



Lathom South Parish Council

serving our local community

Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith
3 Old School, School Lane, Melling, Liverpool, L31 1FE
07495970005
Lathomsouthpc.clerk@yahoo.com

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 13th March 2024

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

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Chanter and Cllr Darren Steele

In attendance: One member of the public and Ward Councillor Ian Rigby were in attendance.

MINUTES

1. To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Chanter and Cllr Darren Steele.

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 14th February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation

Cllr Ian Rigby advised that a resident had reported being scratched in the face by overhanging vegetation on Dickets Bridge. This had been reported to LCC for that council to arrange cutting back of the vegetation. It was established that LCC pays WLBC to clean the footpaths, however, LCC remains responsible for

clearing footpaths from verge creep. Although LCC had received £1million for footpath work throughout the whole of Lancashire, there remained a shortfall of resources. It was commented that many footpaths are littered in debris from potholes and deteriorating road surfaces. Cllr Rigby advised that Stephen Bissette, WLBC Clean and Green Operations Manager had offered to attend the LSPC AGM in May to do a presentation to residents and answer any questions regarding the Clean and Green services.

It was noted that homeowners are responsible for the cutting back of hedges on their property which overhang the pavements.

A resident commented on the increasing amount of litter around the Asda warehouse on Statham Road which is never cleaned up.

5. Tree warden reports

The tree warden reported that he has some spare trees which Skelmersdale Cricket Club had agreed could be planted at the club to replace some trees which had died.

Some branches had been laid across a wet section in Swells Wood. It was unknown who had created this make-shift bridge but it highlighted the need for proceeding with the creation of a safer route through this area. It was noted that it was possible to walk through the recently cleared section near the wet area, thus avoiding walking across the make-shift bridge.

A visit to the Community Orchard had been made by Cllr Beeston and Cllr Steele to establish how the orchard noticeboard could be updated. It was agreed not to make any decisions on purchasing a new notice board insert until Cllr Steele was available to consult on the progress with the new board graphics.

6. To agree a date for the erection of the bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog shelters

Nine bird boxes, three bat boxes and two hedgehog shelters had been purchased with the Biodiversity Grant. Saturday 23rd March was set as a date for erecting the boxes in Jacobs and Swells Woods, weather permitting.

7. To formally approve future access requirements for ENW and National Grid into Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood

Whilst the Parish Council approved with ENW and National Grid keeping the power lines well maintained, there remained concerns that contractors sent in to carry out the work cut down trees unnecessarily. Councillors approved with the cutting back of vegetation to the required 3m from the cables but did not approve the felling of any healthy trees. In order to agree to the vegetation maintenance being carried out, the Parish Council requires a written plan of works to be carried out. Cllr Ian Rigby suggested that the ENW arborist Mr David Derbyshire could be invited to do a site visit prior to the Parish Council agreeing any maintenance plans.

8. To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160224	Bank charges	d.d	£0.15
NEST	230224	Clerk's Pension Feb 24	d.d	129.57
J Smith	290224	Clerk's salary Feb 24	s.o	£601.00
RSPB	290324	Bio Diversity Grant	b.t	£301.56
Hugofox	080324	Web hosting	d.d	£23.99
Cricket Club	130324	Room hire	b.t	£45.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

9. To discuss any current planning issues:

Application No: 2023/1176/FUL

Proposal: Erection of storage unit.

Site Location: J B Rawcliffe and Sons, Blaguegate Works, Stanley Way, Stanley Industrial Estate, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EA

No comments.

Application No: No: 2024/0169/FUL

Proposal: Rear extension to existing property

Site Location: Woodley Firwood Road Lathom Skelmersdale WN8 8UT

No objection.

Application No: 2024/0190/FUL

Proposal: The erection of a rear dormer, internal and external alterations including relocating the front door.

Site Location: 67 and 69, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, Skelmersdale.

The Parish Council supports the renovation of these properties.

10. To receive an update on the Firwood Road bridge alteration proposal

The Senior Planning Officer CIL and S106 had confirmed receipt of the Parish Council's IDS / CIL funding application for match funding for the Firwood Road bridge alteration proposal. There had been no confirmation of when, or how, the CIL funding programme will run this year but the Senior Planning Officer hoped to have further information by the end of March.

11. Update on community defibrillator

Skelmersdale Cricket Club had had its application for funding from the County Cricket Scheme rejected. The Clerk had enquired if the Skelmersdale Cricket Club would still be willing to have a Community Defibrillator erected on the club house if the Parish Council covered the full cost of the purchase and awaited a response.

12. To agree articles for the Spring newsletter

Articles for the spring newsletter were agreed as follows

Precept – Councillor Clayton

Hedge etc encroaching onto footpath – Cllr Blackledge

Local plan - update from WLBC

Dicks Lane speed reduction

Nest boxes – Cllr Pallas

Love Clean Streets

Peacock & FoJW – Cllr Steele

Become a Councillor

Deadline for articles Thursday 28 March,

Deadline for forwarding to printers Monday 15 April

Back from printers w/c 29 April ready for delivery early May.

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

There was no update from SLRA.

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

Cllr Carol Blackledge advised she will be standing down as Vice Chairman at the May AGM. Unless another resident enquires about becoming a Councillor, Cllr Blackledge will continue as a Parish Councillor whilst still living within Lathom South.

The Clerk advised she would enquire with Fisher German upon the progress of plans to remove the rubbish adjacent to Jacobs Wood and enquiries of the tenant farmer would also be made.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

10th April 2024