



# Lathom South Parish Council

*serving our local community*

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*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 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Councillors in attendance:** Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Ernie Pallas, Cllr Darren Steele, Cllr Andy Taylor.

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence

**In attendance:** Two members of the public were in attendance

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. To record apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. Public Participation**

Residents requested an update following their concerns raised several months ago about activity at a site west of Lyelake Lane. The Clerk reported that their concerns had been raised with WLBC Enforcement Team who had then

forwarded the details to Environmental Protection for investigation. The Clerk will follow up for a response.

## 5. Tree Wardens Report

The schedule of planned work in Swells Wood and Jacobs Wood is coming along well. It was agreed to order a free 30 tree Copse pack from Woodland Trust to replant an area which had recently been cleared of dead trees.

Plans for the next Friends of Jacobs Wood working party are under way. It is hoped that some DoE students will be available to volunteer on the day.

The clearing back of dead and fallen trees has created a number of log piles in the woods. Thought was given to how the log piles could be utilised. It was agreed that volunteers at the working party would be welcome to take some of the logs for their personal use if they wished to do so.

## 6. To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

|                   |        |                          |      |           |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| Santander         | 161223 | Bank charges             | d.d. | £0.10     |
| NEST              | 211223 | Clerk's Pension Dec      | b.t  | £129.57   |
| J Smith           | 291223 | Clerk's gross salary Dec | s.o  | £ 601.00  |
| GoCardless        | 080124 | Web hosting              | d.d  | £23.99    |
| Working Woodlands | 080124 | Swells Wood Dev          | b.t  | £1,200.00 |
| Cricket Club      | 100124 | Room hire                | b.t. | £45.00    |

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

## 7. To consider the budget for Financial Year 2024/25, including any capital purchases and Community Infrastructure spending but excluding exceptional items.

The spreadsheets showing accounts to date and the proposed figures for the next financial year's budget had been distributed prior to the meeting for consideration. The meeting agreed the following amendments:

- **Meeting room hire** – taking increased fuel costs into consideration, it was agreed to increase room hire fees to £50 per session.
- **Donations and Local Plan Costs** – as the Local Plan is coming to the public consultation stage, it was agreed to include £2,000 in the budget to help cover costs for expert advice.
- **Footpath strimming** – the Parish Council had been frugal with footpath strimming in 2023. In order to maintain the footpaths to an acceptable standard throughout the year it was agreed to increase provision in the budget to £1,800 to supplement concurrent funds and the PROW grant.

- **Tree sundries** – it was agreed that there was no need to budget for such items in 2024.

In order to meet the budget requirements, it was resolved to use some reserves (mainly acquired from bank interest in 2023) and to set a precept amount at £12,239.86 for 2024-25. It was noted that although the 2024-25 precept amount was an increase of 11% from 2023-24, the tax base figure had also increased by 11%, therefore, there would be no cost implication to individual households.

The meeting considered the costs for repair or replacement of assets which had a limited life span. It was agreed to ring-fence reserves as below for future purchases:-

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Benches                 | £ 5,000.00               |
| Welcome to Lathom signs | £10,000.00               |
| Fingerposts             | £ 2,500.00               |
| Noticeboards            | £ 7,000.00               |
| Office equipment        | <u>£ 1,000.00</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b><u>£25,500.00</u></b> |

The meeting approved the budget and resolved to make a precept request of £12,239.86.

## **8. To discuss any current planning issues**

There were no current planning applications to consider.

It was noted that Wainhomes had applied for a S106 variation to allow shared ownership occupiers to staircase to 100% ownership on the Latune Gardens estate.

## **9. To discuss and agree the next steps in moving forward the proposal for traffic calming measures on Firswood Road**

The LCC Highways Manager had confirmed that the indicative costs which he had provided for the proposed traffic calming measures on Firswood Road had not been based on a detailed design and included all possible requirements. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to LCC Highways requesting comprehensive costings based on a full survey and design plan.

It was noted that the request for a speed limit reduction on Dicks Lane had been declined by LCC.

## **10. Report from South Lathom Residents' Association (SLRA) for information only.**

The SLRA complaint regarding Wainhomes having homes occupied prior to conditions being met was ongoing.

Sewage arrangement from Wainhomes, going across FP101, to School Lane had raised concerns. It was noted that there was currently no open route from Slate Lane to Footpath 101 as the new footpath had not yet been put in and the temporary footpath had been blocked with earth/rubble.

**11. Exchanges of Information. For information only (no discussion)**

The Clerk advised the next LALC meeting was being held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7pm at Council Offices, 52 Derby Street. Councillors were welcome to attend.

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

**Cllr Roger Clayton  
Chairman**

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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