

Simonstone Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 1st August 2013 at 7.00 pm
in the New School Simonstone.

Present Councillors. Geoff Hodbod, Alan Duckworth, Graham Meloy, Denise Rishton, David Peat

In attendance – Five members of the public and Parish Clerk Roger Hirst.

Apologies. Joanne Quinn, P.C Bioletti received after the meeting due to attend an urgent call.

13/102 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2013 were approved.

13/103 Declaration of interests. None.

13/104 Public Participation. (open forum on any village matter to last no more than 15 minutes, or 3 minutes per speaker). Polly Rakshi of the Read and Simonstone Youth Council with 3 members requested assistance in finding a location and funding for a Small Skate Board site. The request was discussed by the meeting and there were various suggestions made. They agreed that they would approach the Tennis Club to request the use of a Tennis court so that the mobile unit from Ribble Valley could visit the village on occasions. Other options were put forward for them to seek assistance towards travel to nearby skateboard parks by contracting the County Youth Service and the CVS at the Globe Centre in Accrington.

Decision items

13/105 Matters brought forward from previous meetings

a. **Electrical Supply** to the Parish garden - The Clerk reported that Electricity North West Supply (ENW) had no record of the supply being re-installed by them and had suggested it had been installed by Padiham depot of LCC Street Lighting Dept. The LCC lighting dept was contacted and they confirmed that the lighting column was not the source of the Parish Council connection but the supply was connected to the electricity mains direct and therefore it was a matter for the ENW.

A request for the correct certification had yet to be received.

It was resolved that the Clerk pursue the matter further.

13/107 The Chairman reported the Resignation of Councillor Steve Dawson. It was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to him for his work on developing the Parish Plan, his electrical help and advice with the Christmas tree as well as his involvement with the War Memorial Working Group. The Clerk reported that the Casual vacancy procedure had been commenced.

It was resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Dawson.

13/108 Highways

a. **Condition of Street Signs** – A list of name plates has been drawn up for repairing and there were no additional names to be added to it

It was resolved that the list be forwarded to Ribble Valley requesting that they carry out the works as listed.

b. **Road Count - Whalley Road /Fountains Ave.** The Clerk reported that the County hadn't had a chance to do the survey but it will be carried after the start of the school term in September as requested.

It was resolved to note the report

c. **Footpath Harewood Ave to School Lane.** A meeting with County Council had been held at the site of the path. It was agreed that the County would provide an estimate for installing the path.

It was resolved that a meeting be arranged between the Parish Council and the School Governors to discuss the upgrading of the footpath as part of the School Travel Plan, once the cost estimates have been received.

d. **St Peters Travel to School plan** had been distributed to members for information.

It was resolved to note the report

e. **Proposed Cycleway.** It was reported that a proposal to link Padiham Greenway and Blackburn Road Industrial area had been received and a copy had been distributed to the members. Concern was expressed that the route did not follow the original route of the disused Railway track which had been promised by successive Administrations at County Hall over the decades. The results of the Parish Plan had shown that over 74% of the residents were in favour of the original Route being followed, so as to complete the link of the National Cycleway route between Great Harwood and Padiham Greenway. It was agreed that there would be no objection to the proposed Blackburn Road/ Padiham Greenway Cycle Track on condition that it's development did not jeopardise the Railway Track Cycleway development.

It was resolved that a letter be sent to the County Council expressing the Parish Council's conditional approval.

13/109 LCC Extracts from Highways July 13 report for information.

It was resolved to note the report.

13/110 Lengthmans Scheme.

a. **Coun Duckworth** – to report on the current scheme's operation.

It was resolved that the Parish Council join the Public Rights of Way Scheme.

b. **Coun Rishton** – **suggests that the** Finger post at the bottom of Simonstone Lane be moved to one of the grass areas.

It was resolved that the County Council be requested to move the existing Finger post at the bottom of Simonstone Lane onto the grass area where it would be more visible.

13/111 Matters raised by members

a. **Civic Sunday** it was reported that 24 acceptances had been received.

It was resolved to consider the arrangements at the next meeting.

13/112 Working Party reports-

a. **Parish Plans** – The Clerk reported that there had been a meeting of the Parish Survey Working Party and that there had been a 25% response to the Business Questionnaire. Members were disappointed that so few businesses had responded even after a second reminder had been delivered/sent to them. Work would proceed after the 9th August on the final draft of the consultation document that will be considered at a Working Party meeting on the 28th August with the public consultation to take place on the 2nd October.

It was resolved to note the report.

b. **War Memorial working party.** –Chairman reported that he was reviewing the information he had received. He had approached a company of Stonemasons for a quotation to carry out some work but he had not received a response. He was also seeking further information from the initiators of the scheme to add names to the memorial.

It was resolved that Geoff Hodbod join the Working Party he will contact the stonemasons and local historians and arrange a meeting of the War Memorial Party to consider options and names .

c. **Governance** – Working Party. The Clerk reported;-

i that NALC will to produce a new model "Standing Orders" on the 4th October.

ii 2 copies A and B of Risk Registers had been submitted to the Working party for consideration.

It was resolved that the Working Party should meet in January when the new Model document is available.

