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Minutes of the meeting of Lathom South Parish Council held at the Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8TY at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

Councillors in attendance:, Cllr Karen Fairhurst, Cllr Ernie Pallas, Cllr Jacqueline Reaburn, Cllr Darren Steele (Chairman) and Cllr Andy Taylor

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Chanter

In attendance: Two members of the public and Ward Cllr Linda Webster

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 To elect Chairman and hear acceptance of office

Cllr Darren Steele was elected Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

2 To elect Vice Chairman and hear acceptance of office

Cllr Karen Fairhurst was elected as Vice Chairman. Declaration of acceptance of office was read out, witnessed and signed.

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

Jacqueline Reaburn 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.

4 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Chanter.

5 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2026

The minutes of the meeting of 8 April 2026 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

7 Public Participation

Concerns were raised about the safety of the junction of Firwood Road and Blaguegate Lane. Hedging had narrowed the pavement, resulting in some pedestrians walking in the road, and had also reduced the line of sight for vehicles exiting Firwood Road. It was noted that a request could be made for the hedge owner to cut the hedge back.

A member of the public advised that a car for sale, which had been in the layby on Wigan Lane/Whiteleys Lane, had been reported to West Lancashire Borough Council (WLBC), as there is no consent for the sale of cars on Wigan Road.

A resident provided an update regarding an ongoing enforcement matter relating to a static caravan at 187 Wigan Road.

8 To confirm Registration of Financial Interests forms

Councillors in attendance confirmed their Registration of Interest Forms were up to date.

9 To confirm any representation on outside bodies

There is no representation on any outside bodies.

10 To confirm structure and membership of any committees and subcommittees

There are currently no committees or subcommittees.

11 To adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

(Part 5 of West Lancashire Borough Council Constitution reviewed 9 April 2026)

Resolved to adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 as set out in Part 5 of the West Lancashire Borough Council Constitution, reviewed 9 April 2026

12 To consider payment of annual subscriptions

The following memberships were approved
CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) - £50
SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) – £ 190
Open Spaces Society - £45
OPSTA (Ormskirk, Preston Southport Travellers Association) - £10

LALC / NALC - £248.14
Parish OnLine - £86

13 To consider the insurance cover renewal quotation

The annual renewal quotation from Zurich for 1 June 2026 – 31 May 2027 is £351.19 (compared to £310.67 for 2025/2026 and £340.67 for 2024/2025)

Resolved: to approve the renewal quotation from Zurich

14 To confirm dates of future meetings

Subject to the availability of a meeting room at Skelmersdale Cricket Club the dates of future meetings were agreed as:-

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 10 June 2026 | 13 Jan 2027 |
| 15 July 2026 | 10 Feb 2027 |
| 2 Sept 2026 | 10 Mar 2027 |
| 14 Oct 2026 | 14 Apr 2027 |
| 11 Nov 2026 | 12 May 2027 AGM |
| 9 Dec 2026 | |

15 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--|-----|---------|
| Lloyds Bank | 160426 | Corporate card [Card fee £3 Printer £259.99] | d.d | £262.99 |
| D Steele | 160426 | Expenses | b.t | £6.99 |
| HMRC | 230426 | Employer NI Feb/Mar/Apr 2026 | d.d | £179.93 |
| NEST | 260426 | Clerk's pension Apr 26 | d.d | 167.23 |
| J Smith | 300426 | Clerk's salary Apr 26 | d.d | £774.27 |
| Unity Trust | 300426 | Service charge | d.d | £8.35 |
| Talk Mobile | 110526 | Mobile phone | d.d | 5.95 |
| Cricket Club | 130526 | Room hire | b.t | £50.00 |

The accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

Resolved: To establish a standing order for room hire payments to Skelmersdale Cricket Club from June 2026 to May 2027.

16 To discuss any planning issues

There were no planning applications for discussion.

17 To approve the amended estimated costs for the Firwood Road Bridge Project

A report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting outlining the costs associated with the Firwood Roads Bridge Project, the asbestos removal works at Swells Wood, and the current balance of available Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

Members noted that the Certificate of Estimated Costs recently received from LCC was 22% higher than the original estimate.

It was further noted that, should the Parish Council decide not to proceed with the Firwood Bridge Project at any stage prior to acceptance of the tender, the Council would be liable for all abortive costs and expenses incurred by the County Council in relation to the project. This could also include legal costs incurred by the Parish Council in connection with the project.

Resolved: that the Parish Council continue with the bridge project and defer works at Swells Wood until further funding is secured.

The Clerk was instructed to advise LCC that it was hoped the tender returns would be approximately 10% lower than the revised estimated costs and that there would be no further delays, which could result in any additional cost increase.

18 To plan the biennial maintenance check of Parish Council assets

The biennial maintenance assessment of the Parish Council's street furniture was due. It was agreed that the clerk and councillors would share the task.

Resolved: that feedback from maintenance checks would be sent to the clerk before the next meeting to enable a repair programme to be implemented over the summer.

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

There were no exchanges of information.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Cllr Darren Steele
Chairman

10 June 2026