26.133

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2026 AT THE SCOUT HEADQUARTERS, HALL LANE, LATHOM COMMENCING AT 7.30 p.m.**

26.134

**PRESENT**: Councillors H Shaw (Chair), S Martland (Vice-Chair), E Pope, I Fairclough and A Sherman. In additional County Councillor A Owens and Borough Councillor J Gordon and 22 residents were present.

26.135

**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were given by Parish Councillors M McDonnell and L McDonnell and Borough Councillors P Hesketh and A Jones.

26.136

**COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

Parish Councillor H Shaw declared an interest in items 6 a. and 6 c.

26.137

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2026**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 June 2026 be approved by the Chair.

26.138

**ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Housing Development – Fir Tree Farm (Ring O'Bells Lane) – Outline Planning Application

Members of the public raised concerns regarding:-

- Previous development work on this land had been refused i.e. using the footprint for the stable building to convert to a house and for a further 3 houses to be built.

- Classified as Grade 1 agricultural land and is greenbelt land (the new National Planning Policy Framework is due to be released which my alter this classification). The land is not greybelt.

- The application is incorrectly labelled as Lathom being part of Burscough and therefore not part of their Neighbourhood Plan.

- Infrastructure not in place to cope with existing problems in Lathom as a result of new housing throughout West Lancashire but in particular Burscough i.e. bin lorries have not been to canal cottages in Lathom for 6 weeks. Especially with further building of 600 houses on Yew Tree Farm land.

- Roads in Lathom are already congested particularly during commuter time i.e. long queues at Hall Lane roundabout going back to Pilkingtons but also during other times of the day throughout the week.

- Also the Ring O'Bells Lane junction with Briars Lane is extremely busy with general traffic but increasingly from HGV vehicles plus the number of vehicles that park along Ring O'Bells Lane as overflow from the pub and also the bridge is a danger to vehicles coming out of the proposed housing estate exit.

- There are increasing accidents at the Ring O'Bells Lane, Carr Lane, Hollowford Lane, Meadow Lane, Hoscar Moss Road Junction 5 way junction.

- Down Ring O'Bells Lane there are only footpaths on one side of the road and to walk anywhere is hazardous because of busy roads that needs to be crossed.

- The drainage on the plans is not robust enough to cope with the projected number of houses and most houses in Lathom are via septic tanks. To connect to the main drainage system they are proposing to connect to houses built a couple of years ago near Wheat Lane.

- There is concern for the ecology of the wildlife and trees on the land and the damage any building work will cause and a MIAS report will be needed to assess the same. It is known that there are bats in the area.

- Environmental Health will need to check the current air quality in the congested road locations.

It is agreed that if the application goes through to a Planning Meeting then Lathom Parish Council will speak at the meeting.

Application for Barn Extension (Taylors Farm)
Members of the public raised concerns regarding:

- Grain Dryer noise (can be heard from the other side of the canal by residents) plus noise from vehicles delivering/removing the grain especially the reverse lights.

- Dust produced which is reducing the air quality and leaving residue on properties and on the land itself. Machines should be checked and cleaned regularly. Is the grain processor adequate for what it is used for and is it used correctly.

- Reverberation of process can be felt in homes.

- Hours of work as it seems to be continuous from early hours through to late and 7 days a week.

- Industrial process in a greenbelt area should actually be located on an industrial site.

26.139

**ISSUES RAISED BY COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**

Housing Quotas for West Lancashire Borough Council

Borough Councillor J Gordon reported back to the Parish Councillors regarding how the calculation for the number of properties that need to be in West Lancashire is calculated.

If the houses prices in an area are adequate for a medium wage then less houses are built, if the house prices are too high then more houses are built to reduce the value of house prices and our current target is 591 new properties a year.

At present West Lancashire Borough Council only have around 2,000 new properties to be built on their records which is just over 3 years target and it is recommended that there is at least 5 years worth of properties to be built i.e. 2,955 which is why there is a sudden influx of major housing development plans being put through the Planning Committee.

26.140

**PLANNING**

a. 2026/0539/FUL – Taylors Farm, Hall Lane – application for construction of a hardstanding area (retrospective). It was agreed a comment is to be submitted to the Planning Committee.

b. 2026/0464/FUL – Land to the rear of Ellerbrook, Sandy Lane – erection of one dwelling with associated access. It was agreed that a comment is to be submitted to the Planning Committee

c. 2026/0527/OUT – Ring O'Bells Lane, Lathom – demolition of barn and construction of up to 80 properties. It was agreed that a comment is to be submitted to the Planning Committee.

26.141

**CO-OPTING NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the September 2026 meeting.

26.142

**QUESTIONNAIRE PROJECT**

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the September 2026 meeting.

26.143

**CIL PROJECT**

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the September 2026 meeting.

26.144

**SPID AND ROAD ISSUES**

Cross Parish Council Road Traffic Meeting

Parish Councillor H Shaw advised that there is a further meeting on Thursday 30 July 2026 and will provide an update at the September 2026 meeting.

The device installed on Hall Lane by Chair D Steele (Lathom South Parish Council) to measure traffic unfortunately failed

A manual traffic count is to take place in Newburgh to measure traffic using the A5209 from the M6 exit in Wrightington through to Burscough.

SPID data from all parishes are to be provided to the meeting to present to Highways Department at Lancashire County Council.

Lancashire County Council are also going to test the air quality on the busier roads to establish whether they meet current regulations.

Runnels Bridge (Carr Lane)

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the September 2026 meeting.

Carr Lane (Reply from Lancashire Constabulary)

No reply has yet been received and Parish Clerk D Abram will contact Lancashire Constabulary again and will report any updates at the next meeting.

SPID Camera Data

It was agreed that this matter be discussed at the September 2026 meeting.

Location for SPID Camera

It was agreed that the SPID camera should be placed in Hall Lane on the next rotation.

New SPID Camera Location

Parish Clerk D Abram to contact Highways Department at Lancashire County Council to obtain a precise suggested location for the new poles to be placed.

26.145

**LOVE CLEAN STREETS**

Overgrown Footpaths – Carr Lane, Hoscar Moss Road and Lowry Hill Lane

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that reports have been submitted regarding all these areas and are labelled as pending on the website.

County Councillor A Owens advised that he has asked Lancashire County Council for the funding to clear the 45 miles of footpaths in West Lancashire that are overgrown. He has been advised the cost for completing the same is £275,000.

Resident's request for work to be carried out

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that a resident had emailed to advise of three items that needed to be reported to Love Clean Streets. We are actively trying to encourage all residents to report items of work directly themselves as opposed to Lathom Parish Council reporting all items of repairs that need to be completed. It was agreed that we would report all items to Love Clean Streets on this occasion.

26.146

**PROW**

Hoscar Moss Byway

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that there is currently no update and will email the PROW Team at Lancashire County Council in October 2026 for an update.

Re-Routing of Footpath 48 (Hall Lane)

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that there is currently no update and will email the PROW Team at Lancashire County Council in October 2026 for an update.

26.147

**MAINTENANCE**

Lathom Sign (Blythe Lane)

Parish Clerk D Abram to contact the PROW Team at Lancashire County Council for an update on who has reinstated the bent PROW sign in this location and whether a new one will be placed and installed in this location.

Historic Lathom Sign (Blythe Lane)

Parish Clerk D Abram to contact I Waite for him to complete the work.

Viaduct Embankment and Laurel Bush (green maintenance)

Parish Clerk D Abram to report these items via Love Clean Streets to have both items maintained.

Wanes Blade Bridge (green maintenance)

Parish Councillor I Fairclough advised that his Son will complete the maintenance.

Land in Ring O'Bells Lane (green maintenance)

Parish Councillor H Shaw asked Parish Clerk D Abram to report this on Love Clean Streets.

26.148

**ONLINE BANKING**

Parish Clerk to update the current Parish Councillor records to add on S Martland and remove A Beckett and it was agreed that we would begin using this method of payment from September 2026.

26.149

**CONCURRENT GRANT**

County Councillor A Owens was asked by Parish Clerk D Abram as to whether the £802 Concurrent Grant funding from April 2027 will not be received by Lathom Parish Council to carry out maintenance work. County Councillor A Owens confirmed that this funding will no longer be given to parish councils.

26.150

**PARISH MATTERS**

Lathom Village Brand Description

Parish Councillor S Martland to draft the document.

Canal Bank Rough Sleepers

Parish Clerk D Abram advised that no update had been received and the Canal & River Trust will be contacted in October 2026 for an update.

26.151

**TRAINING**

None available for the Parish Councillors or Parish Clerk at this present time.

26.152

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

Parish Clerk D Abram will update and provide the same prior to the September 2026 meeting to the Parish Councillors.

26.153

**FINANCE**

The following accounts was passed for payment in July 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Diane Abram salary – July 2026 | 002156 | £284.68 |
| Travel to Meeting – July 2026 and Agendas (6 miles & 8 miles @ £0.55 per mile) | | £ 7.70 |
| Travel to Auditors home to collect papers (27 miles @ £0.55 per mile) | | £ 14.85 |
| Travel to Parish Councillors home (2 miles @ £0.55 per mile) | | £ 1.10 |
| Stationery | | £ 5.00 |
| | | £313.33 |
| PAYE – July 2026 | 002157 | £ 71.00 |
| Susan Edwards (Internal Auditor) | 002158 | £150.00 |
| Ormskirk District Scout – Hall Hire | 002159 | £ 30.00 |
| Royal Mail Group Ltd | 002160 | £ 27.77 |

26.154

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Lathom Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 28 September 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed.....