



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 13th December 2023

Councillors in attendance: Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Darren Steele.

Apologies: Cllr Andy Taylor, Cllr Ernie Pallas,

Other Councillors not in attendance: Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Andrew Chanter

In attendance: One member of the public was in attendance

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Taylor and Cllr Ernie Pallas.

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 8th November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation

One member of the public commented on the difficulties in making contact with WLBC Planning Department and Enforcement team.

5. Tree Wardens Report

There was no report from the Tree Warden.

6. To agree on further development of Swells Wood

Councillors were in support of a development programme which had been suggested by Andrew Greenough for Swells Wood. It was resolved to release a further £4,000 of CIL funds for Andrew Greenough to commence with the next stage of the development.

The Clerk is to obtain three quotes for the purchase of a metal field gate to restrict the access into Swells Wood from adjacent farmland.

It was noted that there is bamboo growing along the line of the brook at the edge of Jacobs Wood. Advice is to be sought from Andrew Greenough on what would be the best method to treat the bamboo to prevent it becoming invasive.

It was established that a number of walkers using the circular route in Swells Wood often descend to the dismantled railway path when heading towards Plough Lane. The point of descent is relatively steep and it was agreed to enquire with Andrew Greenough what options would be available to create a gentler route from the upper path to the lower path.

7. To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	171123	Bank charges	d.d	£0.20
NEST	231123	Clerk's Pension Nov 23	d.d	190.95
J Smith	271123	Stationery reimbursement	b.t	£47.45
J Smith	291123	Clerk's salary Nov 23	s.o	£601.00
Design4Print	011223	Newsletter printing	b.t	£220.00
HugoFox	081223	Website hosting	d.d	£23.99
Cricket Club	131223	Room hire	b.t	£45.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8. To discuss any current planning issues

There were no current planning applications to consider.

It was noted that the diversion for FP24 had now been legally approved. There is still no confirmation of the legal processes for the confirming the route of the accompanying cycle path.

9. To ratify CIL Report for Financial Year 2022/23 to return to WLBC

The CIL Report for the Financial Year 2022/23 was approved.

10. Initial consideration of budget for Financial Year 2024/25, including any capital purchases and Community Infrastructure spending but excluding exceptional items.

An initial draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting for information purposes. Confirmation of the Concurrent Grant and Council Tax Support Grant figures for 2024/25 had not yet been received. The taxbase figure for 2024/25 was not yet known.

It was noted that the amount of unspent CIL funds was currently £184,405. The majority of the CIL funds would be used if the Firwood Road traffic calming proposal went ahead. Some of the funds were ringfenced for the purchase of a Community Defibrillator.

Councillors were asked, when considering the budget, to take into account the requirement for capital purchases for items which are in need of replacement. Assets including the Parish Council laptop, noticeboards and some of the street furniture are reaching the end of their life span and will need replacing. Therefore, some reserves need to be ringfenced for future large purchases.

As there were only three Councillors at the meeting it was agreed not to make any financial decisions until the next Parish Council meeting on 10th January 2024. It was noted that the precept amount to be requested would need to be agreed at the January meeting in order to meet the application deadline of 9th February 2024.

11. To discuss indicative costs for Firwood Road traffic calming and agree on further action.

Indicative costs had been provided by LCC for the introduction of traffic lights on the railway bridge on Firwood Road. Councillors requested that the Clerk contact LCC for clarification of why costs included a pedestrian crossing and speed limit reduction. It had been suggested that a cheaper alternative to traffic lights would be to introduce a one-way system along one end of Firwood Road thus removing the need for traffic lights.

12. Update on CCLA application

The Clerk had completed the CCLA application form ready for the signatories to sign at the meeting.

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

There was nothing to report from SLRA.

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

There were no exchanges of information.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

10th January 2024