



*Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith
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Minutes of the meeting of Lathom South Parish Council held at the Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8TY at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 9th March 2022.

In attendance: Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Richard Neale.

In attendance: Three members of the public attended the meeting

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Andrew Chanter and Cllr Ian Moran.

2 To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation

The meeting will consider any matters raised by members of the public by email to the Clerk

It was noted that Asda had taken action to collect litter from around the warehouse area.

The battery store workmen had been made aware of manholes and underground culvert/watercourse.

County Cllr Rob Bailey advised that an extra £2million had been received in the budget for pothole repairs which were to be dealt with by more durable

patching rather than filling. Extra funds had also been received for gully cleaning which would enable gullies to be cleared more regularly. A list of allocated resurfacing works had been finalised. Cllr Bailey will advise of any planned work in Lathom South Parish.

Cllr Bailey reminded the meeting that the Parish Council conference on Saturday 19th March was specifically focussing on Highways. It would include looking at a schedule of rates for part funding of infrastructure with LCC and Parish Councils.

It was raised to Cllr Bailey that the system for reporting potholes was too complicated as it involved having to stop in the road to take photographs which could be hazardous. Cllr Bailey advised that an App is now available for the logging of potholes which simplifies the procedure. It was noted that the App still involves taking a photograph but the system links to the GPS location to log the pothole and a picture is returned to the sender once the pothole is repaired. There is also a direct link for Parishes to report potholes directly to Highways.

Cllrs enquired if the restrictions brought in at recycling centres during Covid were to be fully lifted, specifically the need to prebook if using a trailer. Cllr Bailey advised he would make enquiries.

Cllr Bailey left the meeting 20.05

5 To discuss roads issues including feedback to County Councillor Bailey and minor jobs initiatives for discussion with LCC relating to the Highways Special Conference on 19th March.

This item was covered under item 4. No further issues were raised.

6 To receive the Tree Warden report

It was suggested that a path should be created in Swells Wood to make a circular walk to include a route through the bluebell area. Consideration was given to planting Snowdrops and Bluebells throughout the Parish. However, as great care would be needed not to mix different varieties of Bluebells, it was concluded that extra Bluebell planting would not be appropriate. It was noted that Swells Wood has native English bluebells so care had to be given not to introduce Spanish bluebells.

The meeting considered what would be a suitable tree for planting as a Jubilee tree in Swells Wood. Suggestions included a Magnolia or Rowan tree. It was proposed that Cllr Beeston and Cllr Blackledge fully consider the tree list taking into account the current planting in Swells Wood. The final decision on which tree to purchase was delegated to Cllr Beeston and Cllr Blackledge.

The Clerk informed the meeting that enquiries had been made with Zurich Insurance to establish if any further insurance cover was required following the purchase of Swells Wood. Zurich had advised that as long as there were risk assessments, maintenance and inspection regimes in place the area would be covered under the public liability already in place.

It was resolved to invite Andrew Greenough to give advice on what work to be carried out in Swells Wood.

The setting of the date for the Tree Walk was still waiting on news of refreshment opportunities at St James' Church. It was agreed that the date could be advertised on the Parish website and included in a pre-election flyer.

7 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

ICO	110222	Data protection	s.o	£35.00
Santander	160222	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.05
Napthens Solicitors	210222	Land Purchase	b.t	£26,532.00
J Smith	280222	Clerk's gross salary Feb	s.o	£ 421.00
Cricket Club	090322	Room hire	b.t.	£40.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8 To discuss any current planning issues:

Application Number: 2022/0122/NMA
Proposal: Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission
2021/1082/FUL the use of render to the rear extension and positioning and number of proposed windows.
Location: 5 Barn Croft Close Lathom Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 8DB

It was noted that this application had been considered prior to the LSPC meeting, therefore no comments were required.

9 Consideration of the draft newsletter

The meeting considered the content and presentation of the draft newsletter. The Clerk presented quotes for the printing in black and full colour. As the difference in prices was relatively small and within budget, it was resolved that the newsletter should be printed in colour to encourage engagement and greater interest throughout the Parish.

Some minor changes were agreed to the draft.

10 To consider the purchase of road side litter bins using CIL money

This item was deferred to next meeting in order to gain feedback from WLBC and LCC.

11 Consideration of charity donations and consider:

The meeting considered making charitable donations under Section 137 and within the 2021/22 agreed budget

a. CPRE The Countryside Charity

The Clerk advised that for several years the Parish Council had been a member of CPRE at an annual membership fee of £36 or thereabouts. It was noted that CPRE in turn had contributed significantly to the 2018 Local Plan proposals and before then to the public inquiry held to recommend the future of Whitemoss hazardous landfill site. There are also monthly updates and information linked to their work to protect the countryside. CPRE had sent a request for additional funding aid as the charity was struggling in the current financial climate. The meeting formally **resolved** to donate £100.

b. Ukrainian relief fund

The meeting formally agreed to make a donation to the Ukrainian relief fund via the Disasters Emergency Committee as the government had pledged a 100% fund match up to £25million of public donations. A donation of £500 was formally **resolved**

12. To agree process for annual litter pick including pledge to the Great British Spring Clean

The meeting formally agreed to ask Julian Pritchard to do his annual litter pick again. Consideration was given to organising a community litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean. As nobody was available to dedicate the time to organise a community litter pick it was agreed that the newsletter would include a request for residents to collect litter during their walks along the public footpaths.

12 Update on Jacobs Wood

Several trees in Jacobs Wood had fallen during the recent storms. Cllr Blackledge and her husband Phil were thanked for their hard work clearing the fallen trees. Advice would be sought from Mr Andrew Greenough regarding the stumps left behind. It was noted that a couple of trees remained which were leaning and may not survive a future storm.

The meeting heard that prior to Lathom South Parish Council being donated Jacobs Wood had been felled as part of National Grid safety works by OCR Fountains. Some tall, whippy trees, which it transpired were actually in Swells Wood, had been marked with a red dot but remained untouched. Cllr Blackledge agreed to make enquiries to establish if the trees were still to be felled by OCR Fountains on behalf of National Grid.

Discussions ensued regarding the best access point for machinery to Jacobs Wood and the ownership of the section of land containing the old railway bridge embankment and gated area off Plough Lane on the edge of Swells Wood.

13 Update on Swells Wood

An update had been received under item 6. There were no further discussions.

14 Update on Wayleave agreement with National Grid in respect of land on the north west and southeast side of Plough Lane Lathom, Land Registry title LA762664

The Chairman was waiting to receive the Wayleave agreement for signing.

15 Update on the parish council website, Communications Working Group and communicating feedback to residents

It was resolved to disband the Communications Working Group.

The Clerk advised that preliminary enquiries had been made into building a new website using a website building platform which could be purchased from the likes of GoDaddy. Initial thoughts were that this route would be time consuming and difficult. As packages for such platforms were generally limited to 10 pages, it was suggested that a bespoke build would be the best option.

The Clerk asked Councillors to consider having a Face Book page to run alongside the website in order to engage the wider community and promote attendance at Parish Council meetings. The meeting agreed a Face Book page may be advantageous to provide details of upcoming meetings and events once a new website had been completed.

The Clerk agreed to make further enquiries for a bespoke website and consider what information was vital for inclusion on the site.

16 Report from South Lathom Residents' Association (SLRA) for information only

There was no report from SLRA.

17 Exchanges of Information. For information only (no discussion)

There were no exchanges of information.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

13th April 2022