

Simonstone Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th February 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Old School Simonstone.

Present - Councillors. David Peat, Geoff Hodbod, Alan Duckworth and Russell Hargreaves.

In attendance – RV Coun John Hill, one member of the public & the Parish Clerk .

Apologies. Denise Rishton, Graham Meloy

Mr John Barber, Domestic Energy Officer of RVBC gave a talk on the renewable and conservation of energy and how residents can benefit from grants funding. He also outlined various initiatives that had been developed by various agencies and how the Borough Council operated for the benefit of residents through the partnerships with Parish Councils throughout the Valley. Snow Angels was one of the schemes and 50% of communities have taken up the offer.

He explained that his duties was to act both as an advisor and funding information officer and that reducing the energy requirement of homes was a major part of Government policy and his role was to encourage energy reduction in Ribble Valley.

The Range of insulation methods which are available are internal and external wall insulation, loft insulation grants, special grants for insulating solid walls. Green Energy, Bio fuels, Ground sources, wind generation. Heat source range from; heat exchangers, solar water heating, domestic electricity production, as well as grants for replacing older inefficient central heating boilers with modern efficient boilers.

He also pointed out that reducing the energy required by changing the types of the bulb we us can produce a significant reduction of carbon generated and energy produced.

If there is anyone who is contemplating measures to cut heat loss and energy bill reduction he is there to assist them in finding the most appropriate solution.

14/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2014.
a. **It was resolved** to approve the minutes

14/19 Declaration of interests. –None.

14/20 Public Participation. (open forum on any village matter to last no more than 15 mins. 3 mins per speaker) –none.

14/21 The Chairman reported the he had received a letter of resignation from Councillor Quinn.
It was resolved that a letter be sent to Mrs Quinn thanking her for her valuable service to the Parish Council and that an email be sent to parishioners advertising the vacancies and notices placed on the notice boards.

Decision items

14/22 Matters brought forward from previous meetings.

a. **Harewood Ave- School Lane**

i Councillor Duckworths and Meloy were to report on a residents survey they were to undertake. Councillor Duckworth reported that they had written a letter for residents which he handed in at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that another consultation letter written by Cllrs Duckworth and Meloy had been distributed to the parents of the school. Copies of the responses were distributed to the meeting complete with summary :- “They ranged from the enthusiastic to the ambivalent, there were no negative responses. Although, there was one that expressed concern that the path improvement should not affect residents parking in between the houses on School Lane and another stated that Church goers from the east end of the Harewood Ave area would use the path if the improvements went ahead.”.

It was resolved that Councillor Duckworth would produce a consultation letter explaining Parish Council Footpath proposals to residents who live in the local areas; School Lane, Harewood Ave, Haugh Ave, Carleton Ave, Scot Ave and Lawrence Ave. and report any responses to the Clerk for inclusion in the next agenda.

It was also agreed that Councillor Hargreaves would draw up a Risk Assessment concerning the footpath upgrading in time for distributing with the next Parish Council's meeting agenda (6th March).

- 14/23 Footpath funding** The Clerk reported that telephoned request had been received from the County Council asking the Parish Council to confirm that funding for the footpath if it is still required?

It was resolved that the Parish Council was unable to make a response at this time as there were still issues to be resolved.

- a. **Budget 2014- 2015** (see attached) the budget details discussed at the finance meeting were distributed.

It was resolved to accept the proposal and that at budget be set at £9932 with £1801 be taken from balances.

- 14/24**

- a. **Grit bins-** Cllrs. Hargreaves and Hodbod reported that the residents in 6 priority areas of Harewood, Dawson Woodside, Fountains Ave. had been contacted and that the majority were in favour of the Parishes Grit bin Scheme. They had agreed to keep the salt bins topped up after the initial provision of bins and salt had been funded by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported The County Council has offered to install and initially service 6 Grit bins at the Parish Council's cost and that the LCC had agreed to supply install and fill the bins for a sum of £543.

It was resolved to accept the LCC offer.

- b. **Ribble Valley Snow Angel Scheme.** The Clerk reported that letters have been delivered and responses processed. Salt has been delivered to all who requested it except 4 (to date). Members had been asked to inform the Clerk of anyone who had not received their salt bag by the 16th February. Four snow clearing packs have been received and have yet to be allocated to named volunteers who are willing to clear snow near to their home for elderly people who are unable to help themselves. Councillor Hargreaves volunteered to help in the Harewood Ave area Cllr Hodbod would approach people who had offered to be coordinators in the Gritbin Scheme.

It was resolved that the three remaining Packs be distributed to the volunteers as intended.

- c. **Website** – The Clerk had asked the County if it still manages a parishes website which is available for Parish Councils to use. There had been no response to his request.

It was resolved to review progress at the next Parish Council meeting.

- d. **Martholme link** – A meeting has been held between representatives of the County Council, Read, Great Harwood Padiham Parish Councils, and Hyndburn BC and SUSTRANS. The County will support any initiative to reopen the route with the exception of an aggressive method.

It was resolved that either Cllr Hodbod or Peat should represent the Parish Council at any future meetings of the Group.

- 14/25 Matters raised by members**

- a. **Damage to Grass Verges** –Cllr Duckworth reported that HGVs were causing damage to the verge outside Buckshaw Terrace.

It was resolved that the Highway Dept be notified.

14/26 Working Parties.

- a. **Meeting** Dates of the Governance Working party to be arranged.
It was resolved that a meeting of the group be arranged for the 27th February.
- b. **War memorial;** Working party a meeting to be arranged.
It was resolved that a meeting of the group be arranged for 11th March.

14/27 Donations requested

- a. **Letters of thanks** have been received from the Little Green Bus and CAB for the Parish Council contributions
It was resolved to note the report.
- b. **Donation-** toward Speed Camera attachment operated by John Aizlewood.
It was resolved to make a donation of £50 towards the cost of purchasing additional software for the camera.

14/28 LCC Highways

- a. **Potholes** East end of Harewood Ave. A reminder concerning the potholes has been sent to County Highways.
It was resolved to note the report.
- b. **Carleton Ave footpath** has been reported to the PROW Officer for repair.
It was resolved to note the report.
- c. **Complaint to United Utilities** concerning the damage to the footpath and verges between 21 and 23 Carleton Ave. Councillor Duckworth to report on the response. He had been in touch with the landowner and there was also damage to the field drains. He had been told that repairs would be carried out in when ground conditions allow.
It was resolved to note the reported.

14/29 RVBC –

- a. **Parish Liaison;** 30th January. Meeting: The Chairman's report had been distributed.
It was resolved to note the report.
- b. **Consultation** upon proposed Dog Control orders.
 - i The résumé of the orders had been distributed.
It was resolved that a letter of objection to Order number 4 be sent as it's affect would penalize all responsible dog owners and inhibit dog sports and training. The Order would also be a deterrent to family enjoyment which is a beneficial gain from of owning a pet dog anywhere in Ribble Valley as well as reducing the beneficial educational effect that owning an animal has on children, so widening the gap between those who are employed in Agriculture and the urban dweller.
 - ii Dog fouling a letter of complaint had been received concerning dog fouling from the Haugh Ave School lane area and request had been received for an additional bin place in that vicinity.
It was resolved to ask RVBC if a bin could be installed in the area.

14/30 **Read Parish Council** – Had suggested that both Simonstone and Read should have a joint Christmas Party this year for the retired folk.

It was resoled that the plans for this year should remain unaltered.

14/31 Planning- White Hill footpath -

- a. The Clerk reported that the **County PROW Enforcement Officer** had visited the site and he had confirmed that the path had been removed and that he was making further enquiries.
It was resolved to review progress at the next Parish Council meeting.

14/32 **Parish Plan** :- The Chairman reported he was making enquiries about how to provide housing for residents who wish to downsize.

It was resolved that the Chairman continue to investigate the options that are available.

14/33 **LALC..**

- a. Groundwork Training Day Friday 3^{1st} January Leyland. Chairman's report had been distributed
It was resolved to note the report.

- b. Training Coun Duckworth –wished to attend a Finance Course.
It was resolved to take no action
 - c. Best kept village completion 2014.
It was resolved not to enter this year.
 - d. Cllr. Duckworth gave a report of the proceedings of the recent branch meetings a recent County Executive meeting. which he had attended.
 - The branch requires a volunteer to become a representative on the County CRPE committee.
 - The District 3T Forum may be replaced with a more representative committee similar to the County/Local Committee.
 - The County are considering reviving the Business Enterprise Partnership.
 - The Wilpshire Wind turbine Planning Application opposed by RVBC was granted after appeal.
- It was resolved** to note the report.

14/34 Chairman's Report had been distributed to members.
It was resolved to note the report.

14/35 Finance

a. **Payment of invoices**

i D Jones	Replacing the Electricity box	£720.00
ii LALC	Annual Subscription	£200.64
iii I R Hirst/ Higher Trapp	Meeting expenses	£27.00
iv J Aizlewood	Contribution to Camera	£50.00

- b. **SPID grant funding** the Clerk reported that when items are included in the budget Additional funding can be requested from the most appropriate sources, However any funding is only available for specific items.
It was resolved to note the report.

14/36 Borough Councillors reports – Councillor Hill reported that he was concerned about RVBC proposed dog control orders.

14/37 Matters reported by members for consideration at future meetings

14/38 Matters for reporting to the appropriate authorities.

14/39 Next Parish Council meeting 13th March 2014.

INFORMATION ITEMS (no decisions incurring finance may be taken on these items)

RVBC.

1. **Planning Committee meeting 13th February 2014 .**
2. **Parish Liaison meeting Committee 30th January 2014.**
3. **Minutes and Proceedings of the Council December 2013**
4. **“Stan the Van” will visit the Stork Car park on 29th January between 10-4pm**
NALC Localism making it work Conference Thursday 10 July 2014 - Harrogate

Chairman's Signature.....

[Chairman's initials.....]