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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 14th January 2026.**

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

**Apologies:** Apologies received from Cllr Andy Taylor

**In attendance:** One member of the public and Ward Cllr Linda Webster were in attendance

## MINUTES

### 1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andy Taylor.

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025

The minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### 4 Public Participation

Public concerns were raised about the development at Shireoaks and 187 Wigan Road.

## **Shireoaks**

A retrospective planning application for the change of use of land to a 3 pitch (6 statics) family Gypsy and Traveller site had been called in to go before the Planning Committee. Regardless of that retrospective planning application a wooden extension had started to be built onto the original caravan on the site thus further breaching the current planning consent.

The documents available on the West Lancs Planning Portal under the retrospective planning application (2025/0808/FUL) include a memorandum from WLBC Strategic Planning. The planning report says that the applicant's Planning Statement states that,

“The occupants consist of 14 adult family members and 13 children. No evidence has been provided by the applicant to evidence their and other occupants' status as Gypsies and Travellers. This information should be requested from the applicant.”

A member of the public in attendance disputed the number of children claimed to be living on the site, stating that only one child had been seen.

It was noted that the planning report did not take into consideration the impact of the arrival of additional caravans on the safety of road users. The Highway Authority consultation response, which highlighted concerns regarding undue obstruction, delay or hazard to users of the local highway network, was not mentioned in the planning report. Impact and safety remain major concerns for local residents.

It was also noted that objections raised are not always listed on the Planning Portal and were not referred to in the planning report.

## **187 Wigan Road**

Planning application **2024/0781/FUL**, requesting a change of land use from agricultural to domestic garden, was refused in November 2024. Despite this, a static caravan has since been moved onto the land, which continues to be classed as agricultural. The Land Registry shows the land in question as belonging to the previous owner rather than the applicant.

It was reported that concerns were expressed about possible repercussions if residents objected to planning applications or reported breaches of planning regulations.

## **5 To discuss the appointment of a Chairman and Vice Chairman in May 2026**

Councillors were reminded that the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman would be up for election in May 2026. With the position of Vice Chairman currently vacant, Councillors were encouraged to consider putting themselves forward for election.

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

|                  |        |                        |     |           |
|------------------|--------|------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Talk Mobile      | 101225 | Mobile phone bill      | d.d | £5.95     |
| North Star       | 171225 | Asbestos survey        | b.t | £5,760.00 |
| J Smith          | 301225 | Clerk's salary Dec 25  | s.o | £774.27   |
| Unity Trust Bank | 311225 | Service charge         | b.t | £6.45     |
| HMRC             | 020126 | Employer NI payment    | b.t | £62.87    |
| Napthens LLP     | 060126 | Legal fees             | b.t | £2,100.00 |
| NEST             | 060126 | Clerk's Pension Dec 25 | d.d | £167.23   |
| UK Environmental | 070126 | Asbestos disposal      | b.t | £1,500.00 |
| Cricket Club     | 140126 | Room hire              | b.t | £50.00    |

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

**Income received 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025** (for information only)

|              |           |                                 |            |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 8 Oct 25     | WLBC      | Precept 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment | £ 6,817.00 |
|              |           | Concurrent grant                | £ 323.50   |
| 2 Nov 25     | Santander | Interest                        | £ 97.48    |
| 5 Nov 25     | WLBC      | NCIL                            | £11,822.58 |
| Oct – Dec 25 | CCLA      | Investment credit               | £ 2,449.27 |

**7 To consider the budget for Financial Year 2026/27, 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.

The Clerk explained increases in regard to the suggested budget requirements for administration, subscriptions and concurrent activities which were used for setting the suggested precept.

Cllr Roger Clayton left the meeting.

The recommended precept was less than the predicted running costs of the Parish Council. The Clerk asked Councillors to consider covering the shortfall from reserves, taking into account the bank interest received in 2025/26.

Councillors approved the suggested precept of £15,440 representing an increase of 3.52% per household at Band D equivalent. It was noted that the tax base figure was expected to increase further for 2027/28 as additional homes became occupied on the new housing developments.

**Resolved:** To set the precept request of £15,440 for 2026/27.

## **8 To discuss any planning issues**

a) Shireoaks

Covered under Agenda Item 4 and to be reconsidered once further information is received.

b) 187 Wigan Road

Covered under Agenda Item 4 and to be reconsidered once further information is received.

c) Application No:2025/1103/FUL

Proposal: Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling, re-utilising previously established volume to accommodate new extensions  
Site Location: Woodlands Bungalow, Plough Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk.

There were no objections to the above application and it was agreed not to make a comment on the Planning Portal.

## **9 To agree arrangements for temporary fencing to limit access to an area of Swells Wood**

**Resolved:** To accept the quotation from Working Woodlands to erect temporary fencing in Swells Wood.

## **10 To consider any possible action to protect footpaths from being ploughed and planted**

Following the newsletter article on the Countryside Code, residents had asked whether footpaths could be protected from ploughing and planting. It was agreed to monitor the situation and, if necessary, consult with the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) team.

It was noted that in some cases farmers were content for walkers to use unofficial paths.

## **11 To plan a route for a Spring litter pick and assess equipment requirements**

The date for the community litter pick was confirmed as 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. Enquiries had been made with the WLBC Street Clean Team regarding

participation in the Great British Spring Clean (13<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March) and the provision of equipment and waste disposal.

At the time of the meeting, two residents had volunteered to participate. Possible routes were discussed, focusing on roads with pavements.

It was agreed to book the budgeted professional litter pick for after 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**12 To set a date for a Friends of Jacobs Wood Spring work party and set tasks**

The next Friends of Jacobs Wood work party was scheduled for Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, weather permitting, with Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April set as an alternative date. It was agreed that the main focus would be on removing additional tree protectors.

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

There was no SLRA report.

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

The Chairman had attended the Lathom Parish Council meeting to receive information regarding United Utilities' five-year improvement works at Wigan and Skelmersdale Wastewater Treatment Works on Deans Lane, Newburgh. Although the site lies outside Lathom South Parish, equipment and materials will exit the M58 at Junction 3 and travel through Lathom South and Lathom.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**