

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

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

In attendance – nine members of the public, Clerk of Read Parish Council (note taker) & the Parish Clerk .

Apologies. Denise Rishton, Graham Meloy, RV Coun John Hill.

14/40 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2014.
It was resolved to approve the minutes.

14/41 The Clerk distributed a copy of an email concerning the need for Parish Councillors to disclose matters of interest as in the Parish Council's Code of conduct. He had distributed a copy of an email he had received from the RV Legal dept explaining the Code of conduct and the need for the disclosure of any matters where a member of a councillors family may be affected by the subject being discussed. He also explained the importance of members to consider if they knew of any breach or suspicion of breach to bring it to the attention of the meeting or the RV Monitoring Officer.

14/42 Declaration of interests. –None.

14/43 Public Participation. (open forum on any village matter to last no more than 15 mins. 3 mins per speaker) –

- a. **Yellow lines on School Lane.** – a number of residents expressed their concern that they were unaware of the proposal before they had received notification of the proposals by the County Highways. They requested that the lines are not be placed outside all the properties except 9 School Lane (Anchorage).
- b. **Harewood Ave/School Lane footpath.** A number of residents spoke to object to the proposed footpath and complained that a highway assessment had not been carried out as they were concerned that it would lead to increased car parking on the avenues. The Clerk explained the background to the proposals.

Chairman's response

Parking is a problem – improvements to school parking is a good idea and but the school does not seem to have the funding for any improvements.

The Clerk gave an outline of all the different initiatives that have been put forward over the years to improve parking around the school. He also explained that in regard to the field and footpath, there is evidence of a footpath being there as the flags are there and all the Parish Council have in mind is to bring the path back into use and improve it. One resident asked if LCC have been consulted about the pathway and potential extra parking on the Avenues. Residents have already asked this question and believe that LCC have not been consulted.

The Chairman explained that this was only first thoughts on the idea of resurrect the footpath and so all consultation had not been made.

14/44 Councillor vacancy Nominations - one nomination had been received.
It was resolved that this be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

14/45 Matters brought forward from previous meetings.

- a. **Harewood Ave- School Lane** progress
 - i The results of the Residents Footpath Survey.
 - ii The result of the School parents Survey. The Chairman to summarised the results of the 2 surveys.

[Chairman's initials.....]

iii Russ Hargreaves/Alan Duckworth's presented their - Risk Assessment. Coun Hargreaves explained that the Assessment was limited to the immediate area only.

iv To Consider the above reports and decide on future action.

It was resolved not to improve the footpath. The Clerk expressed concern that this course of action could leave the Parish Council exposed to possible insurance claims.

14/46 Grit bins- The locations of the bins had been agreed with residents living nearby.

It was resolved that they should be installed as soon as possible.

14/47 Ribble Valley Snow Angel Scheme..It was reported that volunteers had been found to act as Snow Angels in bad conditions.

It was resolved that the remaining packs be distributed and a list be kept of the Volunteers.

14/48 Website – It was reported that the County Council no longer supports Parish Councils websites .

It was resolved that investigations be made and the Chairmen would approach Ribble Valley to see if they could assist.

14/49 Martholme link – The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the new committee which representatives from the LCC, Burnley BC and Pendle along with Sustrans and a representative of Dunkirk farm had attended . There had been a frank exchange of views but there was hope that a there would be progress towards getting the link between the Shuttleworth Meade and Martholme Bridge made.

It was resolved to note the report.

14/50 Simonstone Lane Flower Beds - The Clerk reported that he had asked RV to cut the vegetation back and rotovate the beds. Many of the verges throughout the village had been damaged due to the installation of a power cable. It was suggested that flower seed should be sown on them though it was recognised that keeping them as grass just may be a preferred option.

It was resolved that the Clerk make enquires when the verges would be reinstated by the contractor with a view incorporating some wild flowers in the areas.

14/51 Matters raised by members

a. **Coun Meloy** requested that a Village Fete on the Village Green be held on the 7th June. The organisers had sent a risk assessment to RV and no objection had been received. the Clerk requested a copy for information.

It was resolved that the Parish Council had no objection to the proposal.

b. **School Lane – Yellow Lines** some residents are unhappy that the suggested imposition of the lines as it will restrict parking outside their houses

It was resolved to request that proposed yellow lines be placed outside number nine only as that was the narrowest part of the Lane.

14/52 Working Parties. The Chairman to report

a. **Governance Working party-** Standing Orders Code of Conduct. A request for clarification has been requested from the monitoring officer. Clerk reported that he had received clarification of the matter and that a councillor should declare an interest if a matter to be discussed affected a family member as referred to in the Code of Conduct resum'e issued September 2013 which had been forwarded to members March 13th.

It was resolved to note the report.

b. **War Memorial;** Working party. The Chairman reported that he had made enquires about various types of plaques and that he was exploring the project with the Church and Dioceses as he had established that a Faculty would be required. He said he was attempting to find relatives of the fallen so that they could be invited to the unveiling of the plaque.

It was resolved to agree to the suggestions.

14/53 LCC Highways

Potholes the Clerk reported that he had registered the potholes at the East end of Harewood Ave via the County Councils website which is available to anyone to report Highway defects the message is recorded this report was given a code of 7536 and the Progress of resolving the problem can be checked also.
It was resolved to note the report.

14/54 Christmas Party Catering and Entertainment for this year 's party

It was resolved that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements and report progress at the next Parish Council meeting.

14/55 Planning- White Hill Footpath –

- a. **The Clerk reported that** he was unable to update the Council of the any action that being considered, and that the Planning application had been withdrawn.
It was resolved to note the report.

- b. **2104/0140 - High Lea Whins Lane –** Carport Plans have been distributed to members by Email
It was resolved not to objection to the proposal.

14/56 Parish Plan – The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had met Colin Hirst RV Head of Housing and Regeneration at a meeting with the Planning Dept exploring the possibility of developing housing for residents who wish to downsize. Other topics discussed included the need for a bypass for the village to serve the southern part of Ribble Valley.
It was resolved that a presentation of the Plan be given to RVBC by Councillor Duckworth.

14/57 Finance

a. **Payment of invoices**

i	E.on	Electricity	£1.45
ii	I R Hirst	Salary	£491.88
iii	HMRC	Income Tax	£120.60
iv	PSS	Expenses	£159.60
v	Coun Peat/Higher Trapp	WP. Footpath.	£14.75

It was resolved to pay the above accounts

14/58 Borough Councillors reports –

14/59 Matters reported by members for consideration at future meetings

14/60 Matters for reporting to the appropriate authorities.

14/61 Next Parish Council meeting 10th April 2014.

Chairman's Signature.....

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

1) RVBC.

- a) **Planning Committee meeting 13th February 2014 .**
- b) **Annual Budget 4th March.**
- c) **Budget Consultation Report 4/3/14**
- a) **Minutes and Proceedings of the Council March 2014**
 - a. "Stan the Van" will visit the Stork Car park on 12th March between 10-4pm.