

**Simonstone Parish Council  
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
in the New School Simonstone.**

**Present Councillors**, Graham Meloy, David Peat, John Barker, Greera Norse, Geoff Hodbod and Elisa Hargreaves.

**In attendance** – Parish Clerk Roger Hirst,

**Apologies-** None

**18/ 21 Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**It was resolved** to approve the minutes.

**18/ 22 Declaration of interests-** None

**18/ 23 Public Participation.** (open forum on any village matter to last no more than 15 mins. 3mins per speaker) None.

**Decision items**

**18/ 24** Nomination of New Parish Councilors. None Received

**18/ 25 URC development –**

a. Progress has been made and work is proceeding on developing a Business Plan and information has been forwarded to advisors. Their response has been to point out that the Parish Council's Plan has been identified as needing to be updated in order for it to have maximum effect when requests for funding are pursued by the Village Hall Committee.

b. As the development committee has few members most of whom are working, there is a need for assistance in developing the strategies in order to achieve the objective of purchasing the property by the end of the year. The Church Authorities have pointed out that due to the declining membership of the church it has become an important consideration to urge speedy progress in pursuing the handover of the Church to the Community (who's ancestors built the Church as the school) which is the Church's preferred course of action.

**It was resolved** that the Clerk write letters of support for the purchase of the Read and Simonstone Village Hall, and the improvement to Read Cricket Club and Bowling Club and advise the URC Elders of available dates for the next joint meeting.

**18/ 26 Christmas arrangements** – invitations had been sent to the caterer and entertainer to confirm their availability to provide their services for Christmas next year as requested and Read Parish Council had been informed of the date of the party.

**It was resolved** that the services of both the Secret Singers and Wendy Prosser Caterer be accepted.

**18/ 27** Spot on arrangements for the performance of Sam Brady on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March in St Peters Church.

**It was resolved** to approve the arrangements. The Village Hall committee would arrange the setting up of the hall on the day and ticket sales would be arranged by volunteers. Any profits would be donated to the Village Hall Committee,

**18/ 28 Matters requested by members**

Chairman's initials.....

- a. **Joint Civic Sunday** with Read Parish Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to be held at St Peter's Church followed by a reception at Read Cricket Club.  
**It was resolved** that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements and that this year the cost will be borne by Simonstone Parish Council.

**18/ 29 Meeting of Read Parish Council**, Councillors Barker and Hargreaves reported that a new Parish Councillor had been appointed and that all the Parish Council's allotments had been broken into but nothing had been removed.  
**It was resolved** to note the report

**18/ 30 Planning Appeal – APP/2016/0434** Erection of gas fuelled electricity generating plant (20mw) to provide standby power.  
It was resolved that the Clerk respond on behalf of the Parish Council confirming its opposition to the development on environmental grounds as it will obstruct essential Flora and fauna crossing the Valley.

**18/ 31 Martholme Greenway** Councillor Barker and Meloy reported on progress. They expected that the signage on Simonstone Lane would be installed within the next month. Councillor Barker told the meeting a working party that was being organized to assist in repairing potholes and welcomed assistance from volunteers. It was suggested the members of the Community Service team may be of assistance.  
**It was resolved** to note the report.

**18/ 32 RVBC – Parish Liaison Meeting.**

- a. **The Legal Officer** gave a report on changes to the Parish boundaries and the effect on parish councillor election registration. The Parish is not affected by the changes.
- b. **The Ward boundaries** for the election of Ribble Valley Councillors had been changed. In future the Read and Simonstone Ward will take in part of East Whalley ward There will still be 2 Councillors for the Ward as before. These changes are to allow for a more equitable number of voters per councillor throughout the Ribble Valley.
- c. She advised that people who wish to stand for election should ensure that they submit their nomination forms in good time, well before the closure date and time when the nominations papers should be handed in, especially when there have been ward boundary changes as there can be unforeseen problems which could cause the nominations being rejected.
- d. It was suggested that members should complete a Declaration of Interest annually to avoid any mistakes due to misreporting.
- e. Concurrent function grants had this year been changed to allow Lengthsman services to receive the benefit of the fund. However, due to the many different services in the parishes which are carried out by Lengthsmen there is to be a further study into this particular aspect of this grant funding. (the fund allows for 25% to be paid for specified works by the District Council). The Parish Council Claims grants under this ruling
- f. Clitheroe Railway booking office is to be closed though representations are to be made to attempt to retain the service.  
**It was resolved** to note the report and for members to renew their Declaration of interest at the time of the Annual meeting.

Chairman's initials.....

- 18/ 33** The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme Committee and he was pleased to tell the meeting that there was a fund of £1.2m available towards making improvements to the area over the next 3years.  
**It was resolved** to note the report
- 18/ 34** Correspondence via the website – A complaint was received. The writer was concerned about the increase in dog fouling in the village.–The complaint was forwarded to Ribble Valley Dog Wardens for their attention.  
**It was resolved** to note the report
- 18/ 35** **LALC-** An application for funding to meet the requirements of the Transparence fund is to be made. Clerk will report progress.  
**It was resolved** to note the report
- 18/ 36** **Ribble Valley Village Hall Committee** The Chairman and Clerk attended, when the future of the committee was discussed and a sub-committee was formed. Enquires at Community Futures are to be made so as to establish a future role for the Committee  
**It was resolved** to note the report.
- 18/ 37** **The Clerk reported** that he had attended a training session and an online ticket booking scheme was available for all venues for Entertainment. The scheme would be of benefit to the sale of tickets for all participants  
**It was resolved** to note the report.
- 18/ 38** **Finance** –the Clerk reported he had attended the Webinar arranged by the new auditor PKF Littlejohn. The audit arrangements will in future be paperless and fee free, if turnover stays below £25k, though the standard fee for any communication as a result of a misdemeanor will result in an initial fee of £40.  
**It was resolved** to note the report.
- 18/ 39** **Payment of Accounts. None**
- 18/ 40** **Borough Councilors report. None**
- 18/ 41** **Items for reporting to other Authorities.**  
a. Name Plate at the bottom of Simonstone Lane broken.  
b. Wall fallen down on Simonstone Lane.  
c. Hedge on School Lane footpath impeding pedestrians.  
d. Deep Pothole outside Anchorage on School Lane.
- 18/ 42** The next Parish Council meeting is on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm.

Chairman's Signature.....

Chairman's initials.....