LATHOM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th MAY 2018 AT

THE SCOUT HQ HALL LANE LATHOM AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: PARISH COUNCILLORS; E POPE (IN THE CHAIR)

MRS J BAKER

A WEBSTER

MRS I M O’DONNELL (CLERK)

(RESIDENTS) MR & MRS GIBBONS P FERGUSON, A HINDE, A MORRIS

W WARING, MRS M CLARKE,

MR & MRS FORD, M FORD

APOLOGIES: PARISH COUNCILLOR; I FAIRCLOUGH

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

It was proposed by Councillor A Webster and seconded by Councillor Mrs Baker that Councillor Pope be elected chairman for the year 2018-2019 and it was resolved that Councillor Pope be elected chairman.

All councillors present then signed the Declaration of Office and Councillor Pope signed the Declaration of Office as Chairman.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd April 18 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

It was proposed by Councillor Webster and seconded by Councillor Pope that Councillor Mrs Baker be elected vice chairman for the year 2018-19 and it was resolved that Councillor Mrs Baker be elected vice chairman.

Mrs Baker then signed the Declaration of Office of Vice chairman

4. ADJOURNMENT FOR FIVE MINUTES TO CONSIDER MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

A number of views opposing the planning application for a solar farm on land at Lords

Cottage was discussed and the clerk read out the parish council objection which was to be submitted to WLBC. Borough Councillor E Pope has called the application in to the planning committee. The applicant Lightsource had supposedly sent out 720 consultation letters to residents but no-one present who live nearest had received one. The clerk to write and ask for details of where the leaflets were delivered**.**

Mr P Ferguson a former councillor spoke about the parish meeting held in April and the resignation of the chairman Mrs Peggs. He spoke about her years of service with the council and said she should be thanked and members asked the clerk to write and thank Mrs Peggs for her 11years service on the parish council. **IMOD**

Mr Hinde commented on the service received from contractor J Lyons who had cleared the blocked gullies locally.

5. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WEST LANCASHIRE BRANCH OF LAPTC/LALC - Councillors I Fairclough and Mrs Baker were appointed to the area committee

6. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO PETER LATHOM CHARITY

As Mrs Peggs who is the council’s representative has now resigned from the council – the chairman E Pope will check on constitution before appointing anyone else.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Tracking log

The clerk reported that some work had been carried out on the items listed and some had also been scheduled into system. The clerk had contacted Superfast Broadband for update on the promised upgrade to fibre by March 18 which had still not been carried out.

8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The clerk presented the accounts for the year 2017-2018 and they were accepted and signed by the chairman. The clerk to wait for new audit arrangements to be put in place and will submit as required. Clerk to check if Mr K Vincent still willing to carry out Internal Audit**. IMOD**

9. ELECTION UPDATE

As only four nominations were received by WLBC the election was uncontested and all nominated were elected to the council. The clerk will now post vacancy notices to try to fill the vacancies by co-option. **IMOD**

10. GDPR – DATA PROTECTION

The clerk briefly spoke about the new Data protection rules coming into force on 25th May18. There had been suggestions that each parish council would need to employ a Data protection officer, but this was apparently going to be removed as most parishes only have one employee and don’t have the same amount of personal data stored on file. The clerk has various notes and a video to help with this which she will study.

11. REPORT ON WLBC MINUTES

There was nothing to report as there had been an election and the first full council meeting had still not been held.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

1. WLBC – Mayoral engagements
2. WLBC – Counter terrorism awareness sessions 14/06/18 2pm or 6pm
3. Came & Co. Insurance – apologies for problems causing delays
4. LALC – Healthy Walk proposal
5. Police – alerts
6. WLBC – Election notices for boards
7. WLBC – War Horse Walk Bank Holiday Monday 03/05/18
8. WLBC – Planning applications
9. Calor Community Fund information
10. WLBC – Clerks liaison meeting
11. WLBC – Chapel Gallery – Lego F
12. AGE UK – Vacancies
13. WLBC – Planning applications F
14. Lathom South – Solar Farm
15. LALC – Chairman and clerks workshops
16. LALC – Trading standards alerts
17. LALC – New salary SCP rates
18. WLBC – Medieval Festival June F
19. WLBC – Revised parking charges F
20. CPRE – Confirmation for Data Protection
21. Rosie Cooper MP – Rural crime survey L
22. Alex Georgio – Lightsource F
23. WLBC – Planning decisions
24. WLBC –Planning applications
25. WLBC – Full council meeting agenda
26. WLBC – Counter Terrorist Awareness Session P
27. Clerks & Councils magazine
28. WLBC – Election Invoice
29. Came & Co. – Insurance invoice
30. WLBC – Planning committee minutes

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment.

1. Mrs I M O’Donnell (clerk salary/exes) £252.40

2. Ormskirk District Scouts (hall hire) £20.00

3. Came & Company (insurance renewal) £335.00

4. WLBC (election charges) £91.50

5. KC Computers (4 ink cartridges) £75.96

14. PARISH MATTERS

Councillor Mrs Baker reported that the road sweeper had travelled along Hall Lane but did not pick up any litter as brush was lowered to the ground but the amount of grit, sand and soil prevented it picking up efficiently. Clerk to contact WLBC regarding this. Councillor Webster also commented on the problems with pot holes as did Councillor Mrs Baker who said Spa Lane was still not repaired despite promises it would be a priority. Mrs Baker spoke about loose road signs on posts. Councillor Pope spoke about the placing of speed limit signs on Ring O’Bells Lane which he was trying to arrange that they be moved as at present they were too close to the start of the road and motorists were passed the before they saw them and realised the limit had changed. Councillor Pope also spoke about overgrown footpaths in the parish and the schemes that had been in place for dealing with this. The clerk to speak with Linda Anderson at LCC. **IMOD**

Councillor Pope remained in the meeting but took no part in the following discussions.

15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2018/0409/FUL – Installation and operation of a solar installation and associated infrastructure - Land to the east of Lords Cottage, Hall Lane & Pilkington Technology Centre, Hall Lane.

The following comments were submitted to WLBC

“Lathom Parish Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds: Inappropriate development within the green belt which would be harmful to the green belt. The development would have adverse impact on the openness of the green belt and represents encroachment into the countryside conflicting with the purpose of including land in the green belt. Visual impact will have a detrimental effect on the character of Lathom and the visual impact will be evident from Parbold Hill. Loss of Grade 1 agricultural land for growing crops and although argument for renewable energy is saving on the increasing of conventional supply, food prices will also rise and we will have to import more if we haven’t kept our farmland to produce our own. Why can’t the applicant consider other sites for the panels, such as nearby brown field areas or on the roof tops of the NSG building or their own land. No special circumstances have been raised for the choice of this site over other fields. Impact on the habitat of protected species such as owls, bats or the feeding grounds for pink footed geese and swans from nearby Martin Mere nature reserve. Deer have also been seen feeding on this land. Care should be taken to ensure heritage assets and their settings as there are a number of nearby listed buildings such as West Wing, Lathom House, Stand Farmhouse and Spa Farmhouse. Consideration should also be given to the feelings of many local residents as this site is part of WW1 Remount Depot and this field has been left as pasture for 100 years out of respect for the war horses that were trained here for the front and many locals strongly believe there are horses buried on or near this site. As this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 it would appear insensitive to grant this application against the strong feelings of locals and outsiders who come to visit this historical site.”

Lathom Parish Council would like to submit additional comments of objection to this planning application. “This application should be refused as it conflicts with NPPF paragraphs 88/91 – No special circumstances as the benefits of this proposal are limited in that the energy generated will only provide 30% of the applicant’s requirements, leaving the major amount 70% to be obtained from the National Grid and provides no energy for public consumption. Set this against the loss of valuable Grade 1 agricultural land and the impact on the green belt. Paragraph 109 – The chosen site is at risk of being affected by unacceptable levels of noise, soil and water pollution and on the local and natural environment. There are sequentially preferable locations the applicant should consider such as placing the panels on the roof of their buildings or as cover over the many car parking spaces as has been done at certain airports and other industrial sites. There is previously developed brown field land nearby which is not of such high environmental value which has not been considered by the applicant. Potential harm to the green belt and visual impact outweighs any of the benefits and this should be the main consideration of the council as well as the sensitive and historical elements of this site and we urge the planning officers to refuse this application.”

The date of the next meeting Monday 25TH June 2018

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed………………………………………………………..Chairman