



*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 October 2022.

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

Councillors absent: Cllr Ian Moran

In attendance: One member of the public attended the meeting

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

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 31st August 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 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

It was commented that Firwood Road had become more hazardous with increased traffic, mud on the road and over grown trees/hedging. In parts the pavement was overgrown with weeds causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

The temporary traffic lights and work on Spa Lane continue to be a problem for residents. Information on the LCC website states the work should now be completed by 31st October 2022. There are still no wheel washing facilities on the "Plot E" XL Business Park site leading off to Spa Lane and mud deposited on the road by the site vehicles is being transferred into the properties of the local residents. A similar problem with mud on the road affects Firwood Road, close to where the Wainhomes site entrance joins the road. This contravenes a condition of the planning consent.

5 To discuss anti-social behaviour in Jacobs Wood/ Swells Wood

West Lancs NPT had been invited to send a representative to give advice on dealing with anti-social behaviour in Jacobs Wood/ Swells Wood but did not attend the meeting.

There had not been any further incidents of vandalism noted in the woods and there was no evidence of any recent use of the area by motorcyclists. Cllr Chanter planned to reinforce the fencing and erect 'no motorcycling' signs w/c 24th October.

6 To receive the Tree Warden report and agree further work in Swells Wood

Cllr Beeston reported that the recent tree walk had moderate numbers attending and had gone well. Thanks were given to all those involved including the volunteers at St James Church who had provided a welcome refreshment break. A tree list is to be circulated and possibly added to the next newsletter.

Consideration was given to where any hedge planting was required. It had been previously noted that the Community Orchard would benefit from hedging to protect the fruit trees. It was resolved that Cllr Beeston enquire how many suitable hedging plants could be obtained from the tree council on behalf of the school for planting around the Orchard. The Community Orchard needs pruning this Autumn. One tree is still struggling and possibly needs replacing.

A working party for Swells Wood would help to further establish the area. It was resolved to book Andrew Greenough for a week to continue with the clearing works which he had started on in the central planting area. It was agreed that a working group be considered after Andrew Greenough had completed his work.

7 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160922	Bank charges	b.t	£0.15
J Smith	290922	Clerk's gross salary Sept	s.o	£566.16
Cricket Club	121022	Room Hire	b.t	£45.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8 To discuss any current planning issues

Application Number: 2022/1019/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side and porch extension to dwelling house

Location: 2 Firwood Road, Lathom, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 8UP

No objections.

9 Update on issues raised regarding building works off Firwood Road by Wainhomes

Building works seem to be well under way. Issues of mud on the road and over grown pavements had been discussed under item 4. The Clerk advised she would report the overgrown footpath along Firwood Rd on Love Clean Street and contact Wainhomes regarding the cutting of the hedge.

10 Update on the parish council website

Councillors were given the opportunity to view the new website which was nearing completion. The Chairman agreed to proof read the text. The Clerk estimated that the new website would be ready to go live by mid-November.

At the SLCC branch meeting it was noted that the auditors, Littlejohn had recommended all Parish Councils should be looking into having '.gov' emails. SLCC commented that, at the moment, there is nothing to say Parish Councils are required to have '.gov' domains but they do need to look into changing to '.gov'. There were concerns regarding constrictions imposed by using a '.gov' domain, however, Councillors commented that if a change was inevitable then it may be advantageous to do so to coincide with the new website going live.

The Clerk advised that another Parish Council had been forced by Yahoo to upgrade to a paid for account so it was likely that Yahoo would enforce a business account on all Parish Councils. Therefore, the cost of a business email account would need to be incorporated into the budget.

The Clerk advised she would make further enquiries regarding the use of a '.gov' domain and report back.

11 To discuss next Newsletter

The Clerk suggested the next newsletter be published shortly after the launch of the new website. Items for inclusion and authors of the articles were agreed as follows

Items for newsletter please

- Respecting the countryside – Clerk
- Hollands Lane water, including thanks to local landowner – Cllr Clayton

- Tree walk – Cllr Beeston
- Speed awareness – Cllr Pallas
- Website launch – Clerk
- Swells Wood / Queen's Green Canopy – Cllr Blackledge

Articles are to be sent to the Clerk by 2nd Nov in order for a draft to be agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 9th Nov. It was proposed that the newsletter be delivered to residents in early December.

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

There was no update from SLRA, other than about the Wainhomes site (see item 4).

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

The Clerk reported that NALC had requested Parish Councils sign up to a Civility & Respect Charter. This had been discussed at the SLCC branch meeting as signing up seemed to commit Parish Councils to paying to attend training courses which had not been budgeted for. The Clerk was waiting for further details before bringing the Charter to the meeting as an agenda item.

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

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

9th November 2022