



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 12th July 2023

Councillors in attendance:, Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Ernie Pallas, Cllr Darren Steele, Cllr Andy Taylor

In attendance: Borough Cllr Marsh-Pritchard and two members of the public were in attendance

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th June 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 To hear acceptance of office for Cllr Andrew Chanter and confirm Registration of Interest Forms for Councillors Beeston and Chanter

It was noted that the declaration of interest form from Cllr Beeston had already been received by the Clerk. Declaration of acceptance of

office was read out, witnessed and signed by Cllr Andrew Chanter (no spectacles).

5 Public Participation

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

It was commented that construction vehicles continued to use the Spa Lane end of Firwood Road to access the Wain Homes site.

The noise from the fans at the battery storage facility for electricity supplies ("plot E of XL Business Park") was causing a problem to some residents. There was still no sign of the rubble being cleared from that plot.

Residents enquired if there was an update on proposed future building to be included in the new local plan. It was advised that there were no set proposals yet for the plan.

6 Tree Wardens Report

The local council usually has a borough tree officer who organises the local tree wardens but currently it appeared that West Lancs was not being covered in that respect. Cllr Tom Marsh-Pritchard was asked to enquire if the new tree officer would be taking on that role, together with tree management, tree policies and protected trees within the area.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee tree planted in Swells Wood had suffered badly during the recent hot, dry spell. Pimbo Garden Centre would be asked if they could recommend a suitable feed to help it to recover.

The national drive for hedgerow planting continues. If any gaps in hedgerows are identified then free hedgerow plants are available.

The tree warden recommended identifying what trees are in the central planted area in Swells Wood. The meeting discussed the possibility of forming a working party group, 'Friends of Jacob/Swells Wood' to meet one day per month for volunteering work in the woods. It was agreed to draft a leaflet advertising the working party group in order for a leaflet drop be made to residents and displayed in Jacobs Wood and Councillor Steele volunteered to undertake that task.

7 To discuss plans for footpath around Swells Wood and possible entry via Plough Lane

The clerk had circulated a proposal for a basic pathway to be created around Swells Wood. It was agreed to use £3,000 CIL funds for the work to be carried out by Working Woodlands.

Further consideration would be given to making an entrance to the woods from Plough Lane once advice had been sought from a ground works contractor.

8 To consider quotation for public footpath strimming

The meeting considered a quotation for the strimming of footpaths at £200 per path. It was agreed to strim the same footpaths as in the previous year. The cost would be covered by the PROW grant, concurrent funding plus reserves as agreed when setting the 2023/24 budget.

9 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160623	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.20
HugoFox	230623	Website hosting	d.d.	£23.99
NEST	230623	Clerk's Pension June 23	d.d.	£120.98
J Smith	290623	Clerk's salary June 23	s.o	£ 561.64
Cricket Club	120723	Room hire	b.t.	£45.00
Working Woodlands	300623	Swells Wood development	b.t	£220.10
Working Woodlands	300523	Swells Wood development	b.t	£848.90
LALC	120723	Membership fee	b.t	£136.55

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

The clerk informed Councillors that the external auditor had advised a full audit was not required for 2022/23 and had given the Parish Council the option to submit an exemption certificate. This was on the grounds that income and expenditure in 2022/23 had both been less than £25,000. It was noted that an internal audit had been completed and no issues had been raised. There would be no charge for audit if an exemption certificate was submitted.

It was noted that an external audit would be required for 2023/24 as CIL income would be included in that financial year.

It was resolved to submit an exemption certificate for 2022/23.

10 To discuss any current planning issues

There were no current planning issues to discuss.

It was noted that the application from Wain Homes to build a sub-station on land previously designated as open land had been withdrawn.

Concerns were raised regarding the use of an area of land off Lyelake Lane where hard core seemed to be getting stored. Enquiries are to be made with WLBC.

11 To agree a response to the Consultation with Parish Councils about the Governance Framework Review

The Parish Council concluded that WLBC was in the best position to decide on a new governance framework.

12 Update on traffic calming applications

a. to reduce speed limit on Dicks Lane

The clerk confirmed the proposal for reducing the speed limit to 40mph, signed by residents of Dicks Lane, had been sent to Speed Enforcement and copied to Cllr Rob Bailey who supports the proposal.

b. proposal for traffic calming on Firwood Road

Due to the delay in local elections, the proposal for traffic calming measures on Firwood Road had not yet been submitted but was due to be sent by the end of July.

13 Report from South Lathom Residents' Association (SLRA) for information only. Includes FP24, FP101 and new cycleways.

Lots of work was continuing on the development of the XL Business Park. The temporary footpath was still in place but still no action had been taken to advertise the approved permanent route for FP24 and change the definitive map. The cycle path had not been planned and approved by the Council in line with Outline Planning Permission and nothing had been done to tackle land ownership issues. Since the new planning manager had done a site visit in January 2023 and several reminders from SLRA had not made any difference, the

developers had also been contacted to try to establish what they knew about the footpath. The developers had replied that they had not been able to make progress with WLBC either.

The full process for rerouting a footpath needed to be completed. A Freedom of Information request had been sent to WLBC for a copy of all correspondence on the subject. WLBC would have 20 working days to disclose the information.

Several years ago, an attempt had failed to create a circular route suitable for disabled users in the area. If the footpaths and cycle paths around XL Business Park are sorted out, there is the potential to create a non-controversial circular route there, also including Old Engine Lane (FP26).

14 To discuss Public Footpath (FP26) along Old Engine Lane including preparation needed for bollards and the possible purchase of road signs

Old Engine Lane has now been partly levelled. Residents are unsure as to whether any resurfacing is to be completed by the developers. The developers, WLBC and the emergency services need to be informed of plans for the installation of bollards.

Consideration is to be given to installing road signs at each end of Old Engine Lane stating that it is a private, no through road.

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

There being no further matters the meeting was brought to a close at 9.05pm

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

6th September 2023