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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 13th November 2024.**

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

**Apologies:** Apologies received from Cllr Andrew Beeston and Cllr Carol Blackledge.

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

## MINUTES

**1 To record apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received by Cllr Andrew Beeston and Cllr Carol Blackledge.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**4 Public Participation**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

**5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented**

Santander	161024	Bank charges	d.d	£0.15
NEST	241024	Clerk's Pension Oct 24	d.d	£129.57
J Smith	291024	Clerk's salary Oct 24	d.d	£601.00
Viking Direct	291024	Stationery incl stamps	b.t	171.36
Cricket Club	131124	Room hire	b.t	£50.00
J Smith	141124	Travel LCC Conference	b.t	£26.55

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

**6 To discuss any planning issues**

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.

This application had been discussed at the October Parish Council meeting. No objections were raised regarding this application.

Application No: 2024/0903/PIP

Location: Bates Green Cottage Dickets Lane Lathom Skelmersdale

Proposal: Application for permission in principle to erect up to 2no dwelling houses.

No objections were raised regarding this application. As the application was for planning in principle, it was resolved not to comment at this stage.

**7 To note the NJC agreed pay award for 2024/25**

Details of the NJC agreed pay award for 2024/25 had been circulated to Councillors for information. No questions were raised.

**8 To consider the number of contracted working hours of the Clerk**

The Chairman put forward a motion to increase the contracted working hours of the Clerk from 10 hours per week to 12 hours per week. The increase was justified by the continued growth of the Parish and because the Clerk had already been working 12 hours per week for a substantial length of time whilst only being contracted to 10 hours per week.

It was resolved to amend the Clerk's contacted hours to 12 hours per week with immediate effect.

**9 To adopt new Standing Orders**

This item was deferred to the December meeting to allow all councillors the time to read the draft document.

**10 To consider whether to request a review of the Parish Council Allowances 2025/26 recommendations, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (“the Regulations”) the Parish Remuneration Panel (PRP)**

It was resolved that Lathom South Parish Council would not request a review of the Parish Council Allowances.

**11 To discuss progression with the community orchard board**

Following a request to update the orchard board to reflect the extension to the orchard, it had previously been agreed to redesign the board with photographs of the orchard taken throughout the year. However, the project had been more difficult than initially anticipated.

It was resolved not to replace the orchard board at this time. The current board remained in adequate condition and a replacement could be considered in the future if required.

**12 To approve the Winter 2024 newsletter**

A minor amendment to the Church Service article was noted and the newsletter was approved for printing of 500 copies which would be ready for distribution in early December.

**13 Update on Swells Wood**

The Clerk was waiting to receive a quote for erecting some fencing along a section of the boundary in Swells Wood. There were no further updates available on the progress of the creation of a pond in Swells Wood.

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

There was no update from SLRA

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

The next stage of the Local Plan had been delayed to 2025.

It was reported that with the persistence of residents, Bellway’s ground maintenance contractors had advised that they are going to replace any trees that had been planted on the Lathom Pastures 1 estate which have since died.

Wainhomes had stated that they had left PF101 in a satisfactory condition following the laying of foul waste pipes. WLBC state that the footpath is LCC responsibility although it is on WLBC-owned land.

A reminder was given that residents were able to partake in the consultation on the proposed closure of the two local swimming pools, Nye Bevan and Park Pool.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

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