



*Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith, Oakdene, Vale Lane, Lathom, L40 6JH
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Minutes of the meeting of Lathom South Parish Council held at Skelmersdale Cricket Club at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 11th May 2022.

Present: Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman).

Apologies received from: Cllr Andrew Chanter

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 To elect Chairman and hear acceptance of office

Cllr Roger Clayton was elected Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

2 To elect Vice Chairman and hear acceptance of office

Cllr Carol Blackledge was elected Vice Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

3 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Andrew Chanter

4 To receive declarations of interests

None to declare

5 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April 2022

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th April 2022 and duly signed by the Chairman.

6 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance. No matters of concern or interest had been raised to the Chairman prior to the meeting.

7 To confirm Registration of Financial Interests forms

Councillors confirmed that their Registration of Financial Interest forms were up to date.

8 To confirm representation on outside bodies

Cllr Andrew Beeston was confirmed as Parish Council Tree Warden registered with the Tree Council via the West Lancashire Borough Tree Wardens.

To confirm structure and membership of committees and subcommittees

The following committee structure was agreed:

Human Resources Committee: Cllr Roger Clayton, Cllr Carol Blackledge

9 To consider payment of annual subscriptions

The following memberships were confirmed:

- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) - £36
- SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) – £ 112
- Open Spaces Society £45
- OPSTA (Ormskirk, Preston Southport Travellers Association) - £10

It was noted that the costs shown were 2021/22 membership fees and there may be small increases for 2022/23.

10 To consider Zurich insurance cover renewal quotation

The renewal quotation from Zurich Insurance was £301.10, which was an increase of £1.84 from last year. However, as the clerk's laptop wasn't included on the renewal, the clerk had requested an amended quote to include office equipment up to a value of £800. The meeting agreed the addition of office equipment and approved payment. It was resolved to accept the quotation from Zurich.

11 To update bank mandate signatories

The signatories on the LSPC bank account need to be updated as one signatory has resigned from the Parish Council. It was resolved that the Clerk be added as the third signatory on the bank account. The Clerk will complete the necessary paperwork with the bank.

12 To confirm dates of future meetings

It was agreed to continue holding meetings on the second Wednesday of the month apart from July/August which would be held later in the months. Subject to availability of a meeting room at Skelmersdale Cricket Club the dates for meetings were agreed as:

8th June 2022
20th July 2022
31st August 2022
12th October 2022
9th November 2022
14th December 2022
11th January 2023
8th February 2023
8th March 2023
12th April 2023
10th May 2023 AGM and APA

13 To receive the Tree Warden report

Cllr Andrew Beeston reported that a Weeping Willow had been planted by the stream in Swells Wood to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Thanks were given to Cllr Andrew Chanter for his hard work planting the Willow and constructing a protective tree guard. Thanks were also extended to Cllr Carol Blackledge for the planting of a Chestnut tree in Swells Wood.

Quotations for commemorative tree plaques had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. It was resolved to purchase a wooden 'Queen's Green Canopy' plaque from Classic Memorial Benches to mark the planting of the Weeping Willow.

Andrew Greenough had completed another spraying of invasive weeds in Swells Wood and Jacobs Wood. Clearing of the footpath and brash was scheduled to start late May. Swells Wood will be reassessed once Andrew Greenough has completed initial tidying of the wood and footpath.

Looking forward to possible future plans, Councillors were asked to consider the benefit of a footpath in the lower section of Swells Wood in the 'old wood' to provide a circular walk around the bluebells. It was thought that the bog section of the wood should be left to establish and possibly add more bog plants.

St James Church, Westhead, is now open on the first Saturday of each month for refreshments. It was agreed that a Tree Walk be organised for Saturday 3rd September with refreshments at the church to be incorporated into the walking route.

The Community Orchard is doing well in parts. Some trees don't have any flowers probably because they are located on quite a windy corner and one plum tree has died. Cllr Beeston will ask Brian Bennett for advice on care

for the trees. It was suggested that a few ordinary trees be planted to act as shelter for the fruit trees.

14 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160422	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.05
J Smith	2904222	Clerk's gross salary Apr	s.o	£421.00
J Smith	040522	Clerks salary adjustment	b.t	£31.98
J Smith	040522	Signs reimbursement	b.t	£51.24
W Beeston	050522	Tree purchase reimbursement	b.t	£44.99
Cricket Club	110522	Room hire	b.t.	£45.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

15 To discuss any current planning issues

Application Number: 2022/0340/FUL

Proposal: Erection of an extension to the existing agricultural storage building.

Location: Rydalholme, 164 Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 8TY

No objections were raised.

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

Cllr Roger Clayton reported that LCC had been contacted by email regarding two points:

- a) The condition of Firwood Road - The developers of 'Lathom Pastures' phase 1 (Bellway Homes) have a commitment to restore Firwood Road to its pre-development condition. Despite the development being completed around a year ago the condition of Firwood Road remains unacceptable.
- b) County Cllr Rob Bailey had advised LSPC about a new arrangement whereby Parish Councils could co-operate financially with the County Council in achieving minor road schemes which would not otherwise be funded. On making enquiries at the recent 'LCC Highways Conference', the advice was that further information should be obtained through the

'Report It' facility. However, there does not appear to be any relevant information on 'Report It'.

A reply from LCC is awaited on both of the above points.

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

It was noted that FP22 is in need of strimming. The Paris Clerk will contact Julian Pritchard to make arrangements for the footpath to be cleared.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

8th June 2022