



*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 11th January 2023.

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

Apologies received: Cllr Ian Moran

In attendance: Two members of the public attended the meeting

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Moran.

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 14th December 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2022 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

It was proposed that Mr Darren Steele be co-opted as a Councillor. It was agreed that formal co-option would be included on the agenda for the February meeting.

Concerns were raised to the quality of the road repair on Spa Lane following duct laying work. Pot holes were already starting to appear. The Clerk advised she would report the issue via the Love Clean Streets app.

The heat exchanger at the tray wash for Asda CDC on Statham Road had been making excessive noise and had been turned off while investigations into the cause were made.

A request had been made to reposition the diesel generator at the battery storage facility site on Statham Road so as to reduce any noise impact on nearby properties.

Roadside gutters on Spa Lane are full of mud and weeds are starting to grow.

It was commented that FP24 needs upgrading (see item 10).

Concerns were raised regarding what is being pumped into the surface water egress from the DHL site on Statham Road.

5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

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|--------------|--------|--------------------------|------|----------|
| Santander | 161222 | Bank charges | d.d. | £0.05 |
| A Chanter | 191222 | Refund post mix | b.t | £12.00 |
| Hugofox Ltd | 191222 | Web hosting | b.t | £23.99 |
| SLCC | 231222 | FILCA qualification fee | b.t | £144.00 |
| J Smith | 291222 | Clerk's gross salary Dec | s.o | £ 609.93 |
| Cricket Club | 110123 | Room hire | b.t. | £45.00 |

It was noted that the payment to the cricket club listed on the agenda had been amended to £45 for room hire.

The Clerk requested an additional payment for the purchase of a memory stick to use for backing up the Parish Council laptop files.

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|---------|--------|-------------------------|-----|---------|
| J Smith | 120123 | refund for memory stick | b.t | £ 20.99 |
|---------|--------|-------------------------|-----|---------|

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

6 To consider the budget for Financial Year 2023/24, 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 along with some suggestions for amendment as outlined below:-

- **Donations (S137)** - *S137 is not a budget line, but a power with a limit on the amount of money which can be spent via that power. There is*

no requirement to set a S137 budget, only a need to keep a tally of how much is being spent via S137.

Therefore, the Parish Council could draw on reserves **if** a charity donation request was considered worthy of a donation.

- **Tree** as a delivery of 450 free saplings had been secured through the Woodlands Trust a 'tree budget' for 2023/24 would not be necessary.
- **Bulbs, bird boxes** – as a Biodiversity Grant for bird boxes/ bat boxes had been applied for there was no requirement to include any additional funds for this in the budget.

The meeting was in agreement that 'S137' and 'tree' funds should not be included in the 2023/24 budget.

The amended budget figures were accepted as a basis for setting the precept. It was resolved to request £10,954 in precept, with an expectation of receiving £414 Council Tax Support Grant and £647 concurrent funding grant.

It was explained that the Parish Reserve bank account currently included some CIL funding and some Parish reserves. This was due to invoices for CIL purchases being made from the current account without the money being transferred from the Reserve account to cover the transactions. In order to fully separate Parish reserve funds from CIL funds it was resolved in principle to transfer funds between accounts so that the Reserve Account **only** held unspent CIL money. However, it was agreed that the Clerk should first establish if that would result in any significant loss of interest overall.

7 To consider Lancashire County Council's Budget Report and Savings Proposals for 2023/24

A copy of LCC's Budget Report and Savings Proposals for 2023/24 had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no issues of concern raised, as the division of responsibilities between LCC and the Borough Council was a matter for negotiation between the two Councils.

8 To discuss any current planning issues:

There were no current planning applications to consider.

9 Update on Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood

Andrew Greenough had been donated 30 oak trees which he will plant in Jacobs Wood/Swells Wood. 240 saplings from Woodland Trust are scheduled to arrive in March. When a delivery date is confirmed, Andrew Greenough will make arrangements with the local scout group to plant the saplings.

Cllr Andrew Chanter continues to make enquiries into creating an access to Swells Wood from Plough Lane.

It had not yet been possible to establish who the land belongs to adjoining Swells Wood in order to gain access to remove some dumped rubbish by the stream. It was agreed that a litter pick in Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood should be organised in the Spring once the weather had improved.

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

Cycle- and Foot- Paths Around 'Plot B' of XL Business Park

Paul Charlson of WLBC had visited the development site of Plot B of XL Business Park to see the issues regarding the proposed cycle path and to regularise the new route of FP 24. Regularisation of the new line of the footpath needs to be signposted and added to the Definitive Map.

The Outline Planning Permission for the whole of XL Business Park states that there must be plans showing the levels that will be set for the cycle path because the land rises quite steeply and the incline would not be conducive to use by normal cyclists. There are land ownership matters to be resolved between WLBC and LCC and responsibility for providing that section of the path needs to be established.

The adopted planning guide states that FP 101 will become a combined cycle- and foot- path but that condition does not appear in the Outline Planning Permission.

The existing section of combined cycle and foot path leading from Statham Road to Slate Lane is obstructed for cyclists by large concrete blocks which had been placed there as a temporary obstruction to caravans and their towing vehicles. Under the published development guide, this central belt of the XL Business Park was supposed to be adopted by the borough council but that had never happened and the borough council has since stated that it is not legally required to carry out the adoption. The situation with regard to the section of combined cycle and foot path needs to be regularised to show who is responsible for maintaining it, removing the obstruction to cycles (without providing parking space for caravans etc) by, for example erecting bollards and removing the concrete blocks, marking and signing the path and adding it to the Definitive Map.

A response following Paul Charlson's visit is awaited.

The original plans for XL were for an extra cycle route to be provided along Slate Lane to Firwood Road but at that time the route was owned by Lancashire County Council. However, that Council had disposed of Slate Lane to the new owners of Slate Farm Barn (name now changed) when that property had been sold.

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

WLBC had confirmed that purchase of a publicly available defibrillator to be located on the outside of the cricket club would be an acceptable use of CIL funds.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

8th February 2023