



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 March 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 and Ward Cllr Linda Webster

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 12th February 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2025 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Jacqueline Raeburn was formally co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill a vacant post. The declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

5 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

6 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160225	Bank charges	d.d	£0.80
NEST	250225	Clerk's Pension Feb 25	d.d	£162.03
J Smith	280225	Clerk's salary Feb 25	d.d	£750.35
HMRC	280225	Employer NI payment	b.t	£7.13
Cricket Club	120325	Room hire	b.t	£50.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

7 To discuss any planning issues

Notice of appeal re 2024/0781/FUL (refused)
Change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden
Location: Cotlea 187 Wigan Road Lathom L40 6JN

It was resolved that the Appeals Inspectorate would be sent the following-

- i) a photograph of the concrete base previously installed at the site;
- ii) a request that if the appeal is successful than a condition should be included stating that concrete base is to be removed by a set date;
- iii) clarification that the site is in Lathom;
- iv) highlight that the site is within an area which is very open and all properties are subject to Green Belt restrictions.

Notice of appeal re 2024/0903/PIP (Refused)
Application for permission in principle to erect up to 2no dwelling houses.
Location: Bates Green Cottage Dickets Lane Lathom WN8 8UH

It was resolved not to comment on the above application at this stage.

Application No 2025/0153/FUL
Proposed first floor extension to existing dormer bungalow with single storey extension to side & rear
Location: Salendine Nook, Hollands Lane, Lathom

It was resolved not to comment on the above application.

8 To approve amendments made to the Financial Regulations (adopted Nov 2024) following a review

Following a review of the Financial Regulations, amendments to the Regulations had been circulated to Councillors prior to meeting.

It was resolved to adopted the revised Financial Regulations.

9 To consider purchasing a Parish Council mobile phone with a dedicated Parish Council phone number

It was noted that the Parish Council did not own an official phone or phone number dedicated to Parish Council business. In view of the high dependence on mobile apps to conduct Parish Council business, Councillors were asked to consider purchasing a mobile phone and airtime plan to ensure continued efficiency.

It was resolved to purchase a mobile phone up the cost of £200 phone and an airtime plan circa £7 per month on a rolling monthly contract.

10 To agree articles for Spring newsletter and set deadline for printing

It was agreed to produce a Spring newsletter for distribution in April. Suggested articles and authors:-

- New Councillor intro - Jacqueline
- Budget - Roger
- Firswood Road Bridge update/consultation – Roger/Jane
- Dog Pooh issue – Jane
- Love Clean Streets – Jane
- FoJW – Darren
- Pond in Swells Wood - Darren
- Log reported – Andy T
- Local Plan – Andy T
- AGM and APA – Jane

It was agreed that articles were to be sent to the Clerk no later than 24th March to allow time for the Clerk to produce a draft newsletter ready for proof reading by Councillors by 1st April. If possible, the final version would be sent to the printers on 2nd April for completion in time for Easter deliveries.

11 Update on Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood

A Friends of Jacobs Wood (FoJW) work party had been planned for Sat 15th March, commencing 10am, to remove tree protectors. Enquiries were being made into taking the tree guards to a specialist recycle centre in Blackburn. The FoJW Facebook page now has circa 45 members.

It was noted that there had been no recent reports regarding the dogs from Shireoaks entering Swells Wood.

The Clerk had circulated a final quote for completing the fencing/gate and doing some drain work and digging out a pond in Swells Wood. Councillors agreed that the earth taken out to create the pond should be deposited on the opposite side of the stream to tidy up that area. Councillors approved the final

quote and it was resolved that the Clerk should sign off the quote acceptance form. Andrew Greenough would be carrying out some clearing work in preparation for the fencing and pond work (£600 for a day).

12 Firwood Road Bridge Project Update

At the request of the Clerk, the Chairman agreed to add this item to the agenda.

The Clerk advised that LCC Highways had sent her an initial instruction form to complete so that Highways could set up a section 278 agreement. This was required before LCC Highways would commence work on the Firwood Road Bridge Project. This form requested the name of the solicitor to be used by the Parish Council and a planning application number.

The Clerk had sought advice from Steve Faulkner at WLBC Planning Office regarding any possible requirement for planning permission and was waiting for a reply.

It was resolved that Napthens Solicitors should be contacted to act on behalf of the Parish Council in regard to the s.278 agreement.

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

There had been no update from the WLBC Enforcement Officer following the re-opening of the planning enforcement complaint about Shireoaks being used as a Gypsy site.

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

WLBC had advised the Clerk that some dog fouling notices had been erected around the junction of Firwood Road and Blaguegate Lane and there were plans to do some floor stencilling in the Spring.

At the full WLBC meeting on 26th February, about 200 people turned up in support of saving Park Pool and Nye Bevan Pool. Only 30 members of the public had been allowed into the meeting. The pools were saved with just a majority of 1 in the voting. Following the result of saving the pools, WLBC arranged an extra budgeting meeting. It was reported that as part of the cost cutting schemes, WLBC were proposing that Parish Councils be made responsible for the emptying of public waste bins within their Parish. It was also reported that a 3 weekly household bin collection system was to be proposed.

The preferred option stage of the Local Plan which was scheduled to take place in the final quarter of 2024 has been pushed back to quarter 2 of 2026. The revised timetable means that a replacement will not be in place when the current plan expires in 2027. This will reduce the protection from development in West Lancashire whilst no plan is in place.

Chairman.....

The Clerk advised she would be unavailable Fri 4 – Mon 7 April incl.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman

9th April 2025