



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 December 2024.

Councillors in attendance: Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Roger Clayton (Chairman), Cllr Darren Steele and Cllr Andy Taylor.

Apologies: Apologies received from Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge, Cllr Ernie Pallas and Ward Cllr Linda Webster.

In attendance: One member of the public attended

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received by Cllr Andrew Beeston, Cllr Carol Blackledge and Cllr Ernie Pallas

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 13th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation

The secretary of the Skelmersdale Wardens Club attended the meeting and explained the development of the club as community asset. Having faced closure a few years previously, the club had been turned around and had recently applied to WLBC for recognition as an asset of community value, not for profit company. To further secure the future of the club the secretary had applied for a grant through White Moss Community Funding for funding towards solar panels on the roof of the club and battery storage to cover up to 48hr power cuts. The Club Secretary explained the White Moss Funding application requires a 10% third party contribution and requested that the Parish Council consider providing a proportion of funding.

5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	161124	Bank charges	d.d	£0.45
NEST	251124	Clerk's Pension Nov 24	d.d	£200.25
J Smith	291124	Clerk's salary Nov 24 Incl backpay Apr-Oct	d.d	£926.16
Design 4 Print	041224	Newsletters	b.t	£140.00
Cricket Club	111224	Room hire	b.t	£50.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

6 To discuss any planning issues

Application No: 2024/0988/FUL

Proposal: Application for full planning permission for the construction of one dwelling, including landscaping, boundary treatments and associated infrastructure.

Location: Land Adj To 9 Goose Brook Drive Lathom Lancashire WN8 8FG

The Parish Council had no objection to this application which was for the relocation of plot 284 on the Bellway 2 development.

7 To ratify CIL Report for Financial Year 2023/24 to return to WLBC

The CIL Report for the Financial Year 2023/24 was approved.

8 Initial consideration of budget for Financial Year 2025/26, including any capital purchases and Community Infrastructure spending but excluding exceptional items.

The tax base figure and confirmation of any Council Tax Support Grant had not yet been received from WLBC. Therefore, it was only possible to consider a rough draft which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The clerk advised that it was anticipated there would be an increase in precept to individual household but the aim was to keep this in line with, or below, the level of inflation. Favourable interest rates had provided a good income in 2023/24 which had boosted the reserves. This increase in reserves would be taken into account for drawing upon when setting the final budget for 2025/26 to subsidise the precept. With the continued growth of the number of households in the Parish, it was likely that the 2026/27 budget could balance without relying on a significant draw on reserves.

9 To adopt new Standing Orders

It was resolved to adopt the new Standing Orders which had been based on the NALC model standing orders.

10 Update on Swells Wood

Several trees in Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood had been damaged during storm Darragh. Upon assessment of the damage there did not appear to be any immediate danger to the public. It was agreed to ask Andrew Greenough to tidy up the damage at his earliest convenience.

Andrew Greenough had advised that he was still trying to obtain quotes from groundworks contractors for the creation of the pond in Swells Wood and to install some fencing along the boundary with the field.

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

Ward Cllr Linda Webster continued to be in contact with WLBC regarding the non-reinstatement of FP101 where it had been dug up to lay a foul waste pipe for the Wainhomes development.

12 Exchanges of information. For information only (no discussion)

The Parish Council had requested permission from GLP to install 2 finger posts and a way marker to direct pedestrians along the re routed FP24. There was no update on the cycle path route.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

15th January 2025