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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 11th June 2025.

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

Apologies: Apologies received from Ward Cllr Linda Webster

In attendance: Ward Cllr Ian Rigby was in attendance

MINUTES

1 To record apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ward Cllr Linda Webster.

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 14th May 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2025 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Public Participation

Ward Cllr Ian Rigby advised that an online consultation has been launched by the Government about Planning Committee reforms. It was noted that there are more applications for green belt building because there isn't a five year supply to meet housing targets.

5 To ratify and authorise payment of accounts presented

Santander	160525	Bank charges	d.d	£0.20
NEST	220525	Clerk's Pension May 25	d.d	£162.03
Design4Print	230525	Spring newsletters	b.t	£280.00
Zurich	230525	Insurance	b.t	£310.67
J Smith	290525	Clerk's salary May 25	d.d	£750.35
HMRC	290525	Employer NI payment	b.t	£58.97
Talk Mobile	090625	Mobile phone bill	d.d	£5.95
J Services	060625	Fingerpost install	b.t	£330.00
Geosphere	060625	Online mapping	b.t	£84.00
Working Woodlands	060625	Invasive weed spraying Tree guard recycling	b.t	£420.00
J Smith	060625	SLCC meeting travel	b.t	£36.00
Cricket Club	100625	Room hire	b.t	£50.00

The above accounts were ratified and authorised for payment.

Councillors authorised the purchase of a First Aid kit to take to the Friends of Jacobs Wood work parties.

6 To receive internal audit, complete Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25

The Clerk presented the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25 as it had been presented to the internal auditor. The internal auditor's report had been circulated to Councillors. The accounting statements were considered by Councillors. It was resolved that the accounting statements were correct and were signed accordingly. The documents will be submitted to the external auditor in due course.

7 To discuss any planning issues

There were no applications to discuss.

8 To approve the new IT Policy for adoption by LSPC

A new IT Policy had been circulated to Councillors for consideration and questions were invited. It was resolved to adopt the IT Policy.

9 To discuss changes to Santander current account

Notification had been received from Santander that as from 1st August 2025, no interest would be paid on the Business Current account and new bank charges would be brought in.

After considering alternative banking facilities, it was resolved to remain with Santander but reduce the balance held in the current account to circa £3,000 working balance and transfer the remainder to the Business Reserve account and CCLA.

10 To consider survey reports from Asbestos Surveyors re old waste material in Swells wood

The Clerk had received 4 quotations for the removal of historic asbestos located in a small area in Swells Wood. All the asbestos surveyors had stated that the asbestos was low hazard and recommended not to disturb any which was covered the soil.

After giving all the quotations consideration, it was resolved to accept the comprehensive quotation from UK Environmental & Asbestos Removals, £1,550 plus VAT to complete a 'litter pick'. The asbestos surveyor had been to the site and was aware of the access issues. It was noted that as the buried asbestos would remain in situ the surveyor had stated that the area would need to be recorded on a map as contaminated and a 'no entry/hazard' sign would need to be erected to avoid future disturbance of the material.

11 Update on the community defibrillator

Consideration was given to options for the electrical installation of the community defibrillator. It was resolved to accept a £300 quotation from a local electrician.

12 To consider quotations for business cards

It was resolved to order 250 double sided business cards from Vista Print to promote the Parish Council and Friends of Jacobs Wood.

13 To consider CCTV for Jacobs/Swells Wood

Consideration was given to the practicality of installing solar powered CCTV in Jacobs Wood / Swells Wood and if CCTV in that area would fall within the requirements outlined in legislation.

It was agreed that at the current time, issues within the wood did not justify the installation of CCTV.

14 To discuss notice board(s) for Jacobs Wood and Swells Wood

It was agreed to obtain quotations for two information boards, one to be installed near the kissing gate into Jacobs Wood and one at the Plough Lane entrance to Swells Wood. The clerk would circulate options for materials, size etc. for further consideration at the next meeting.

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

Following the re-routing of FP 24, the footpath signs had recently been erected. There was still no news on the cycle path.

An enforcement officer had made a visit to Shireoaks and was still maintaining that there was nothing out of order.

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

A Friends of Jacobs Wood work party was scheduled for Saturday 14th June, 10am to carry out some Balsam pulling.

It was noted that the Wardens Club had been put up for sale.

The Clerk advised that to use her annual leave up by the end of September she would be working reduced weekly hours over the summer months.

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

Chairman

16th July 2025