-pupil ratios required for SEMH provision, the 18 spaces will be entirely consumed by daily staff vehicles alone.
- **Full-Capacity Gridlock:** SEN home-to-school transport relies entirely on individual local authority taxis and minibuses. Because the school is currently operating at only half-capacity (~16 pupils), the true impact has not yet been felt. At its full registered capacity of 32 pupils, up to 32 separate transport vehicles will arrive simultaneously. The 18-space car park will experience total gridlock, forcing specialized transport to queue, idle on verges, or reverse directly onto the busy A50.

4. Misuse of Public Funds on an Unauthorized, Unsafe Facility

The Parish Council notes with grave concern that local authorities (including Cheshire West and Chester Council) are spending significant public funds to send vulnerable children to this facility. It is entirely unacceptable for public money to be used to commission placements at a school that has actively operated for over a year with zero local planning permission, while actively exposing those high-liability children to an unsafe, un-secure, and non-compliant environment.

Conclusion

Allstock Parish Council strongly urges the Local Planning Authority to **refuse** this

retrospective application. The current layout forces severe compromises on child safeguarding that cannot be physically mitigated within the boundaries of the site. We formally request that the Highways Authority conduct an independent **peak-hour traffic and turning-circle assessment** modelled at the full registered capacity of 32 pupils before any decision is determined.

8.Finance

St Oswald's PCC asks for contribution to Grave yard maintenance. It was agreed to give £750

Cheques Salary £598.20 HMRC 156.80

Telephone etc. £160.21

Correspondence

St Oswald's PCC.

Resident of Boots Green asking for more information about current planning applications, now on Allostock Parish Council website

AOB

Residents ask for Circles to hold bags for litter picking, clerk will purchase these, cost about £50.

Clerk to enquire about Memorial silhouettes, British Legion.

Need more dog waste bags and litter bags.

Signed.....24th September
2026.