



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 6th September 2023

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

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Andrew Chanter.

In attendance: County Cllr Rob Bailey, PCSO Neil Smith and 2 members of the public were in attendance

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Beeston and Cllr Andrew Chanter.

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 12th July 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation

a. The use of bikes and scrambler motorbikes on public rights of way and possible measures to resolve the issue.

Concerns had been raised to the Parish Council, West Lancs Borough Councillors, LCC Public Rights of Way Team (PROW) and the local police regarding the use of bicycles and scrambler motorbikes on public rights of way.

PROW had advised that it was a police matter. They stated the County Council will not authorise barriers to impede use of the footpaths and that it is highly likely that there is public vehicle access to FP23. The Clerk agreed to request further clarification of this.

The PCSO in attendance commented that there are restrictions on officers to follow scrambler bikes if the riders are not wearing helmets. It is extremely difficult for the police to stop off road bikers, they don't have any all-terrain vehicles to follow them off road and drones can't be accessed quickly enough. The police are relying on community intelligence on finding where the bikes are being stored. It was stressed that the police do not recommend any public intervention other than providing information.

Lancashire Community Safety funding could be applied for if an appropriate project is planned.

b. Proposed use of farm land for residential development

As part of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2030-2040 process, a list of sites had been identified in the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2020/21 which was published alongside the Local Plan 2040 Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (Regulation 18).

Residents were largely concerned with site reference LA.015 - Land West of Skelmersdale, off Blaguegate Lane. This land had been identified as a potential site for a residential development, potentially containing 1,800-2,200 new homes.

A resident reported that they had sought legal advice and a solicitor had advised to take action to have site ref LA.015 taken out of the listings at the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation stage (Reg 18) rather than wait for progression to the next stage of the process (Reg 19). The solicitor had stated there needed to be regulatory arguments for the removal of the listing.

The meeting advised that the land referred to had been previously listed and South Lathom Resident's Association had worked with CRPE to build a strong case to oppose the plans in 2018. It was suggested, to the

resident in attendance, that now was the time to prepare a case in opposition of the plan but the case should only be put forward once the draft Local Plan is issued and the public consultation stage is reached. It was noted that there is no opportunity for developers and objectors to go 'face to face' at any meeting. All Local Plans need to integrate so making enquiries into what other plans include would be helpful. The CPRE representative of the North West may be able to help again to build a strong opposition.

5 Update on traffic calming applications

(Item 12 on the agenda was moved forward to item 5. The tree warden was unable to attend the meeting therefore the tree warden's report was removed from the agenda)

a. to reduce speed limit on Dicks Lane

The Speed Management Team had emailed the Clerk on 4th August advising they had been discussing this site with engineers and local traffic teams, who advised that they will contact the Parish Council directly once their police liaison had made contact to discuss the matter.

b. proposal for traffic calming on Firwood Road

County Cllr Rob Bailey had spoken to the Head of Highways who had offered to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss what options are available.

6 To receive information on the role of the WLBC Tree Officer

Cllr Tom Marsh-Pritchard was unable to attend the meeting and had provided the following information:

Kathy Sephton at WLBC had assured that the best way to deal with tree issues is via the Patch Problem form on line. No contact name was available but the patch problem form ensured messages were sent directly to the relevant officer.

7 Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood including

a. Update on litter bin in Jacobs Wood

The new litter bin had been securely installed in Jacobs Wood. Two spare keys had been purchased. Cllr Carol Blackledge and the Clerk held keys. A third key was available from the Clerk.

b. To consider signage in the woods

The 'no cycling, motor vehicles or horse-riding' sign at the entrance of Jacobs Wood had been removed by vandals. The PCSO in attendance

offered to provide two Section 59 warning signs for display in an attempt to discourage off-road motorbike use.

It was agreed to make further enquiries into purchasing an information board to welcome visitors to Jacobs Wood which could include no cycling, no campfire, no motor vehicle symbols.

- c. To discuss concerns raised with shooting within the vicinity of the woods

A report had been made by a horse owner that their horse was being scared by shooting in, or near, Jacobs Wood. Upon investigation it was established that the shooting was not in Jacobs Wood but was in a nearby field and within legal rights. Those participating had been asked to move further away to avoid distressing the horses.

- d. To discuss further requirements following tree felling by National Grid

It was agreed that National Grid be asked to arrange the chipping of the smaller branches which had been left by their contractor who carried out the tree felling.

- e. To consider plans for a footpath around Swells Wood

Further consideration was given to an appropriate route for a circular footpath around Swells Wood. The Clerk is to make enquiries into the price of including a reconstituted wood walkway over the boggy area.

- f. To consider options for entry into Swells Wood from Plough Lane

It was resolved not to take any further action to create a vehicle access to Swells Wood from Plough Lane.

8 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160723	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.15
HugoFox	200723	Website hosting	d.d.	£23.99
NEST	310723	Clerk's Pension July 23	d.d.	£120.98
J Smith	310723	Clerk's salary July 23	s.o	£ 561.64
WLBC	310723	Election recharges	b.t	£144.33
Open Spaces	030823	Annual membership	d.d	£45.00
OPSTA	080823	Annual membership	b.t	£10.00
SLCC	080823	Annual membership	b.t	£139.00
Santander	160823	Bank charges	d.d	£0.15

J Services	210823	Footpath strimming	b.t	£2,400.00
Hugo Fox	240823	Website hosting	d.d.	£23.99
NEST	290823	Clerk's Pension Aug 23	d.d	£120.98
J Smith	290823	Clerk's salary Aug 23	s.o	£ 561.64
Cricket Club	060923	Room hire	b.t.	£45.00
J Smith	060923	T Key reimbursement	b.t	£6.58

A reimbursement of circa £13 to D Steele was also approved for materials for noticeboard repairs

9 To consider options for protecting unspent CIL funds including the option of a CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account.

The Clerk advised the funds currently held in the bank were as follows:
Current £31,783.19
Reserve £121,360.27

As this amount is above the £85,000 limited protection by FSCS, the meeting considered transferring some funds to alternative account.

It was resolved to open a CCLA account. A working balance of circa £75,000 would be kept with Santander and the remainder of the funds invested with CCLA.

10 To discuss any current planning issues:

Application Number: 2023/0117/FUL
Location: Land Off, Firwood Road, Lathom, Lancashire
Proposal: Construction of 9 homes and associated works
Response deadline: 15 September 2023

It was agreed the Parish Council would log an objection on the grounds that the application included a road which would split a public open space. This public open space had formed part of the approved plans for the main site.

The Parish Council agreed with the removal of an electricity pole but raised concerns that there is no indication of how the electricity supply would be redirected to houses on Slate Lane and 2 on Firwood Road.

11 To discuss and agree biodiversity grant project

It was resolved to purchase a Barn owl nest box at £170 and a Tawny owl nest box at £130 from the RSPB

12 Initial planning for the winter newsletter

It was agreed to produce a winter newsletter for distribution in early December. Initial discussions approved the following article topics:

- a. Armed Forces Champion by Cllr Paul Hennessy.
- b. Friends of Jacobs Wood by Cllr Darren Steele
- c. Owl boxes by Cllr Carol Blackledge
- d. Update on Firswood Road – Cllr Roger Clayton
- e. Speed limit on Dicks Lane
- f. Local Plan – Cllr Andy Taylor

It was agreed to hold a Friends of Jacobs Wood working party on Saturday 14th October, 10am start. Cllr Darren Steele volunteered to produce a poster advertising the work party event for display in the woods.

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

The 4 directors at Wainhomes had been sent correspondence regarding continuing issues but no response had been received.

The section 278 agreement had still not been signed by Wainhomes/ LCC.

There now appeared to be less traffic using Old Engine Lane.

Another Triathlon had been held and no incidents had been reported.

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

The LSPC noticeboards had been made weather proof. The noticeboard on Vale Lane and the one outside the Cricket Club need varnishing.

Meeting closed 10.30pm

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

11th October 2023