



*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 31st August 2022.

In attendance: Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Ian Moran, Cllr Ernie Pallas

In attendance: One member of the public attended the meeting

Apologies received: None

Minutes

1 To record apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

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 20th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 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

Temporary traffic lights on Spa Lane are still causing issues to residents. The lights have been in situ for 6 weeks, however, the permit does not appear on the LCC portal. LCC Highways had advised the Clerk they would look into the matter and inform the Clerk when the works were scheduled for completion.

5 To co-opt Member to fill vacancy and hear declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Ernie Pallas was formally co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill one of the two vacant posts. The declaration of acceptance was read out, witnessed and signed.

6 To receive the Tree Warden report including agreeing of the route and final arrangements for Tree Walk

The Tree Walk had been postponed until 1st October. Discussions focussed on risk assessment. It was agreed that numbers attending would need to be limited with a ratio of 1 marshal per 10 walkers. Three councillors offered to marshal on the day.

The main issue of concern was the inclusion of some roads on the proposed route which included Plough Lane (narrow footpath) and Whiteleys Lane (no footpath). It was suggested that the landowners of the fields along these roads be contacted to gain permission to walk behind the hedges on the margin of the fields. Although this would include crossing the road it was considered a safer option. To reduce risk, it was suggested that yellow vests be worn by marshals at the front and rear of the group. A formal risk assessment would need to be carried out prior to the walk.

Cllr Beeston confirmed the route included the labelled trees in the Parish. Cllr Beeston agreed to produce a map detailing the route with the footpath numbers. The walk is to be advertised via St James Church, noticeboards and the Parish website. Those wishing to join the walk would need to pre book with the Clerk.

Swells Wood

It had been decided that the planting of the Cedar tree would need to wait until October for better ground conditions.

It was suggested that arranging a working party to straighten out the newly planted trees would be helpful. The area which had been cleared along the central planted area made an attractive second route to the route along the old railway line. However, there were a number of low-level tree stumps which made walking this route hazardous. It was agreed to employ Andrew Greenough to do more clearing work using CIL money while it was available.

Action: Clerk to contact Andrew Greenough for quotes to remove tree stumps and continue to tackle the invasive weeds.

Following issues with scrambler bikes entering Jacobs Wood, it was questioned if a second kissing gate should be added to the entrance to Swells Wood. Further consideration would be given to this if issues continued.

Hedging

Woodlands Trust would be offering free hedging trees during the planting season. As no gaps in hedging had been identified it may be that the local farmers needed to be contacted to enquire if they had hedges which would benefit from gap filling.

It was noted that the fallen trees on Lyelake Lane had been moved to clear the footpath.

7 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

A Greenough	200722	Swells Wood clearance	b.t	£2,447.40
Classic Garden Furniture	250722	2 x Benches & kits	b.t	£1804.00
J Smith	2907222	Clerk's gross salary July	s.o	£505.74
Open Spaces	020822	Membership	b.t	£45.00
J Smith	290822	Clerk's gross salary Aug	s.o	£566.16
*SLCC	300822	Membership fee	b.t	£134.00
*Office Depot International	300822	Viking stationery	b.t	£106.94
*PKF Littlejohn LLP	310822	Audit fee	b.t	£240.00
Cricket Club	310822	Room Hire	b.t	£45.00

The Clerk advised of *3 additional payments to those listed on the agenda. It was noted that the external audit had been completed, the audit certificate had been received and payment made to the external auditor.

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

8 To discuss any current planning issues

Application Number: 2021/1103/FUL

Location: Stuarts Farm, Whiteleys Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, L40 6HF

Proposal: Change of use of existing barn to house 200kw biomass boiler and erection of flue pipe.

No comment.

Application Number: 2022/0705/FUL

Location: Dingle Heyes Farm, Plough Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, L40 6JL

Proposal: Proposed single storey infill extension to rear of existing property following demolition of existing raised verandah and hot tub deck.

No comment.

It was requested that the weekly planning application lists issued by WLBC be circulated to all Councillors.

9 Update on issues raised regarding building works off Firswood Road by Wainhomes

The issues around construction traffic using Firswood Road continued. Traffic leaving the site are depositing mud on Firswood Road as there is no wheel wash on site although there is a condition that one is required. SLRA have reported this to the Council and Cllr Ian Rigby.

10 To discuss future maintenance schedule of footpaths

Although ideally the Parish Council would like an annual footpath maintenance schedule, there are no funds available to cover the increase in costs that this would involve. The current spend on footpaths this financial year was £1,700. This was covered in part from the Concurrent funding and PROW grant. The shortfall was covered by savings on the litter pick, bank interest received and a wayleave agreement payment received keeping the overall spend within budget. Increasing the precept to cover footpath maintenance was not considered to be an option especially in the current financial climate.

It was resolved to continue with footpath maintenance as required within the set annual budget.

It was suggested that some local landowners be approached to enquire if they would be willing to trim footpaths along their property.

11 Update on proposed location for 'Slow Down, Save Lives' banner

Cllr Beeston was hopeful that the 'slow down, save lives, sign could go up on Dicks Lane heading up hill towards Plough Lane. Cllr Beeston would report back on the decision of the landowner.

12 Update on the parish council website

The Clerk reported that some progress had been made on the new website. There was a problem with the site making automatic links to information relating to Lathom Parish Council which needed resolving. It was hoped that a preview of the new website could be made available at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

Bellway had been contacted requesting that they remove the old road signage which directed traffic to the Lathom Pastures phase 1 site which was confusing traffic looking for the new Lathom Pastures phase 2 site where entry should be via Neverstitch Road. Although the sign at the Blaguegate Lane end of Firswood Road had been removed, the sign at the Spa Lane end remained in place.

No dates had been provided for the scheduled works for Lathom Pastures 2.

Following the enquiry to WLBC regarding footpath 24 and the cycle path, an answer had still not been received.

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

There were no exchanges of information

There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close at 9.30pm.

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

12th October 2022