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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 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**

**Councillors in attendance:** Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Ernie Pallas, Cllr Darren Steele and Cllr Andy Taylor.

**Apologies:** Apologies received on behalf of Cllr Andrew Beeston.

**In attendance:** Ward Cllr Linda Webster.

## **MINUTES**

**1 To record apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Andrew Beeston.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**4 Public Participation**

- Hollands Lane water issues and flooding of gardens on Blaguegate Lane continued to be an issue. Water continually bubbles up under the hedge near to the sand trap. This seems to be an issue with the old drain which is small and becomes easily overloaded by the water from the field. In May 2021, LCC sent a letter to the landowners who have the drain running under their land stating that the landowners needed to ensure they kept the drain clear. Residents went back to LCC for advice on how to deal with the issue and LCC said they would look into the matter further.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact LCC to establish what action could be taken to resolve the issue.

- Concerns raised regarding planning application 2024/0781/FUL were noted under item 8.
- It was noted that the pavement along Firwood Road adjacent to the Wainhomes site is unpassable due to vegetation overgrowth.

It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the matter with Wainhomes and LCC.

## 5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

|                |        |                         |     |         |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|---------|
| Santander      | 170924 | Bank charges            | d.d | £0.20   |
| JKF Littlejohn | 170924 | External audit fee      | b.t | £504.00 |
| NEST           | 250924 | Clerk's Pension Sept 24 | d.d | £129.57 |
| J Smith        | 300924 | Clerk's salary Sept 24  | d.d | £601.00 |
| Cricket Club   | 091024 | Room hire               | b.t | £50.00  |
| SLCC           | 011024 | Annual Membership       | b.t | £144.00 |
| HP Direct      | 091024 | Laptop purchase         | c.p | £476.10 |

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

Details of income received 30 Jun to 30 Sept 2024 were received for information purposes only:

|                        |           |            |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| LCC PROW Grant         | 030724    | £ 500.00   |
| LCC Biodiversity Grant | 030724    | £ 300.00   |
| WLBC Precept 2nd       | 130924    | £ 4,740.00 |
| Santander interest     | July-Sept | £ 785.86   |
| CCLA income            | July-Sept | £ 2,108.12 |

## 6 To receive details of proposed new laptop and software purchase

The Clerk reported that, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a new Parish Council laptop had been purchased via HP Direct during a 'flash sale' (discount of circa £270). It was noted that Councillors had previously approved the purchase of a laptop up to the value of £1000.

Councillors considered the various options for purchasing software for the laptop. It was resolved to sign up for the Microsoft 365 Basic Business package on a trial basis.

## 7 To receive closure of audit documentation and External Auditors Report

The Clerk confirmed the external audit had been signed off by the external auditor. The audit report had been circulated to Councillors and the 'Notice of conclusion of audit', along with the certified AGAR (sections 1, 2 & 3), had been published on the website and placed in the main Parish Council noticeboard.

It was noted that the £414 Council Tax Support Grant had been included in the wrong income box on the submitted AGAR. Although this did not affect the overall figures, the amendments will need to be corrected in the 'prior year comparatives' when completing next year's AGAR.

## 8 To discuss any planning issues

Application No: 2024/0781/FUL

Location: Cotlea, 187 Wigan Road, Lathom, Ormskirk

Proposal: Change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden

The following points were noted:

- There had been a recent addition of a concrete hardstanding the size required for a static caravan on this plot along with a drainage pipe.
- The area of land outlined in this application once formed part of a wider smallholding owned by Mr Wright. This section of land had recently been released to form part of 187 Wigan Road which is owned by the son-in-law and the daughter of Mr Wright.
- Years ago, whilst this section of land had been part of the wider smallholding, Mr Wright had made a planning application which included a residential caravan in approximately the same location and this part of the application had been refused. Mr Wright had recently installed the concrete hardstanding, nevertheless. (note to Jane:deletion of sentence here)
- Mr Wright, had claimed to the Council's enforcement officer that the concrete hardstanding was for the storage of straw and hay.
- There was no mention on the application that an established hedgerow runs along the boundary with 189 Wigan Road which also contains boundary trees.
- Mr Wright had already cut down one tree because the roots interfered with his plans for the concrete hardstanding.
- Concrete and lath fencing had already been erected and it diminishes the character of the overall landscape of the area.
- A previous enforcement case against (among other points) sideways extension of the garden, had been upheld by the planning inspector.

It was resolved to oppose the planning application on the grounds that agricultural land should not be changed to domestic garden use and the planning application contained false statements.

Application No: 2024/0827/FUL

Location: Building Adjacent Delph Farm, Ormskirk Road, Bickerstaffe

Proposal: Demolition of an existing building and the erection of a dwelling

No objections were raised regarding this application.

**9 To discuss fingerpost requirements for the re-routed FP24**

Following the rerouting of FP24, the FP24 finger on the fingerpost located on FP101 pointed in the wrong direction. It was resolved to cut the FP24 direction finger off this post.

It was agreed to install a new fingerpost to direct pedestrians along the new FP24 route (with 2 fingers). As a recovered post was held in storage it was resolved to purchase new fingers to attach to this post. A new post that had been supplied by LCC would be used as a waymarker, as it was made of recycled plastic which was considered to be too dense to rebate for fingers. Permission is to be sought from GPL to erect the new posts.

**10 To discuss FP101 surface and WLBC/Wainhomes responsibilities**

The surface of FP101 had been disturbed when a foul waste pipe had been installed under it. Wainhomes had promised to complete remedial works to the footpath as part of the programme of roadworks jointly completed with Bellway on Neverstitch Road. Although the roadworks had been completed the remedial work to FP101 had not been done and FP101 remained to be in a muddy state. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WLBC, as the landowner, to request that FP101 be reinstated into a walkable condition.

**11 Update on community defibrillator and to consider an alternative location**

The Clerk reported that due to various factors, there had been no progress with Community Heartbeat Trust and Skelmersdale Cricket Club in securing a community defibrillator. It was agreed that if no further progress had been made within six months an alternative location would be sought for the defibrillator. Initial enquiries were to be made into possible alternative locations.

**12 To receive an update on the progress of the Winter 2024 newsletter**

The deadline date for articles to be sent to the Clerk was agreed as 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct.

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

SLRA had submitted an objection to planning application 2024/0781/FUL by email.

There had been no further correspondence received regarding Shireoaks being assumed to be a 'gypsy site' by the Planning Enforcement Officer (without any evidence of the site being formally registered as such).

#### **14 Exchanges of information. For information only (no discussion)**

- The new NALC website had been launched on 7<sup>th</sup> October but Lathom South PC had been missed off the members list so it was not yet possible for Councillors to register to use the site. The Clerk would inform Councillors when the issue has been resolved.
- Proposed bridge alterations on Firwood Road - the CIL Funding Programme for 2024 had been delayed due to changes in the Council's governance and a review of the funding framework. The new framework had only recently been agreed and the bidding programme for 2024 had opened on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Nicola Hamilton (Senior Planning Officer - CIL and S106) had confirmed that the LSPC bid application submitted in February 2024 was still on file. However, as there were now additional criteria against which the bids are assessed, it was suggested that LSPC might wish to submit an updated bid on the new application form. The LSPC bid will be considered within the 2024 programme. Funding for successful bids will be confirmed in February 2025, to ensure that funding will still be available from April 2025.

The Clerk will review the new application form and make recommendations at the November meeting.

- Richard Baker at Fisher German had not responded to requests to provide an update on plans to remove the rubbish from the Jacton Properties land adjacent to Jacobs Wood.
- The Friends of Jacobs Wood Facebook page had five new members. Feedback on the woods had all been very positive.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**Cllr Roger Clayton**  
**Chairman**

**13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**