



Lathom South Parish Council

serving our local community

Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith
3 Old School, School Lane, Melling, Liverpool, L31 1FE
07495970005
clerk@lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Lathom South Parish Council held at the Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8TY at 8:30 pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025.

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

Apologies: Apologies received from Cllr Andrew Chanter.

In attendance: Three members of the 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 11th December 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2024 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation

Members of the public highlighted issues with water running along Dicket's Lane which had been an issue for several years. More recently, water running from Hollands Lane was going down one gully drain had begun to come back out of a gully drain further along Dicket's Lane. It appears that the drain is collapsed between the houses and Dicket's Bridge. One resident had made several phone calls to LCC Highways requesting that the issue be resolved and advised that as yet no repair had been completed.

It was established that the issue had also been reported on Love Clean Streets by two other residents. The status on Love Clean Streets was that the issue,

'has been assessed by an inspector and has been recommended for inclusion in our (Highways) future programme'.

Residents in attendance at the meeting had also contacted County Cllr Rob Bailey who advised he had made enquiries regarding the requested repair. The Parish Council agreed to support the request for a repair of the pipe whilst recognising that there is an issue with water in gullies and ice throughout the Parish and this type of issue isn't isolated to this section of Dicket's Lane.

5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

NEST	221224	Clerk's Pension Dec 24	d.d	£162.03
Santander	171224	Bank charges	d.d	£0.10
J Smith	301224	Clerk's salary Dec 24	d.d	£750.35
Amazon	130125	Printer cartridges (5 pack)	c.p	£40.71
Cricket Club	150125	Room hire	b.t	£50.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

6 To consider the budget for Financial Year 2025/26, including any capital purchases and Community Infrastructure spending but excluding exceptional items.

The recommended draft budget and supplementary notes had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the ability to limit the precept increase, per band D household, was only due to the number of new properties in the Parish. There was no provision in the draft budget for general inflation other than Clerk's salary. Any annual increase to the Clerk's salary would be set nationally. The budget retained a relatively comfortable reserve.

It was resolved to set the precept at £13,220 for 2025/26, which allows for grants to be received from WLBC and LCC (for particular uses).

7 To discuss any planning issues

2024/0282/FUL site off Slate Lane, planning permission refused

Although the Parish Council was in favour of the refusal of planning application 2024/0282/FUL, some of the reasons for refusal listed in the planning officer's report raised concerns.

The application, which is for one bungalow, had been refused on various grounds including:-

- a. The overall footprint of the property is oversized and not in keeping with the character of the area.
- b. The layout and provision of a single dwelling would not comply with the minimum density requirement of 30 dwellings per hectare.

The Parish Council discussed writing a letter to WLBC Planning Department to highlight concerns that the planning officer's report did not give adequate consideration to the unsuitability of the site regarding access.

The only access to the site is down Slate Lane which is a single track, private road and public footpath. The planning permission granted for the Wainhomes development had closed the opportunity to create a new access route to this particular area of land. Taking this into account and the fact that 433 dwellings have already been granted permission within the allocated area, which has a development guide of up to 400 dwellings, it seems unreasonable to suggest that the minimum density requirement of 30 dwellings per hectare would be expected on this limited access site.

It was resolved to write to WLBC stating that the area would not be suitable for the required number of houses with no access from the Wainhomes site.

8 **Update from Friends of Jacobs Wood**

The trees which had been damaged during the last storm had been sorted by Working Woodlands.

A Council Enforcement Officer had visited Swells Wood to investigate reports of aggressive dogs running free in the woods. Whilst he was in attendance, 2 dogs had aggressively appeared from Shireoaks. The Enforcement Officer had taken a video and photos and would be writing to the landowner (not the tenant). Any further sightings of the dogs in the woods should be reported to Cllr Steele who will pass the information on to WLBC. A number of reports have been made via the Friends of Jacobs Wood Facebook page (which now has 42 members). WLBC have also informed the police of the issue of the aggressive dogs.

A FOJW work party is being planned for a day in March to continue to remove the tree guards. A date is to be set with an alternative date in reserve in case of inclement weather. Details will be advertised in the FOJW Facebook page.

9 **To receive quotes for making and installing two finger posts for the rerouted FP24.**

The following quotes had been received by the Clerk:

Classic Memorial Benches to make a finger post using reclaimed fingers - Oak 100x100mm with the part to be in the ground treated with bitumen type preservative.

LSPC carved and letters painted black.

Original fingers sanded back to bare wood.

Clear Osmo treatment 2 coats

£390 plus VAT

Julian Pritchard to install 2 finger posts and a way-marker, **£330** for Labour and materials.

It was resolved to accept the above quotes.

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

There was no report from SLRA.

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

Thanks were given to Cllr Carol Blackledge for all her support and commitment as a Parish Councillor since the Parish Council was formed. The Parish Council also expressed thanks to Mr Phil Blackledge for his support, especially in helping to maintain Jacobs and Swells Woods. Both were wished all the best in their future adventures.

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

**Cllr Roger Clayton
Chairman**

12th February 2025