

24.01

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024 AT THE SCOUT HEADQUARTERS, HALL LANE, LATHOM COMMENCING AT 7.30 p.m.

24.02

PRESENT: Councillors A Beckett (Chair), H Shaw , E Pope, I Fairclough, A Sherman, L McDonnell, M McDonnell and Clerk D Abram. Councillor J Gordon in attendance. 55 plus members of the public attended.

24.03

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

No apologies given.

24.04

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

No declaration of interest raised.

24.05

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2023.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 December 2023 should be approved and signed by the Vice Chair.

24.06

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

Members of the public, the Applicant of the planning application and the proposed Tenant were in attendance for planning application 2023/0801/FUL - Land West Of Meadow Lane, Lathom, Lancashire - Change of use of land for outdoor sport with associated facilities.

The Vice Chair H Shaw read out the comments submitted by Lathom Parish Council to the Planning Department at West Lancashire Borough Council.

The Applicant then read a statement regarding the application submitted. The Applicant advised that they could be approached at any time by the Councillors and residents of Lathom to discuss the application details. Residents asked for a copy of the Applicants statement, to which the Applicant said he would make this readily available, but as yet this has not been forthcoming.

A questions and answer session then took place between the Applicant, the proposed Tenant, the residents and the Councillors for Lathom Parish Council. The points raised included:-

- a. The lack of parking spaces being provided given the numbers who will be playing on the football pitches and support staff at any one time. The Applicant implied more spaces can be added and the planning application altered or amended.
- b. The junctions around the entrance to Meadow Lane and the number of accidents and the frequency of speeding on the roads in the vicinity.
- c. The number of vehicles accessing Meadow Lane throughout the usage of the football pitches given that Meadow Lane is in most part a single track road and the parking all along surrounding roads and lanes.
- d. The low visibility when grass is at its highest around the junction area to and from Meadow Lane and the other junctions in that area.
- e. Which contractors will be accessing Meadow Lane to gain access to the football pitches area i.e. contractors, etc.
- f. The issue of livestock on the adjoining field and the type of fencing that the Applicant was proposing to use was discussed, with the Applicant stating they were installing (4ft close weave anti-climb metal-mesh fencing). This was deemed total unrealistic. When challenged on this point, the Applicant said, 'we'll make the fences higher'. Also discussion around the retrieval of footballs that will inevitably go over the fence. The Applicant said 'we will leave any balls in the field or gardens.' This is also a litter issue and a welfare problem for the livestock.
- g. The Applicant said they would be planting hedges to grow to a (maximum height 6-8 ft) over a two year period. When challenged 'what happens in the two years they are growing' the Applicant could not reply.
- h. The type of gated access to the football pitch parking area. Who will be manning these and policing the use of the site?
- i. The Applicant was questioned as to the selection process of this particular field and not any others the Applicant owns. The Applicant stated, it was one of their best Grade 1 Agricultural Fields and had the best drainage facilities.
- j. Concerns were raised regarding the usage of the field by protective birds at present and the reports showing their usage of the same i.e. Martin Mere for the recommended time period.
- k. The lack of access on current footpaths and concerns re the narrow footpaths in the surrounding area to allow pedestrians to arrive on foot and use the Meadow Lane field. There was a big discussion about the impact on the Openness of the Green Belt and the pipe lines that run across the proposed

fields. The Applicant implied he could address this with HSE and did not feel this was a problem.

- i. The lack of public transport to access the football pitches highlighting that access will mostly be by vehicles but then this returned to the question, where was everyone going to park, size of area for change overs, coaches etc. was totally inadequate. The Applicant implied they would once again alter the original application and 'look to widen Meadow Lane to minimise traffic issues'. In saying this, the Applicant has acknowledged highways problems and confirms the want to change the Greenbelt appearance.
- m. The need for the football pitches in the area was addressed with the Applicant implying the need was for local residents children and grandchildren (it was stated 22 children in Lathom) given that the adult size football pitches are used from the age of 13 to 16 years of age, when there is only a small junior school in the area of Lathom how is this need relevant?
- n. The demographic of the residents in Lathom does not facilitate the need for the football pitches proposed.
- o. The usage of the football pitches i.e. 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. on a weekend by multiple teams during the time period and 3.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on a weekday (daylight hour usage only). The actual hours stated on their application on the Planning Portal (29/11/23) says 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 8am-9pm Sat, 8am-9pm Sunday & Bank Hol. Where is the changed or amended application with the new times on?
- p. The question of the noise levels was also raised and with the Applicant acknowledging there would be noise but felt it was acceptable and this was one of the reasons for the hedge planting.
- q. The Applicant and the proposed Tenant advised JN Sports is a Registered Charity but there is no charity number in their name and there does not seem to be any charity status information available. The Applicant and his Tenant said the charity based football association, which he runs (not for profit concern) will be the only company using the football pitches at this location.
- r. The Chair asked, why one particular resident has had a planning application rejected in the past, the resident explained because the gate that he needed to open to exit the field on to Meadow lane was not allowed because, "it spoilt the greenbelt".
- s. The four structures to be used for changing rooms, etc on the field at Meadow Lane these where question also, with the applicant stating again, they could alter the plans.

When the Applicant was asked about the current Planning Application submitted and future plans for the business on the land the Applicant advised that they had only submitted the minimum requirements to ensure that the Application was successful

and advised that further Applications could be submitted for additional items in the future e.g. floodlighting, further car park spaces, etc.

24.07

PLANNING

Applications to be considered:

- a. 2023/0801/FUL - Land West Of Meadow Lane, Lathom, Lancashire - Change of use of land for outdoor sport with associated facilities – discussed at item 24.06.
- b. 2023/1160/FUL – 4 Top Locks, Wheat Lane, Lathom, Lancashire – Proposed rear extension with associated external works (deadline 02.02.2024) – Councillors identified that this property is within the Burscough boundary and not Lathom.

24.08

BIODIVERSITY GRANT 2023 (£300)

Councillor Sherman to continue discussions with Lathom Junior School re the use of the grant money. Information regarding the items to be purchased to be provided to the Clerk prior to 31 March 2024.

24.09

HISTORIC LATHOM SIGN REPAIR UPDATE

Councillor Beckett advised that I Wayte is to provide an estimate for the repair of the sign and surround.

24.10

PARISH MAP UPDATE

Councillor Beckett advised that the surround for the display of the parish map will be altered to accommodate the new size of map by I Wayte.

24.11

NOTICEBOARD (THE SHIP)

Councillor Beckett advised that I Wayte is to provide an estimate for repairing the noticeboard which will have to be removed to allow the work to continue.

24.12

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Clerk advised that access has now been obtained and most of the Minutes for 2023 have now been uploaded for access by the residents. Other amendments to be scheduled in going forward as time permits.

24.13

MILESTONE MARKERS IN CARR LANE/MEADOW LANE

The location of these items were identified with the resident who had removed them and the Council have requested the resident to replace the same as they are items of historical interest. The Council were advised that one of the two markers is broken but will be put back in place as requested.

24.14

BLOCKED GULLILES (LOWRY HILL LANE/HALL LANE)

The Clerk advised that no response has yet been received with regard to this item reported via Love Clean Streets. Councillor Pope advised that he will be liaising with a contact at Highways to obtain an update on the timescale for completion of the work.

24.15

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEVOLUTION

The Clerk advised that the deadline for submitting responses to the consultation by Lancashire County Council is Friday 26 January 2024.

24.16

LATHOM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2024

All Councillors agreed the meeting dates going forward. The Clerk advised that the meeting dates will be displayed on the noticeboard, on the website and the Scout Headquarters will be booked for the agreed dates.

24.17

FINANCE COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was agreed that going forward the Finance Committee will discuss and agree the budget for the following year. All Councillors (if available) to attend the Finance Committee Meeting to be held in January of each year and the Terms of Reference to be drawn up accordingly.

24.18

PARISH MATTERS

No items were raised.

24.19

FINANCE

The following account was passed for payment:

HMRC – NI Payment (D Abram)	002023	£ 54.80
Yates Playgrounds Limited	002024	£ 86.40

Ormskirk District Scout – Hall Hire :-

- January 2024 Monthly Meeting	£ 24.00
- January 2024 Financial Committee Meeting	<u>£ 24.00</u>
	002025 £ 48.00

24.20

PETTY CASH BOOK CLOSED

The Clerk advised that the above has now been closed and monies spent (details within the Petty Cash Book). All expenses incurred by the Clerk going forward will be detailed and claimed at the next available meeting.

24.21

COUNCILLORS TO RAISE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION ONLY (10 MINUTES TOTAL TIME).

No items were raised.

24.22

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 26 February 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – 22 January 2024

Chq No	Payee	Amount
002023	HMRC – NI Payment (D Abram)	£54.80
002024	Yates Playgrounds Limited	£86.40
002025	Ormskirk Scout Hut – Hall Hire (2 occasions)	£48.00

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed.....