



ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

AT 8:00PM ON WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2024

CRICKET CLUB, BLAGUEGATE LANE, LATHOM

MINUTES

Present: Parish Councillors Andrew Beeston, Carol Blackledge, Roger Clayton, Ernie Pallas, Andy Taylor, Stephen Bissette from the Clean and Green Team and one member of the public.

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Andrew Chanter and Darren Steele, Ward Councillors Ian Rigby and Linda Webster.

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Roger Clayton.

1. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 10th May 2023

The Minutes were taken as read and signed by Chairman Cllr Roger Clayton.

2. WLBC Clean and Green Team Q & A

WLBC Clean and Green Team Area Manager, Stephen Bissette, gave a presentation introducing the team and outlining the services provided.

Six teams of Clean and Green Operatives cover all aspects of work including grass and shrub maintenance, litter, sweeping and litter bin emptying.

Other services covered by the Clean and Team include tree stock maintenance, pest control, drainage and culverts, engineering services and technical operational support.

In 2024 Meadow Areas were being introduced for a trial period. Over 20 sites had been chosen for reduced maintenance to increase biodiversity and attract pollinators.

Since 2021 over 200 new litter bins had been installed within the West Lancs Borough. All general bins are now multi waste to include dog waste. Eight recycling bins were a recent addition in the Borough. More rural sites were being considered for additional recycling bins. Some post bins were to be reintroduced for areas where space is limited. Any suggestions for the locations of additional litterbins would be welcomed.

Commercial waste fly tipping was being tackled in rural areas with CCTV cameras and the use of covert security boxes. Installing cameras and signage had significantly decreased fly tipping.

A question and answer session took place following the presentation.

It was noted that the cleaning of road signs was covered by LCC not the Clean and Green Team.

Road cleansing is schedule to be completed three times per year by seven sweeper vehicles. A new monitoring system is to be introduced this year.

The meeting thanked Stephen Bissette for his attendance.

3. Financial Report of the Parish Council

The following overview of accounts were made available.

INCOME

Parish Precept	£	10,962.00	
Council Tax Support Grant	£	406.00	
Concurrent Grant	£	647.00	
LCC for footpaths	£	1,000.00	Incl £500 from 2022/23
LCC Biodiversity grant	£	600.00	Incl £300from 2022/23
Bank Interest	£	6,041.73	
National grid	£	2.17	
Community Infrastructure Levy	£	122,966.94	
VAT refund	£	764.83	
TOTAL	£	143,390.67	

EXPENDITURE breakdown for 2023/24

staff salary, includes pension payments	£	8,118.23	
Admin, includes bank charges & stationery	£	104.30	
Training	£	35.00	
Website	£	292.67	
Room hire	£	495.00	
Audit/Insurance/ICO reg	£	363.16	
Election	£	144.33	
Subscriptions, CPRE, SLCC, OPSTA	£	450.55	
Litter picking	£	1,710.00	Incl early 2024 litterpick supported by LCC grant
Footpaths	£	2,457.96	
Noticeboards	£	175.45	
Newsletters	£	440.00	
Section 137 grants	£	-	
Community Infrastructure Projects	£	6,351.30	
Biodiversity grant projects	£	601.56	
TOTAL	£	21,739.51	

The Parish Council Clerk advised that the income without CIL funds was £20,423.73 therefore £1,315.78 of reserve funds had been used during 2023/24. This was not a concern as auditors had advised that some reserves should be used.

4. Report of the Parish Council Years – 2023/24

A recent newsletter, which highlighted the main activities of the Parish Council, had been distributed to all residential dwellings prior to the APA.

It was noted that the new section of footpath at the end of Slate Lane would require new signposting.

The resident at the meeting volunteered to do some litter picking and join the Friends of Jacob Wood work party. The Clean and Green Team offered to supply a litter picking pack to any litter picking volunteers.

5. Forward Plan

This item had been covered under items 2 – 4.

6. Questions and answers session

There being no further questions, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Chairman

14th May 2025