



*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 8th March 2023

Councillors in attendance: Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Ian Moran, Cllr Darren Steele

Apologies: Cllr Ernie Pallas

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Pallas

2 To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation

The meeting will consider any matters raised by members of the public by email to the Clerk

No members of the public attended the meeting and there were no matters to discuss.

5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

ICO	100223	Data Protection	d.d	£35.00
Santander	160223	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.10

Hugofox Ltd	270223	Web hosting	d.d	£23.99
NEST	270223	Clerk's Pension Feb 23	d.d	£120.98
NALC	270223	Cllr training	b.t	£60.00
J Smith	280223	Clerk's salary Feb	s.o	£ 561.64
Cricket Club	080323	Room hire	b.t.	£45.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

6 To discuss any current planning issues:

Application Number: 2023/0117/FUL
 Proposal: Construction of 9 homes and associated works
 Location: Land Off, Firswood Road, Lathom, Lancashire.
 Responses required by 31st March.

The meeting was notified of the above planning application which had been received that day. It was noted that the plan incorporated an access road across a public open space. It was resolved to request that Cllr Ian Rigby, 'call in' the application for it to be discussed by the Planning Committee on the grounds of, concerns about increasing development along Firswood Road, the increase in traffic issues and the impact on public open space.

7 To discuss highways issues

a. applying for a reduction of the speed limit on Dicks Lane from 60mph.

In response to a request from a member of the public, the meeting considered the possibility of applying for a speed limit reduction on Dicks Lane which is currently set at national speed limit, 60mph. It was agreed to consult residents on Dicks Lane regarding putting in an application to reduce the speed limit to 40mph. A draft petition is to be prepared and the residents of Dicks Lane are to be consulted.

b. Slow Down Save Lives banners on Vale Lane

Two banners have now been erected on Vale Lane.

c. Traffic calming proposal for Firswood Road

With the new housing developments in the area, it is visibly noticeable that more pedestrians are now using Firswood Road. Much of the road is without pavements, including a section of the road which is national speed limit.

The section over the old railway bridge is particularly hazardous for pedestrians, with a very narrow pavement which slopes towards the

road it is impossible for anyone with a buggy, or a dog, to remain on the pavement. The exit from the linear park is also planned to be at the bridge which would mean pedestrians walking across the bridge to access further footpaths in the area.

The meeting agreed to make a proposal to LCC as the Highways Authority and WLBC as recipient of funding towards the linear park, to share costs with the Parish Council (using CIL funds) to widen the pavement over the bridge to at least 1.5m and introduce single file traffic managed with traffic lights. This would be similar to the bridge on Junction Lane in Burscough.

8 Update on Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood

Two boxes of saplings had arrived for planting in the woods by the Scouts with the aid of Andrew Greenough.

a. Consideration of the purchase of a litter bin for Jacobs Wood

Details of various possible litter bin purchases had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. The meeting discussed concerns with potential vandalism and the suitability of a litterbin. It was agreed that the preferred option was a galvanised steel bin (Middlesbrough Steel 112litre) from Kingfisher Direct, in green, with pointed top, laser cut with 'LSPC' and ground fixings. The best location for the litter bin was considered to be near to the kissing gate on left of path (when entering Jacobs Wood).

Action: Clerk to acquire a final quote for the Middlesbrough steel bin including the agreed details as above.

There were discussions about the suggestion of having a litter bin installed on Hollands Lane. With an increase in the number of dog walkers using Hollands Lane it was agreed that a litter bin would be beneficial but WLBC would at least need to agree to empty the bin. It was resolved that discussions with WLBC would be sought, noting that that Council might want its own standard bin to be installed.

b. To discuss encroachment into Swells Wood from neighbouring property

A section of Swells Wood had been churned up by what appeared to be a large vehicle and deep tyre tracks were clearly visible entering the wood from a neighbouring property. Councillors discussed possible ways to protect the area from further encroachment and destruction of the flora and fauna. The area was an ideal place for planting of the new saplings but there were concerns that these would be destroyed by a vehicle re-entering the wood.

It was agreed that the planting of more mature trees along the edge of the brook would hinder any further access from across the stream and form a natural barrier to protect the area. A site visit would be made to

establish what materials and trees would be required and estimate a cost.

It was resolved to send a letter to residents of the neighbouring property, stating that it had been noticed that access has been made by a vehicle and request this is not repeated in order to protect the flora and fauna.

c. To agree a date for a litter pick

Some large sheets of plastic and other items littering the woods had been removed. It was agreed to review the requirement for a full litter pick in July. There was a suggestion that the local Scouts may be interested in a litter pick – the Clerk will make enquiries.

The Clerk was asked to also book in a contractor to complete the annual spring litter pick of the Parish.

9 To discuss the next newsletter including considering gifting wild flower seeds to residents in celebration of King Charles III coronation.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated details of costs for gifting a packet of wild flower seeds to every household in the Parish to commemorate the King's Coronation. It was agreed to include a packet of seeds with every copy of the spring newsletter and print the Coronation emblem and gift message inside the newsletter.

Ideas for articles were discussed and Councillors agreed to write various articles. The deadline for articles to be sent to the Clerk was set as Friday 17th March with a view for the newsletter to be ready for distribution by Easter.

10 To receive information on potential purchase of a community defibrillator

On behalf of the Parish Council and Skelmersdale Cricket Club, the Clerk had made enquiries with Community HeartBeat Trust (CHT) regarding the possibility of purchasing a community defibrillator to be located outside of the cricket club.

CHT had advised the most cost-effective way of purchasing and maintaining a community defibrillator was through a County Cricket Club (CCC) and English Cricket Board (ECB) grant scheme. It was noted that Skelmersdale Cricket Club would need to make the application for the grant. However, it would still be acceptable for the Parish Council to cover costs beyond the amount covered by the grant.

Details of options had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed, if the Cricket Club obtained the grant, the Parish Council would pay the following fees out of CIL monies, as already agreed with WLBC:-

Internal placement of equipment	£200
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4yrs annual support	£152 pa
Delivery	£25
External storage cabinet –	
ShockBox 247 monitored cabinet	£500 + £500 cellular 5yr contract
Community signage	£35
Installation	£300

11 **Wain Homes development update**

Issues had been raised regarding construction traffic using Old Engine Lane. This seems to have been caused by satnav systems indicating that it is a usable through route, although it is not. This raised concerns that new residents on the Wain Home site may start to use Old Engine Lane (an unadopted, unpaved road) as a cut through to Neverstitch Road causing further damage to the road surface, nuisance for residents and danger to pedestrians as Old Engine Lane is also footpath 26.

It had been suggested that some bollards across the middle section of the lane, along with ‘no through road’ signs placed at either end of Old Engine Lane may be warranted. The bollards could be permanent or key operated to allow Old Engine Lane residents to take their vehicles the full length of the lane. It was agreed to do a preliminary consultation with the residents of Old Engine Lane to establish their views.

12 **Report from South Lathom Residents’ Association (SLRA) for information only**

The site manager at the Wain Homes site had been contacted about the increased number of contractor vehicles being parked on Firswood Road. He had advised the issue was short term while a new on-site parking area was created.

There had been reports that there were delays with the Wain Homes site due to an objection from an adjoining landowner regarding the foul drainage system.

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

12th April 2023