



*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 12th April 2023

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

Apologies: Cllr Ernie Pallas, Cllr Darren Steele

In attendance: Four members of the public were in attendance

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Pallas and Cllr Steele

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 March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 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

Residents raised concerns about construction traffic passing each other when travelling along Firwood Road. As the road is narrow, there is not enough room for 2 wagons to pass comfortably and vehicles are encroaching onto residents' verges and driveways, causing damage. A manhole cover has also been broken and left. Wain Homes have been approached by residents but there has been no satisfactory response. The

issue has also been raised with the Borough Councillor and local MP. With an additional planning application up for consideration by the planning department, it is looking that disruption to residents of Firwood Road could continue for longer. Residents are concerned that there appears to be little enforcement of a traffic management plan.

Councillors were empathetic to the disruption endured by residents although the Parish Council is unable to take any action. LCC had stated there would be no impact on the transport network or any danger once the development is completed. There is a condition of the planning permission that the highway should be reinstated to pre-construction condition once the site is finished so it is important for residents to document any damage.

The construction management plan stated construction vehicles had to access the site from Blaguegate Lane but a lot of traffic was coming from Spa Lane due to satnav directions. It was stressed that it is important for residents to continue to put in their complaints and concerns to Wain Homes, WLBC and LCC.

Residents enquired if there is any scope to reduce the 60mph speed limit on Firwood Road. The Parish Council responded that they are trying to tackle traffic issues one step at a time and a request for a reduction in the speed limit is on the list of items to action.

One resident had asked the site manager if there should be a sign on Spa Lane stating that construction traffic is to access the site from Blaguegate Lane. The site manager had stated that he could arrange for a sign but seemed unaware of any traffic management plan. It was suggested there should also be a sign at the exit of the Wain Homes construction site stating 'left turn only' for construction vehicles leaving the site.

Another resident raised concerns about the poor condition of Old Engine Lane which is also the footpath used by children to walk from Firwood Road to Neverstitch Road to get the school bus. The Parish Council advised that Old Engine Lane is an unadopted road and all the residents there had been consulted regarding the addition of bollards to prevent through traffic. Bellway have said they will consider doing some works to the surface of Old Engine Lane as part of a contract that is currently under tender. Once it is established what repairs Bellway will complete, the road can be reassessed and decisions made on pothole repairs. Residents were advised that the Parish Council don't have the same say as WLBC or LCC. Although the Parish Council has CIL money to use it is very limited to what it is allowed to use it for.

It was noted that rubbish on the old railway line close to Jacobs Wood is attracting rats. Jacton properties owns the land and it was agreed to contact the company about that issue, together with the requirement to carry out further spraying of Japanese Knotweed on its land.

5 Tree Warden's Report

The Jubilee tree and the Weeping Willow in Swells Wood had been growing well (note: very strong winds on the subsequent two nights had caused

damage to the Weeping Willow, in particular, and it has been given additional support).

A decision needs to be made on what to do with the central area in Swells Wood regarding the brash and the regrowth of tree stumps. Some small trees need to be straightened.

The Scout group had planted most of the saplings provided by The Woodland Trust in Swells Wood. Some saplings had been kept for planting in Jacobs Wood. The invasive weeds are starting to grow and need spraying.

It was resolved to authorise Andrew Greenough to complete another weed spray where required in Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood.

It was suggested that parts of Swells Wood would benefit from some additional hedge planting. It was proposed also to purchase some labels for trees to enable people walking through the woods to identify certain trees.

6 To receive income and expenditure figures for Financial Year 2022/23

The meeting received the income and expenditure figures below.

Balance as at 31st March 2023 comprised:

Reserve account (CIL)	£ 66,859.10
Current account	£ 31,227.01
TOTAL	£98,086.11
Total opening balance 31 st March 2022:	£ 103,271.43
Income	£ 13,666.24
Expenditure	£ 18,851.56
Resulting balance on 31st March 2023	£98,086.11

The Clerk advised that figures all balanced and the audit documents would be sent for internal audit within the next few days.

7 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160323	Bank charges	d.d.	£0.20
Just Bee	200323	Wild flower seeds (20% discount rcvd)	b.t	£99.96
Hugofox Ltd	270323	Web hosting	d.d	£23.99
J Smith	290323	Clerk's salary Mar 23	s.o	£ 561.64

NEST	310323	Clerk's Pension Mar 23	d.d	£120.98
Design 4 Print	020423	Newsletter printing	b.t	£220.00
Cricket Club	120423	Room hire	b.t.	£45.00
J Smith	040423	Postage refund	b.t	£37.50
J Services	060423	Litter pick	b.t	£855.00

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8 To discuss any current planning issues:

Application Number: 2023/0117, 0118 and 0057 (all /FUL)

Proposals: changes to Wain Homes plans

Location: Land Adj to Firwood Road, Lathom, Skelmersdale,

This application relates to the addition of 9 homes on the Wain Homes site. Application 0057 is for a sub-station on previously allocated open space. This is linked to the previous two applications which had been called in as requested by the Parish Council. It was agreed to ask Cllr Ian Rigby to also call in 2023/0057/FUL, in order for all 3 applications be considered together by the Planning Committee.

Application Number: 2023/0141/LDC

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for the Existing Use of Unit G1A under Use Class B8: Storage and Distribution

Location: Unit G1a Grapels site, Lyelake Lane, Lathom, L40 6JX

No objection

Application Number: 2023/0142/LDC

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate of the Existing Use of Unit G1B for Storage and Distribution (Use Class B8)

Location: Unit G1B Grapels site, Lyelake Lane, Lathom, L40 6JX

No objection

Application Number: 2023/0143/LDC

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for the Existing Use of Unit G1C under Use Class B8: Storage and distribution

Location: Unit G1c Grapels site, Lyelake Lane, Lathom, L40 6JX

No objection

9 To discuss highways issues

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

A consultation with residents was planned.

b. Traffic calming proposal for Firswood Road

It was agreed to consider the next steps in putting forward proposals for a joint venture with LCC to introduce traffic calming measures over the old railway bridge.

10 Update on Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood including request for authorisation of purchase of litterbin

A final quote for the purchase of the Middlesbrough Steel 112litre litter bin from Kingfisher Direct had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved to place the order without the inclusion of ground fixings.

11 To receive an update on the potential purchase of a community defibrillator

There had been no update yet from the cricket club about an application for a community defibrillator through the County Cricket Club and English Cricket Board grant scheme.

12 Number 4 Old Engine Lane - view of Wain Homes development and any other residents' matters relating to the development, including proposed bollards for Old Engine Lane.

Double tiered containers had been situated on the Wain Homes site facing number 4 Old Engine Lane. As this is not a permanent fixture and they will be removed by the time the site is finished, there is no justification for requesting them to be moved at the current time. It was noted that some hedgerow had been removed which made the containers more visible. However, a planting scheme had been agreed as part of the planning approval which may include replanting of that area. Unless there is a breach of conditions, there is no action which can be taken.

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

There was nothing to report from SLRA.

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

Cllr Ian Moran advised that there would be no election for the parish Council, as seven residents had stood for seven positions. He had not stood for election as he felt the position was best filled by a local resident, if sufficient residents came forward. He was, however, standing to be a member of the Borough Council representing the new Ward (Rural South) that covers Lathom South Parish (LSPC). That election would be delayed, however, owing to the death of one of the intending candidates. Cllr Moran was thanked for his contribution to LSPC and it was noted that local resident Andy Taylor would be joining the Parish Council.

It was noted that there is still issues with drainage along Hollands Lane. An LCC representative had been observed trying to find the source of the water.

The Clerk advised she would be taking annual leave w/c 24th April 2023.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

10th May 2023