



Lathom South Parish Council

serving our local community

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 14th February 2024

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

Apologies: 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 Andy Taylor.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Blackledge declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application No: 2023/1119/FUL.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation

Potholes continue to be a problem throughout the Parish. It was recognised that this is a national issue. Attention was particularly drawn to the crumbling road surfaces on Plough Lane and Vale Lane, although individual potholes are being

filled in, areas of the road surfaces are in poor condition and require repeated repairs.

5. Tree warden reports

30 saplings have been ordered from Woodland Trust for delivery in November ready for Autumn planting.

A Friends of Jacobs Wood working party is still being planned for the Spring. It was noted that DoE students will not be available to join the work party.

Consideration was given to how to use the logs produced from the tree felling in Swells Wood. It was suggested that some could be used to define the line of the path – this could be carried out by the working party. Once the path is better established there will be a better idea of which wet areas would benefit from a boardwalk.

There remains a number of tree sleeves scattered around the woods. It was suggested these could be collected by the working party.

Electricity North West (ENW) had been in contact regarding progressing with some planned vegetation removal works to ensure the safety of high voltage cables crossing part of Jacobs Wood. Enquiries were ongoing to establish the extent of the work and if a Wayleave agreement was required.

The updating of the Community Orchard notice board was discussed with the suggestion that if the original design was accessible, it may be possible for the information to be updated in house. Further enquiries to be made to establish who held the original design work.

6. To consider quotes for the purchase of a gate for Swells Wood

It was resolved to purchase a metal gate from Northwest Timber Treatments for the access point into Swells Wood from the adjoining field. It was agreed to consult with Andrew Greenough with regard to the appropriate size of the gate (8' or 10').

7. To discuss and agree on the use of the 2023/24 £300 Biodiversity Grant

It was resolved to use the 2023/24 Biodiversity Grant to purchase various bird boxes, hedgehog house(s) and bat boxes.

8. To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160124	Bank charges	d.d	£0.15
NEST	260124	Clerk's Pension Jan 24	d.d	129.57
J Smith	290124	Clerk's salary Jan 24	s.o	£601.00
Go Cardless	080224	Web hosting (Hugo Fox)	d.d	£23.99

ICO	090224	Data Protection Reg	d.d	£35.00
Cricket Club	140224	Room hire	b.t	£45.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To discuss any current planning issues:

Application No: 2023/1119/FUL

Proposal: Single storey detached garage/store

Site Location: Moss Cottages, Plough Lane, Lathom.

There were no objections in principle to the addition of a garage for private use. However, there were concerns that the garage was to be used to restore an unknown number of cars. This raised fears that the activity may impact on the accessibility along the private track to neighbouring properties or result in cars in various conditions being stored in an unsightly manner at the front of the property. It was agreed to request that any planning approval came with the condition that parking is within the grounds of the property and not on the private track.

Application No: 2024/0014/FUL

Proposal: Ground floor and first floor side extension and ground floor rear extension.

Site Location: 1 Council House, Whiteleys Lane, Lathom.

This application had been called in by Ian Rigby as requested by SLRA. Some prior extensions had been completed and listed as not requiring planning permission. The property falls within the greenbelt and is extending beyond permitted development. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not support this application for planning and would comment accordingly on the WLBC Planning Portal.

Application No: 2024/0110/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension with part single storey side garage extension

Site Location: 1 Hollin Hey Close, Lathom, Skelmersdale, WN8 8DA

No comments were given.

10. Update on Firwood Road bridge alteration proposal and consideration of application for WLBC CIL funding

There had still been no confirmation of when or how the CIL funding programme is to be run this year. However, WLBC Senior Planning Officer (CIL and S106) had advised that LSPC should submit a completed IDS application as soon as possible rather than wait for new details of the funding programme. The Clerk had circulated the completed IDS application to Councillors for comment / approval. The meeting approved the IDS application for submission.

11. Update on CCLA application

The CCLA application had been processed and the Public Sector Deposit Fund account is now open. The Clerk had made a test transaction of one penny from the Santander account to CCLA to ensure the CCLA beneficiary details were set up correctly. Following confirmation of the test transaction, the Clerk will transfer a portion of the funds currently held with Santander to CCLA to leave a balance below the FSCS protection limit with Santander as previously agreed.

12. To consider and agree future dates for:-**a) Spring/Summer newsletter**

A late April delivery date was agreed for the next newsletter. Councillors are to send article ideas to the Clerk by email as soon as possible.

It was noted that Fyles' Farm needed to be included in the Blaguegate Lane newsletter delivery route.

b) Litter picking

It was resolved to book Julian Pritchard (J Services Home and Gardens) to do a litter pick as soon as possible.

c) Footpath strimming

It was resolved to book Julian Pritchard (J Services Home and Gardens) to complete the footpath strimming by the end of May.

13. To agree the process for informing residents of the outcome of the application to reduce the speed limit on Dicks Lane

It was agreed that Cllr Beeston would liaise with Cllr Taylor to arrange a 'door knock' to inform residents of Dicks Lane of the outcome of the speed reduction application. The Clerk will produce an information flyer.

14. Update on community defibrillator and to consider options for moving forward

It was confirmed that Skelmersdale Cricket Club had applied for partial funding for a community defibrillator from The English Cricket Board but still waited on a response. It was agreed to enquire if a representative from LSPC could attend the next cricket club meeting to try to establish what action could be taken to speed up the ECB application.

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

The issues with Wainhomes regarding footpaths, drainage etc continued.

It was noted that part of plot E on XL Business Park, running up to Spa Lane, was undergoing some work. There had been no planning applications for this site. The situation would be monitored.

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

There had been some confusion at WLBC as to which department should make initial enquiries into the permitted use of the land west of Lyelake Lane. It had now been passed back to the Planning Enforcement Team to investigate.

Fisher German had contacted the Clerk to advise that they are arranging the removal of the rubbish from the land adjoining Jacobs Wood.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

13th March 2024