



*Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith
Oakdene, 1 Vale Lane, Lathom, Lancashire, L40 6JH
07495970005
Lathomsouthpc.clerk@yahoo.com*

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 20th July 2022.

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

In attendance: Two members of the public attended the meeting

Apologies received from: Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Ian Moran

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received 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 8th June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June were accepted as a true 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

Local resident Mr Ernie Pallas introduced himself and expressed his interest in becoming an active Parish Councillor. The Parish Council were pleased to welcome Mr Pallas and advised that his formal co-option as a Parish Councillor would be added to the agenda of the meeting on 31st August.

A resident advised that the groundworks along Spa Lane had been held up by an underground obstruction and water leakage. It was not known what the obstruction was.

Concerns regarding the use of Firswood Road by construction traffic was raised. A request had been made for the Parish Council to ask for a copy of the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) from Wain Homes or their agent Emery Planning. It was commented that a CTMP would have been required in order to comply with Health and Safety regulations.

It was agreed that the Clerk should request the CTMP documentation, required under Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015, from Wain Homes.

5 To receive the Tree Warden report

Cllr Andrew Beeston provided the Tree Warden's report.

Andrew Greenough had continued the agreed work in Swells Wood. The pathway along the east side of the planted area had been opened up and the opening of some rides had been started. Further clearing of brash was needed to open more pathways and possibly open up a footpath for entry from Plough Lane. There was also the possibility of putting in a lower path by the brook. Further work was suggested to straighten the planted trees. The spraying of the invasive weeds had worked well.

It was agreed that regular treatment of the Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed would be needed over the next 18mths/2yrs during the growing season.

It was suggested that a map outlining Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood be shared with the local community. This could be included in the next newsletter. The planting of the recently purchased Golden Cedar tree will need to wait until the ground is less dry.

The Tree Walk planned for the first Saturday in September will include a stop at St James Church, Westhead for refreshments. The Church would like the walk to be advertised to Westhead residents as well as Lathom South residents. The route needs to be planned, a map produced and tree labels checked. With only 6 weeks until the walk, publicity would need to be a priority. It was suggested that St James Church may be able to publicise the walk in their newsletter.

The Community Orchard continues to grow but needs a hedge to protect the trees from the wind. The fruit is developing well and a good harvest is hoped for.

6 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

J Services	100622	Footpath strimming	b.t	£1,700.00
Santander	160622	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.20
OPSTA	260622	Annual membership	b.t	£10.00
J Smith	2906222	Clerk's gross salary June	s.o	£453.94
SLCC	040722	ILCA course registration	b.t	£144.00
Cricket Club	200722	Room hire	b.t.	£45.00
Santander	160722	Bank charges	b.t	£0.05
Working Woodlands	200722	Swells Wood maintenance	b.t	£2447.40

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

The Clerk advised an account had been opened with Viking for stationery orders. An order for printer paper and supplies for posting out the next newsletter had been placed.

Income received first quarter Apr - Jun 2022 was noted

140422	Precept 1 st instalment	£7,906.00
200422	Wayleave agreement	£300.00
060622	VAT refund	£143.58
220622	1 st Concurrent grant	£315.00
280622	National Grid annual payment	£2.17
April – June	Bank interest	£102.86

7 To consider applications for 2022-23 LCC grants

- a) PROW Local Delivery Scheme
- b) Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme

It was resolved to apply for both the £500 PROW Local Delivery Scheme funding and the £300 Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme funding for 2022-23.

8 To discuss any current planning issues

Application Number: 2022/0746/NMA
Location: Land To The West Of Neverstitch Road Skelmersdale
Lancashire
Proposal: Non material amendment to planning permission
2020/1267/FUL - amend approved description and amend conditions.

This application was noted.

9 To discuss issues raised regarding building works off Firwood Road by Wain Homes

This agenda item had been fully discussed under item 4.

10 Update on Swells Wood

This had been included in the Tree Warden's report.

11 To discuss future maintenance schedule of footpaths

The footpath work carried out by Julian Pritchard was much appreciated. Julian had suggested an annual maintenance plan, with regular cuts throughout the growing season, to keep the footpaths clear for walking over the summer months. The quote to maintain 11 footpaths throughout the growing season was £4,400 pa.

Although the idea of a maintenance plan was positively received, the cost could not be justified within the current budget. Concerns were raised that the annual precept would need to be increased to absorb the additional cost. It was agreed that further consideration of possible alternative maintenance plans was required. The item is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

12 To decide on location for 'Slow Down, Save Lives' banner

LCC had provided all Parish Councils with a 'Slow Down, Save Lives' banner for display at a traffic speed concern area of choice. Consideration was given to a suitable location to display the banner. As Dick's Lane is a busy, national speed limit road, it was agreed to enquire if the farmer would allow the banner to be displayed along his boundary near the bend in the road. Cllr Beeston is to discuss this with the farmer and report back at the next meeting.

13 Update on the parish council website

The Clerk reported that work on the website continued but progress was slow due to her workload. It was agreed to increase the Clerk's weekly contacted hours from 8hrs to 10hrs to cover additional work on the website.

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

A report from SLRA was received. WLBC had been contacted regarding the traffic usage of Firswood Road and the inconvenience to residents in relation to construction traffic. At yet no response had been received.

SLRA continued to chase their initial enquiry relating to the diversion of footpath 24 due to the development of Plot B and the proposals for the cycle path. The originally enquiry had not been picked up and the WLBC case officer had advised that it was not a priority within the current work load. SLRA had since sent a reminder to Heidi McDougall that a response to the following concerns had not been received

- a. Making sure that the diverted route of the footpath should be carried through onto the definitive map.
- b. The section of combined cyclepath and footpath from Statham Road to footpath 8-1-24 should be recorded as a public right of way.
- c. The extended routes of cyclepath/footpath should be recorded as public rights of way.
- d. The cycle path should not come *from* nowhere *to* XL Business Park (Statham Road) in order to provide cycle access to the Business Park but should be linked in some way to a road from its junction with FP 8-2-101.

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

There were a number of fallen trees on Lyelake Lane. It was noted that these could be reported to WLBC on the Love Your Street App.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

31st August 2022