

LATHOM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND MAY 2023 AT THE SCOUT HQ, HALL LANE, LATHOM AT 7.30pm ;

PRESENT: PARISH COUNCILLORS; MRS H SHAW (IN THE CHAIR

I FAIRCLOUGH

M MCDONNELL

MRS E MCDONNELL

E POPE

MRS A SHERMAN

Mrs I M O'Donnell (Clerk)

As Councillor Beckett the chairman wasn't present Councillor Pope proposed that the vice chairman Mrs H Shaw acted as chairman for this meeting.

23.17 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2023-24- Councillor Beckett had agreed that he would continue as chairman if he was proposed. Councillor Pope proposed and Councillor Mrs Sherman seconded that Councillor Beckett be elected as chairman for the year 2023-2024 and it was Resolved that Councillor Beckett be elected as chairman for the year 2023-2024. The acceptance of office to be signed at June meeting

IMOD/AB

23.18 APOLOGIES: Councillors A Beckett, Ms M Gorst

23.19 The minutes of the meetings held on 27th February 23 and 27th March 23 were taken as read and signed as a correct record. The minutes of 24th April 23 needed amending so would be signed at the June meeting.

IMOD

23.20 ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2023-2024 Councillor Pope proposed and Councillor Mrs Sherman seconded that Councillor Mrs Shaw be elected vice chairman for the year 2023-2024 and it was resolved that Councillor Mrs Shaw be elected vice chairman for the year 2023-2024. The acceptance of office to be signed at June meeting.

IMOD/HS

23.21 ADJOURNMENT No members of the public were present.

23.22 PLANNING -The following comments were submitted to WLBC

RING O'BELLS PUBLIC HOUSE. RING O'BELLS LANE L40 5TE - PREMISES LICENCE NEW APPLICATION. "Lathom parish council are concerned that some elements of the variations of conditions 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 were included in previous planning applications that were refused. The parish council would ask that the Officers check these variations against the earlier applications as the parish council sees no reason why any elements already rejected should now be approved. In the section applying 'or recorded music' the applicant has not stated whether it is inside, outside or both? If it is to be played outside there will be considerable impact on local residents. We are also concerned with regards the timings – seeking agreement for serving light refreshments until midnight Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and half past midnight Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The council also question the reason for an extension until 2am on Christmas Eve which is usually an early finish for most businesses and the rationale for refreshments service timings being half an hour later than the alcohol timings."

“Application 2023/0361/FUL – Variation of conditions 2,4,9,11,12 and 15 of Planning permission 2022/1254/FUL relating to approved plans, Highways, bat protection, lighting, materials and drainage. Lathom Parish Council are concerned that some elements of the variations of conditions were previously included in earlier planning applications that were refused- especially the outdoor activities and new licensing hours applied for which could have potential disturbance from people leaving the premises up to and after midnight on weeknights and 12.30 am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We also question the rationale for refreshments service timings being half an hour later than alcohol timings. The parish council sees no reason why any elements already rejected should now be approved.11”

23.23 FINANCE - the following accounts were passed for payment;

- 1. Mrs I M O'Donnell (clerk May salary/expenses) £359.30
- 2. Ormskirk District Scouts (hall hire) £24.00
- 3. Gallagher (insurance renewal) £811.81
- 4. Petty Cash top up £36.40
- 5. Shaw & Sons (accounts ledger) £99.50

The clerk was questioned regarding the purchase of the accounts book and the cost and why didn't she get permission from the council for the purchase. The clerk explained it was part of her job as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to carry out all the legal regulations as required, which includes purchasing stationery, stamps and legal forms. The ledger currently in use was purchased in 2009 and as only 2 pages were left a new book was required. The clerk did not need to obtain approval from the council for this purchase.

Councillor Pope suggested we should be using on line banking as other councils and asked the clerk to find out about how we can change. IMOD

23.23b) prior to the meeting the clerk had sent all councillors a breakdown of the brought forward balance explaining and how it must be allocated against the budget and Precept. Once again the clerk explained that none of the balance could be spent on Public Rights of Way as they were the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council and were covered by the Council Tax paid to WLBC. It was clear that all work must be minuted and approved and go through the clerk with an order and no councillor can act alone. All contractors must have the required insurance in place including in PROW work Public liability. This has been explained on numerous occasions by the clerk that if it is not included in our budget/precept it is not our responsibility.

The clerk also again suggested Councillor Beckett and Councillor Pope set up a Repairs & Renewals account to ring fence the excess balance which we could use for repairs to the parish owned street furniture.

AB/EP

23.24 APOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WL AREA COMMITTEE OF LALC –The current Representatives are Councillors A Beckett and I Fairclough who were happy to continue on this committee.

AB/IF

23.25 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO PETER LATHOM CHARITY – The current representatives are Councillor E Pope and Mrs Julia Peggs and they remain in place

23.26 INSURANCE – The insurance had been agreed which is on fixed 3 year contract, however the clerk had increased it this year to cover the Speed Indicator (SPID) recently purchased

23.27 ‘PARISH YOU ARE HERE’ MAP The clerk reported that I Waite was currently working on the map frame cleaning and painting ready for the map to go in when we obtain a new map. The clerk has been speaking to WLBC and other contacts trying to find the best one. As I Waite has already bought paint for the Map frame when he has finished he will go onto using it on the signs and benches that need doing as per his list agreed at April meeting. IMOD/IW

23.28 PROW The parish has not received any grants from LCC as they have had problems with their financial system but the 2022-2023 grants will be paid soon. Application forms to apply for 2023-2024 will be received by the parishes. These grants are only for strimming and the parish should not carry out any work until they are received as the PROW is the responsibility of the County Council. Against the clerk’s advice the Chairman and councillors agreed that as we had money available the council would continue to work on the footpaths at our expense. The clerk stated that to do this would be against standing orders. Quotes had been obtained for the proposed work but as yet the contractors have not been appointed as the will require Public Liability Insurance in place.

23.29 SPID – The clerk reported the contract had been agreed and signed and it was in place and would be moved and serviced by I Yates every 4 months. IMOD/IY

23.30 CIVIC SERVICE The clerk again asked about having a Civic Service this year but as the chairman wasn’t present this was deferred to June meeting. IMOD

23.31 NEWSLETTER – Councillors Martin and Liz McDonnell reported the newsletter had been printed and delivered to all residents.

23.32 WLBC MINUTES Councillor Pope reported on the recent election and reported that the council now had 26 Labour councillors, 15 Conservatives and 1 OWL.

23.33 PARISH MATTERS NONE

Date of Next meeting 26th June_ 2023

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed  Vice Chairman