

25.16

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE SCOUT HEADQUARTERS, HALL LANE, LATHOM COMMENCING AT 7.30 p.m.

25.17

PRESENT: Councillors A Beckett (Chair), I Fairclough, A Sherman, L McDonnell, Parish Clerk D Abram plus 4 residents

25.18

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors H Shaw, M McDonnell, E Pope, J Gordon and P Hesketh.

25.19

COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Councillor McDonnell declared an interest in the Marharishi School.

25.20

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2024 AND 27 JANUARY 2025

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 December 2024 and 27 January 2025 are approved and signed by the Chair.

25.21

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

Speeding and Accidents in Hall Lane (bend where Watkinsons Farm is located)

Two residents raised their concerns with regard to the number of accidents occurring and speeding incidents at this location. They advised that they could provide evidence relating to the same and it was agreed that this information should be forwarded to the Parish Clerk and submission to the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council.

Councillor Beckett advised the residents that speeding on the local roads in Lathom is of major concern and the Parish Council had recently submitted several locations of concern in Lathom to the Speed Assessment Section of the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council and that this particular location had been raised as a location of concern. Their response advised that there was no clear speeding issue in this location which would justify any further measures being taken.

Lathom Parish Council will submit the evidence provided by the residents and ask the Speed Assessment Section of the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council to review their decision and ask them to submit a further response in relation to the same.

Marharishi School - propose to combine Junior School (Newburgh) and High School (Skelmersdale) to new location

The Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster attended the meeting to advise that they are looking into moving both schools to a new site in Skelmersdale with the aim to enable them to improve educational facilities and parking.

The Parish Council thanked the Marharishi School for advising of their intentions in the future. Once there are actual plans in place and a location specified they are welcome to return to discuss the same.

25.22

PLANNING

Applications to be considered:

- a. Appeal – APP/P2365/W/24/3357712 – Taylors Farm, Hall Lane, Lathom – Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for details – erection agricultural storage building – Parish Council have noted the Appeal.
- b. 2024/1053/FUL – Avondale Nurseries, Spa Lane, Lathom – proposed 400 MWH Battery Energy Storage System and Associated Works – Parish Council have noted the further submissions made regarding this application and will await the Planning Meetings decision.
- c. Ship Inn – Breach of planning permission re additional car park. The Planning Department are investigating this item and will report back regarding the same.

25.23

CIL MONIES

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that the requested extension of deadline to 30 September 2025 is still awaited from West Lancashire Borough Council. Further enquiries with regard to the Lease to be able to use the land has yet to be received. The project plan will be updated and circulated to all Councillors prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.

25.24

ONLINE BANKING UPDATE

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that identification documents are still required and that the application with the agreed banking institution will continue this month.

25.25

FENCING AT PROPERTY IN BRIARS LANE

Councillor Pope has advised that there is no further progress regarding this and further enquiries will be made by Councillor Beckett.

25.26

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Councillor vacancy position is available still as a result of the co-opting of a resident in Lathom being withdrawn. D Abram to contact West Lancashire Borough Council with regard to the way forward in terms of filling the vacant position.

25.27

SPID CAMERA AND SPEEDING IN THE AREA

Councillor McDonnell to receive training on how to obtain the information from the SPID camera and will provide an update at the next available meeting.

The increase in the moving of the SPID camera by Yates Playgrounds is noted.

D Abram advised that a resident had expressed concern with regard to speeding on Flax Lane, Hobcross Lane and Blythe Lane and these roads have been reported to the Speed Assessment Section of the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council. Their response advised that there was no clear speeding issue in this location which would justify any further measures being taken.

D Abram has forwarded the response from the Speed Assessment Section of the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council to all Councillors for them to consider and respond accordingly.

Other speeding issues were raised and discussed at 25.21 above.

25.28

SPAR GARAGE NAME

There is no current update with regard to this item and this will be added to the Agenda for March.

25.29

LATHOM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUP

The Councillors will meet to discuss the Project Plan for Lathom Parish Council over the next 12 months.

25.30

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

The Councillors agreed that we should sign up to enter the 2025 event. D Abram to contact Lathom Park Chapel to advise them of the same.

25.31

BIODIVERSITY GRANT

D Abram to contact the Scouts to see if they would be interested in utilising the £300 biodiversity Grant.

25.32

FOOTBRIDGE (WATKINSONS FARM)

D Abram to make enquiries with regard to who owns the footbridge to enable the repair of the same to be completed by the owner.

25.33

REGISTER OF INTERESTS FORM

D Abram advised that not all Councillors have completed the form and a reminder would be sent asking for the completed form to be provided at the next Parish Council Meeting.

25.34

INTERNAL AUDITOR

D Abram advised that a new Internal Auditor has been appointed to cover 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 financial records at the charge of £150.

25.35

QUARTERLY REPORTS (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024)

Councillors reviewed the information provided and signed off on the same.

25.36

PARISH MATTERS

Website

D Abram reported that the website designer has been contacted to carry out work to rectify the current problem in uploading documents to the website.

Lodge (Park Entrance)

This item to be added to the March Agenda.

25.37

FINANCE

The following accounts was passed for payment in February 2025:

Ormskirk District Scout – Hall Hire	002084	£ 24.00
PAYE February 2025 (monthly pay plus 24 hours overtime)	002085	£137.80

25.38

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Lathom Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 24 March 2025

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed.....