



---

*Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith*  
*3 Old School, School Lane, Melling, Liverpool, L31 1FE*  
*07353074691*  
[clerk@lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lathomsouthparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**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 11 March 2026.**

**Councillors in attendance:** Cllr Roger Clayton, Cllr Karen Fairhurst, Cllr Ernie Pallas and Cllr Darren Steele (Chairman), Cllr Andy Taylor

**Apologies:** Cllr Andrew Chanter

**In attendance:** Ward Cllr Linda Webster

## **MINUTES**

### **1 To record apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from 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 11 February 2026**

A minor amendment was made to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2026. They were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### **4 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

LALC	230226	Training – recruiting Cllrs	b.t	£54.00
LALC	230226	Training – Canva	b.t	£18.00
Farm Signs Uk	230226	Public Footpath over Private Land sign x 5	visa	£54.75
UK Safety Store	230226	Asbestos sign x 3	visa	£12.98
NEST	260226	Clerk's Pension Feb 26	d.d	£167.23
Unity Trust Bank	280226	Service charge	b.t	£7.20
J Smith	020326	Clerk's salary Feb 26	s.o	£774.27
Cricket Club	110326	Room hire	b.t	£50.00
Talk Mobile	120326	Mobile phone bill	d.d	£5.95

Resolved: That the accounts listed above be ratified and authorised for payment.

**6 Update on the transfer of bank accounts from Santander**

The Clerk advised that confirmation had been received from Santander that the current account was closed on 16 February 2026 after all charges were refunded and the deposit account was closed on 2 March 2026. There had been £34.81 interest accrued on the deposit account which has been transferred to the Unity Trust account.

**7 To approve the appointment of an internal auditor**

Resolved: To appoint Mr David Webb as internal auditor for the 2025/2026 audit.

**8 To approve the review of the following documents****a. Financial Regulations**

A review of the Financial Regulations adopted September 2024 had been completed.

Resolved: That the amended Financial Regulations be approved and adopted.

**b. Standing Orders**

A review of the Standing Orders adopted December 2024 had been completed.

Resolved: That the amended Standing Orders be approved and adopted.

**c. Risk Management Register**

This item was deferred until the April meeting.

**9 To discuss any planning issues**

**Application No: 2026/0078/LDC**

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) - For buildings, built from 2012 onwards.

Site Location: Land Next To Cock Farm, Spa Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk,

Resolved: The Parish Council would log a comment requesting that confirmation is obtained that the building complies with relevant Building Regulations prior to West Lancashire Borough Council making any determination on the application.

Subject to the building being compliant with Building Regulations and therefore suitable and safe for use as a family dwelling, the Parish Council would have no objection to the application.

**Application No: 2026/0182/PIP**

Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle - The erection of three new build dwellings.

Site Location: Earnsdale, Vale Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire.

Resolved: The Parish Council would log an objection to the application on the following grounds:

1. The site lies within the designated Green Belt, where development is considered inappropriate unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated.
2. The revised National Planning Policy Framework has not yet been formally issued; therefore, it cannot currently be relied upon to argue that this location may be classified as "grey belt".
3. Granting permission at this location may set a precedent for further development along Vale Lane, where the surrounding land has historically been used as smallholdings.
4. The site does not comply with the current Local Plan criteria regarding proximity to a railway station.

**Planning Application 2025/0808/FUL (Shireoaks)**

The Clerk advised that as agreed at the 11 February 2026 Parish Council meeting, a letter had been emailed to Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) on 17 February 2026. CPRE had advised this letter had been forwarded on to Eddy Taylor, their part-time Planning Manager for a response.

**10 To consider a change to the motion made at the previous meeting (item 11) to purchase a desk top scanner and to consider an alternative purchase of an all-in-one (print/copy/scan) (10 mins)**

Resolved: That the motion made at the meeting on 11 February 2026 be amended and that an all-in-one printer be purchased up to the value of £280.

**11 Update on the Firswood Road Bridge Project**

The Clerk advised that the certificate of estimated costs has still not been received from Lancashire County Council (LCC). Simon Moore, the LCC solicitor, continued to investigate the matter.

**12 To plan a route for a Spring litter pick**

It was agreed the meeting point for the litter pick would be on Old Engine Lane, near the duck pond, at 10am on Sunday 22 March 2026. Volunteers would be split into two groups.

Proposed routes were noted as follows:

Group 1 Leaving Old Engine Lane onto Neverstitch Road, right turn onto Ormskirk Road/ Blaguegate Lane and onto Firswood and down Slate Lane.

Group 2 Leaving Old Engine Lane onto Neverstitch Rd and turn left onto the footpath to Statham Road, on to Firswood Road and back to Old Engine Lane.

A map of the routes will be circulated to councillors.

**13 To agree on the distribution of 'Public Footpath Over Private Land' signs**

Resolved: The five signs purchased would be given to Mr Appleton for displaying at points considered most effective by Mr Appleton.

**14 Update on Swells Wood and consideration of next steps in dealing with the asbestos**

This item was added to the agenda following a response received from Environmental Health. The Environmental Health Officer had advised that the most appropriate course of action is to have the asbestos removed rather than capped on site. At this point it was not considered that the area needs to be declared as contaminated land. That would be reviewed if for some reason the removal of some of the asbestos is not feasible and had to be buried and capped with appropriate materials.

It was agreed to request further information from the Environmental Health Officer.

It was agreed to obtain quotations for the removal of the asbestos.

**15 Report from South Lathom Residents' Association (SLRA) for information only (5 mins)**

It was noted that SLRA had completed a response on the Lancashire local government reorganisation consultation.

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

It was noted that a meeting was being held by the local NHS Trusts, on Friday 13 March 2026, at Ormskirk Civil Hall when the final decision would be announced regarding relocating all A&E services from Ormskirk Hospital to Southport Hospital. Attendance to the meeting was by ticket only.

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a 'Recruitment and Retention' course. Suggestions to raise awareness of the Parish Council were noted as follows

- Request funding from developers of new housing developments for Parish noticeboards to be installed on the new housing estates.
- Host a stand at local events.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Cllr Darren Steele**  
**Chairman**

**8 April 2026**