



Lathom South Parish Council

serving our local community

Clerk: Mrs Jane Smith
07353074691

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 10 June 2026.

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

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Chanter and Cllr Andy Taylor

In attendance: Jane Smith (Clerk)

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Chanter, Cllr Andy Taylor, Ward Cllr Linda Webster and County Cllr Adrian Owens.

2 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 May 2026

The minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2026 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

J Services	190326	Litter pick	b.t	£855.00
Heartbeat Trust	180526	Annual support package	b.t	£151.20
LALC	180526	LALC/NALC annual subs	b.t	£248.14
Zurich	180526	Insurance premium	b.t	£351.19
J Services	180526	Fingerpost School Ln	b.t	£130.00
Lloyds Bank	190526	Corporate Card payment	d.d	£263.22
		A-frame £208.79 + Leaflets £34.84 + Leaflet stands £16.59 Monthly fee £3		
NEST	280526	Clerk's Pension May 26	d.d	£167.23
J Smith	010626	Clerk's salary May 26	s.o	£774.27
Kingfisher Direct	010626	Refuge sacks	card	£40.36
Unity Trust	010626	Service charge	d.d	£8.50
Local Authority Tech	080626	Parish Online mapping	b.t	£84.00
Talk Mobile	090626	Mobile phone bill	d.d	£5.95
Cricket Club	100626	Room hire	b.t	£50.00

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

6 To receive internal audit, complete Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/26 receive income and expenditure figures for the financial year 2025/26

The Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/26 had been circulated to Councillors following the completion of the internal audit. Councillors considered the accounting statements.

Resolved: That the accounting statements were correct and they were signed accordingly.

The documents will be submitted to the external auditor in due course.

7 To discuss any planning issues

Application: 2026/0401/FUL

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 2022/0138/FUL in relation to approved plans.

Location: Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom, WN8 8UY

Application: 2026/0449/PIP

Proposal: Permission in principle for a residential development comprising a single detached dwelling on existing garden land.

Location: Woodlands Bungalow, Plough Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk

Application: 2026/0459/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Retention of works including replacement of windows and removal of internal stud walls.

Location: Ottershead Farm Barn, Dicks Lane, Lathom

The above planning applications were considered.

Resolved: The applications were considered and no material planning concerns were identified.

8 To approve the strimming of the Public Rights of Way

The clerk requested approval for J Services to commence, as soon as possible, with the strimming of the Public Rights of Way. The cost of £2,400 remained the same as previous years.

Resolved: That J Services be asked to complete the strimming of the Public Rights of Way as soon as possible.

9 To approve the Biodiversity Policy

The model Biodiversity Policy obtained from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) had been adapted for Lathom South Parish Council. This had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. It was noted that a Biodiversity Policy is mandatory under the Environmental Act 2021.

Resolved: That the amended SLCC model Biodiversity Policy be adopted.

10 To agree on the involvement of LSPC in a joint project with other Parish Councils in addressing traffic issues in the local area

The Chairman explained that Lathom South Parish Council had been invited to work with Lathom Parish Council, Newburgh Parish Council and Burscough Town Council to address the traffic issues in the local area. The Chairman had attended an initial meeting to establish the goals of the group. A number of County Councillors had also attended. The goal was to reduce the number of heavy goods vehicles which currently use roads which are considered as an unsuitable link from the M58 to Burscough.

Resolved: Lathom South Parish Council Councillor(s) would attend the meetings and gain further information on possible resolutions to the traffic issues.

11 To receive the report following the biennial check on Parish Council assets and agree on a maintenance plan

The biennial check on the Parish Council owned street furniture had indicated that all the benches, noticeboards and lecterns require sanding and re-oiling/varnishing.

The display board on the lectern on Hollands Lane has what appears to be cigarette burns in the map. Enquiries have been made with Landmark, now called Hornbeck, who had originally supplied the lectern and insert and it had been established that as the design had been completed in 2008, the artwork was no longer on file.

Resolved: To initially request a quotation from Classic Memorial Benches for the sanding and oiling/varnishing of the benches.

A programme of works for the noticeboards and lecterns would be considered after bench maintenance had been completed.

12 To receive an update on the Firwood Road Bridge Project

The Clerk provided the following update on the progress of the Firwood Road Bridge Project

- Cllr Adrian Owens had confirmed to Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways that he is in support of the Firwood Road Bridge Project and hoped the project could proceed with appropriate speed.
- Allen Myers at Highways had advised that approval through the LCC Scheme of delegation has been received to bring the bridge funding into the Capital Programme and to progress to delivery.
- A Purchase Order from the Parish Council had been raised so that LCC could generate an invoice for £191,917. This was a lower figure than the Certificate of Costs (CoC) estimate because Lathom South Parish Council had already paid the LCC legal fees that had been included within the CoC.
- Allen Myers will arrange for a project to be set up so that the fees can be brought in and allow design work start. The Parish Council will be informed on progress during design stage and key milestones.
- Historic Railway Estate have not yet confirmed if they require a report prior to commencement of work on the bridge so this item remains a project risk.

- The programme for delivery has not been formulated. Allen will discuss resourcing with his team to ensure there are realistic timeframes set for each part of the process. This will be shared when available.

13 To receive an update on Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood

The Clerk had made enquiries with WLBC to establish if any further CIL funding could be applied for to assist with the asbestos removal in Swells Wood. A response had not yet been received.

The Clerk had established that funding may be available through the Whitemoss Community Grant. However, funding criteria stated that physical work must not have been started prior to application and work must start within four months of grant approval.

Following an incident in which the temporary fencing had been cut and the use of electric bikes in the woods continued, the Clerk had raised a 'neighbourhood concern' on the online police system to make the local police and the rural team aware of the woods.

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

- As agreed at the April meeting, correspondence had been sent to DHL, Asda and WLBC to request a meeting to discuss collaboratively tackling the litter issue on Statham Road. No replies have been received.

Paul Eccles at the Community Payback Team had been contacted to see if they can help. Paul planned to visit Statham Road to assess if the area was suitable.

- Following changes to legislation relating to the publication of councillors' addresses for safety reasons, the Clerk advised she would be following other Parish Clerks and would no longer be putting her home address on agendas and minutes.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Cllr Darren Steele
Chairman

15 July 2026