



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 February 2025.

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

Apologies: Apologies received from Cllr Andrew Chanter.

In attendance: One member of public and Ward Cllr Linda Webster attended.

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received by Cllr Andrew Chanter.

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 15th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2025 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 noted that the WLBC meeting about Park Pool and Nye Beven had been cancelled and discussions would now take place on 26th February at the full council meeting.

A local resident raised the issue of used dog bags being discarded on the pavement around the junction of Blaguegate Lane and Firswood Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the issue with the dog warden. An article would also be included in the next newsletter.

A resident reported that the blockage in the drainage system on Blaguegate Lane, which had been discussed at the previous meeting, had been cleared. However, the new grid near Hollands Lane was blocked with debris and required cleaning out.

5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Working Woodlands	201224	Fallen Tree clearance	b.t	£220.00
Santander	160125	Bank charges	d.d	£0.10
NEST	230125	Clerk's Pension Jan 25	d.d	£162.03
J Smith	290125	Clerk's salary Jan 25	d.d	£750.35
HMRC	310125	Employer NI payment	d.c	£40.86
ICO	110225	Data Protection Reg	d.d	£35.00
Cricket Club	120225	Room hire	b.t	£50.00

The Clerk advised that as Cllr Blackledge had resigned as a Parish Councillor a new signatory was required for the Santander account and the CCLA account.

It was resolved to remove Cllr Carol Blackledge as signatory and for Cllr Darren Steele to become a signatory on both the Santander and CCLA accounts.

6 To discuss any planning issues

There were no recent applications to discuss.

A resident had recently taken a photograph of circa 11 touring caravans/ motorhomes at Shireoaks despite the site never having been granted gypsy status. A complaint about the improper use of the site had been previously reported to the Planning Enforcement Team by SLRA. SLRA had then made a formal complaint about the way WLBC had handled the enforcement complaint and were waiting for a reply.

7 To discuss Firswood Road bridge project next steps

WLBC Policy and Resources Committee had approved the allocation of £79,868 of Strategic CIL funding towards the Firswood Road bridge project.

WLBC are now required to prepare a legal grant agreement, that will set out the terms and conditions of the allocation and expenditure of SCIL which will

require agreement and signature of the Parish Council before any funding can be released.

In order for the grant agreement to be drawn, the Parish Council need to provide:

- Name and contact details of the person(s) to act on behalf of the Parish Council that will oversee the authorisation, receipt and expenditure of the funding amount;

Resolved that the Clerk, Mrs Jane Smith and the Chairman, Cllr Roger Clayton, would be the named persons.

- Likely date of commencement of the project;

The Clerk had discussed this with Eddie Mills (Countywide Manager - Traffic and Road Safety Engineering, Highways & Transport, LCC) who stated he had not expected this project would need to be added to the work plan and would advise of a date as soon as possible.

- Preferred details of financial arrangements – the Borough Council usually prefer to make the funding available upon satisfactory completion of the works, this can be transferred to the Parish Council upon receipt of an invoice for the works. However, funding earlier/prior to this or amounts drawn down in tranches could be discussed with WLBC.

Resolved for the transfer of funds to be made upon the completion of the work.

Once the above information is provided, Nicola Hamilton will instruct Legal Services to prepare the grant agreement for the Parish Council to review.

8 To approve new quote for a community defibrillator

The Clerk reminded the meeting that at the meeting on 8th March 2023, the Parish Council resolved to pay £1,560 including installation for a defibrillator plus £152 pa for a support package (no VAT). This was on top of a £900 grant from County Cricket Club (CCC) which Skelmersdale Cricket Club would apply for. The grant application for CCC funding had been unsuccessful.

As the initial quote, which had included £900 from CCC, was now out of date the Clerk had circulated a new quote (prior to the meeting) as follows:-

Equipment £1925 (excl VAT £385)

Install up to £275

Annual support £135 = VAT pa

It was **resolved** to accept the new quote and to provide the annual support package for the life time of the defibrillator. The Clerk would request quotes from local electricians for the install.

9 Update from Friends of Jacobs Wood

There continued to be occasional concerns reported regarding aggressive dogs from Shireoaks entering the woods.

The first working party of 2025 was planned for 15th March. A standby date of 22nd March had been made in case of inclement weather on 15th. The working party would be removing tree protectors from any trees over 3m high.

10 To agree items for purchase using the 2024/25 Biodiversity grant

Andrew Greenough had arranged a meeting with an alternative contractor for the pond and fencing work. If the work can be done fairly quickly the pond plants could be purchased, as originally planned using the 2024/25 biodiversity grant. The Clerk proposed going ahead with the plant purchase and suggested that if the pond was not completed in time, the plants could be utilised in other wet areas within Swells Wood. The area where a makeshift bridge had been created would specifically benefit from planting due to the area being constantly wet. The Parish Council could then apply for the 2025/26 biodiversity grant for plants to go in the new pond area. The meeting agreed with this proposal and resolved that the Clerk proceed with the purchase of pond/marginal plants by the end of March 2025.

The proposed area for additional water/marginal plants had a fallen tree nearby. It had been suggested that the fallen tree could be utilised as an informal seat for perching. It was agreed to leave the fallen tree in situ.

11 To discuss possible removal of logs left on Parish Council land off Plough Lane following storm Darragh

The Clerk had contacted LCC Highways regarding logs which had been left in a precarious position on Parish Council land following the removed a fallen tree on Plough Lane. The logs had been left on a slope and directly on the edge on the road. The tree belonged to the owner of the land opposite the Parish Council's land. Highways had arranged removal of the tree from the road when it was brought down during storm Darragh.

LCC had advised the Clerk that the contractors who removed the tree were only required to clear the road, leaving the logs in a safe position off the road and it was the responsibility of the tree owner to clear the remaining logs. However, LCC invited the Parish Council to send in photographs if the Parish Council considered that the logs had not been left safely.

Cllr Andy Taylor offered to take some photographs for the Clerk to send to LCC to show the proximity of the logs to traffic which the Parish Council considered to be unsafe.

12 To discuss making a request for DHL to clear the overgrown cycle/footpath between Slate Lane and Statham Road

The footpath/ cycle path which runs along the side of the DHL distribution centre on Statham Road is on land which belongs to the warehouse owner. The path has not been maintained, it is overgrown and covered in moss. Green space around the site was originally supposed to be adopted by the Borough Council after 7 yrs but it was not legally obliged to do so and never did. Therefore, the Council is not responsible for the maintenance of the path. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to DHL to request that they arrange for the path to be cleared.

13 To approve a spring litter pick

It was resolved to accept a quote for £855, from Julian Pritchard, to complete a litter pick by the end of March.

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

Information from SLRA was given under item 6.

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

At the previous meeting it had been agreed to write a letter of concern, to WLBC Planning Department, about the Planning Officer's report on planning application 2024/0282/FUL for a bungalow at the end of Slate Lane. Receipt of the letter had been acknowledged and Steve Faulkner at WLBC Planning Department had stated he would respond following his investigation.

David Webb had confirmed he will complete the internal audit again for 2024/25.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

12th March 2025