



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 June 2024

Councillors in attendance: Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman) and Cllr Darren Steele

Apologies: Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Ernie Pallas, and Cllr Andy Taylor.

In attendance: Ward Cllr Linda Webster was in attendance.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Ernie Pallas, and Cllr Andy Taylor.

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 15th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. To hear acceptance of office for Vice Chairman and confirm Registration of Interest Form for Cllr Darren Steele

Cllr Darren Steel had been elected as Deputy Chairman, in his absence, at the AGM on 15th May 2024. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

Cllr Steel confirmed that he will provide an updated registration of interest form.

5. Public Participation

No matters were raised by members of the public.

6. Tree warden reports

The Platinum Jubilee tree has not survived, Councillors were asked to consider the purchase of a new tree as a replacement. Matter to be resolved at the July meeting.

It was suggested that a tree walk be planned for in the Autumn to include Swells Wood and Jacobs Wood starting at The Plough and having a stop for refreshments at Westhead Church. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at the July meeting. It was suggested a flyer could be produced and linked to Friends of Jacobs Wood plans.

The design work for the new orchard board is well under way and will be completed once new photographs are available. The new design will be completely different from the original board to ensure there will be no copyright issues. It is intended that the new design will remain the property of the Parish Council and therefore any required future updates can be made by the Parish Council.

7. To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

J Pritchard	220324	Litter pick	b.t	£855.00
Santander	160524	Bank charges	d.d	£0.25
NEST	210524	Clerk's Pension May 24	d.d	129.57
Geosphere	210524	Parish Online	b.t	£84.00
J Smith	210524	Printer cartridge	b.t	£15.29
Zurich	220524	Insurance Premium	b.t	£ 340.67
Working Woodlands	230524	Swells Wood	b.t	£1495.17
J Smith	290524	Clerk's salary May 24	s.o	£601.00
Hugofox	080624	Web hosting	d.d	£23.99
Cricket Club	120624	Room hire	b.t	£50.00
J Pritchard	130624	Footpath strimming	b.t.	£2400.00
J Smith	130624	Travel	b.t	£36.00

The Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors a payment which had been made on 22nd March 2024 for a litter pick - the payment had not been recorded at the meeting held on 10th April 2024.

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8. To receive internal audit, complete Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2023/24

The Clerk presented the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2023/24 as it had been presented to the internal auditor. The accounting statements were considered by Councillors. It was resolved that the accounting statements were correct and were signed accordingly. The documents will be submitted to the external auditor in due course.

9. To discuss any current planning issues:

Wainhomes applications 2023/0017FUL (9 homes) and 2023/0018/FUL (road through area of public open space) - the original claim that the total area of public open space (POS) was above the required amount had been queried. It now appeared that the total amount of POS was actually below the required amount. WLBC are working with Wainhomes to resolve the matter. It was agreed that if the Parish Council is invited to partake in the discussions with WLBC and Wainhomes, both Cllr Clayton & Cllr Steele will attend any meetings.

Application No: 2024/0282/FUL

Proposal: Proposed bungalow.

Location: Land To The East Of Ende Cottage, Slate Lane, Lathom,

Deadline for comment: 5th July 2024

As details of planning application 2024/0282/FUL had not been received prior to the meeting, Councillors requested further time to consider the application in full before making any comments. Any observations, concerns or comments would need to be forwarded to the Clerk no later than 4th July 2024.

10. Request approval for the application of the 2024/25 PROW grant and Biodiversity grant

To was resolved to apply for the 2024/25 PROW grant and Biodiversity grant.

11. To approve the updated Financial Regulations document and consider the updating of Standing Orders

This item was deferred until the July meeting.

12. To agree on future development of Swells Wood to include a natural pond

Councillors were asked to formally approve the creation of a nature pond in Swells Wood.

It was resolved to set a maximum budget of £5,000 for the creation of a pond. It was suggested that the Biodiversity grant could be used to purchase water plants such as reeds for the pond.

It was agreed that enquiries are to be made into creating a form of seating using the logs in Swells Wood.

13. To discuss the upkeep of assets

The 'Welcome to Lathom' signs, way markers and benches all need to be inspected on a regular basis. An inspection programme would be required. It was agreed that Councillors would all take a share of the assets to inspect. The Clerk was in the process of listing all Parish Council assets on Parish Online and would provide a comprehensive list in due course.

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

The diverted section of footpath 24 has now been completed. The associated cycle path has no date for completion as it will be delivered as part of the construction of the adjoining unit and will likely to be dictated by occupier demand.

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

The Friends of Jacobs Working (FOJW) group had been delighted to welcome three residents who had volunteered at the work party on 1st June. The work party had started to remove tree guards from trees which had outgrown the guards. It had become evident that a lot more volunteers would be needed to remove all the tree guards. Cllr Steele had been looking at creating a FOJW Facebook page where additional work party dates could be advertised at short notice. A flyer linked with the tree walk could include a QR code to access the FOJW information. Some flyers could possibly be laminated and displayed for a set period of time, then removed. It might also be possible for a FOJW Facebook page to link with the Bickerstaffe Parish Facebook page.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

10th July 2024