

**Simonstone Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.00 pm**  
**in the Old School Simonstone.**

**Present-** Councillors. David Peat, , Graham Meloy, Denise Rishton, Dave Waring,

**Apologies.** Coun Geoff Hodbod.

**In attendance** –6 members of the public & the Parish Clerk .

**14/152** Minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2014.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

**14/153** Declaration of interests. None declared

**14/154** Public Participation. (open forum on any village matter to last no more than 15 mins 3 mins per speaker)

**It was resolved** that Item 14/150b be considered and standing orders be suspended to allow John Barber of the Martholme Group to speak on behalf of the Martholme Group.

The Chairman of the group gave a brief account of the current state of play and he was pleased that the Parish Council wished to see the Padiham Greenway extended to Simonstone Lane along the existing track bed which was in existence though access from it to Simonstone Lane though the wood yard had been closed off. He explained that he was exploring the possibilities of it being reopened. He stated that there was a possibility that volunteers would assist in the clearing of the track of vegetation to make the route usable once the various agreements had been made between the interested parties.

Maps of the route showing the owners of the land between the end of the Padiham Greenway and Great Harwood were transmitted and the route between Simonstone Lane and Gooseleach wood was in the ownership of SUSTRAN who is charged with the responsibility of encouraging the development of safe access routes throughout the country.

He went on to say that he was trying to get the Ribble Valley MP Nigel Evans to meet with the Hyndburn MP Graham Jones to in order to assist the opening of the route. Both Great Harwood and Hyndburn are keen to pursue the development of the route.

**It was resolved** to note the report.

**14/155** Parish Councillor Vacancies Nominations. One nomination paper had been handed in

**It was resolved** to consider it at the Parish Council in October.

Matters brought forward from previous meetings.

**14/156** **To consider the following;-**

a. **Drainage** since the Council neither owns or rents the playing field

It was resolved to ask the Landlord to attend to the Drainage problem.

b. **Litter bin request** –A new litter bin had been placed as requested on Blackburn Road by RVBC

**It was resolved** a letter of thanks be sent to the Council.

**14/157** Age Concern –Parish Champion Nothing to report.

**14/158** **War Memorial;** the Chairman reported the following.:-

a. **The Mayor of Ribble Valley** will plant an Oak Tree on the 8th November in the Parish Garden at 10.30 am prior to the start of the Dedication service which will commence at 11am

b. **Catering arrangements** and venue has been arranged thanks to Fort Vale and Ribble Valley who have been extremely helpful. Both the Memorial Stone, and plaques have been ordered and should be received shortly. Relatives of two of the soldiers will be attending the service from Canada and North of England.

It was resolved to approve the report.

**14/159** **Matters raised by members.**

a. **Simonstone Lane** –The Clerk reported that the LCC had been informed about Vegetation on the flower bed and remains of the bridge and that he had received a response that the matter was to be attended to. A member reported that the volunteer who had offered to assist in maintaining the Flower bed had said that the task was too much for her.

[Chairman's initials.....]

**It was resolved** that the Clerk arrange for the bed to be cleared.

- b. **Blackburn Road** –The Clerk reported that RVBC had installed a free standing litterbin located between the bench and the bus stop .  
**It was resolved** to note the report.
- c. **Signpost repositioning.** The Clerk reported that the LCC had attempted to move the signpost but owing it being concreted in and a wall built over the foundations the work was cancelled owing to cost implications.  
**It was resolved** to note the report.
- d. **LGA Fracking** – Cllr Meloy gave an account of an article in a communication he had received about fracking. In it, it had been suggested that there may be Community benefits for small Parish Councils to be had where it was to be carried out and that the Parish Council should make further enquiries.  
**It was resolved** that the Clerk should request that the topic should be placed on the agenda at the next RV Parish Liaison Committee meeting.

**14/160 Chairman’s report meetings** with other bodies had been distributed to members

- a. He reported that a survey of residents who live in the vicinity of the footpath between Harewood Ave /School lane had been carried out by three former Parish Council members. In the preamble to the questions there was a false impression given that the Parish Council was in negotiations with the landowner to improve the footpath. The Parish Council had had no contact with the landowner concerning the footpath’s improvement since the Parish Council took the decision not to proceed with the scheme at their meeting in March (March min14/45a). A request had been received at the June Parish Council meeting to review the decision taken in March where it was decided carry out a review of the decision not to proceed with the path’s improvement. The review took place at the August Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that the original decision should stand as there had been no new evidence to justify changing the original decision (min 14/136).No such action to contact the Landowner had been approved and no contact had been made or authorised by the Parish Council on the matter.  
**It was resolved** that the Clerk should write to the 3 former members who were associated with the questionnaire to ask them to issue a statement retracting the allegations and to issue the correct and true record of the position the Parish Council had taken in a complete and unambiguous statement. If such a correction is not received within 2 weeks of the delivery of the above request the Parish Council would issue a record of the Parish Council’s decisions to the recipients’ of the questionnaire’s.  
**It was also resolved** that the Landowner should be notified of the Parish Council’s decision.
- b. **The Chairman’s Correspondence** had received a number of emails from Mr A Duckworth who had complained about various matters :-  
2nd July complaint about the wording and content of council agendas and minutes. The Chairman had responded to these on the 25th August a reply was given to Mr Duckworth on the 25th August.  
29th August the Chairman received a letter from Mr A Duckworth concerning the correct method of resigning from the Parish Council. (Mr Duckworth had emailed his resignation on the 11th April which had been accepted and acknowledged by the Chairman on the 12th April.by email.  
Mr Duckworth complained at the meeting that the correct procedure had not been followed and that the resignation letter had to be signed. He had taken legal advice and emailed a resignation was not valid. The Chairman gave Mr Duckworth a copy of his resignation email dated 11th April 2014 and asked him to sign it. Mr Duckworth refused and took possession of the document and confirmed he had no wish to rejoin the Parish Council and that he was just making a point.  
**It was resolved** that the Clerk respond to the correspondence.
- c. **St Peter’s School** There had been a meeting with the Head teacher and Chairman of the Governors of where a the following had been discussed

- i **Christmas tree and arrangement.** The tree is to be erected on the 29th November and the lights switched on at 6pm Monday 1st December. It is hoped that Father Christmas will be in attendance
- ii War memorial arrangement.

d. **Martholme-Padiham** link (see above 14/147).

e. **Report on the Civic Sunday.** The Chairman thanked everyone who had made the occasion a happy one.

**It was resolved** to note the report.

14/161 LCC

a. **Lancashire Fairness Commission** - Call for Evidence responses to the following questionnaires has been requested, copies have been forwarded to members

**It was resolved** to note the report.

14/162 RVBC

a. **Planning Applications**

b. 3/2014/0703 Hambledon view – No objections received

c. 3/2014/0704- Rockwood School Lane, No objections received.

14/163 Finance

a. **Payment of invoices**

i	I R Hirst	Notice board materials	£31.95
ii	I R Hirst	Salary	£481.94
iii	HMRC	Income tax	£120.60
iv	PSS	Expenses	£129.47
v	D Peat/Higher Trapp	Meeting Expenses	£9.75
vi	D Peat	Chairman’s expenses	£140.00
vii	SLCC	Annual Subscription	£76.00

**It was resolved** that the above accounts be paid.

14/164 **Borough Councillors reports** – None.

14/165 **Matters reported by members** for consideration at future meetings.

- a. Christmas arrangements meeting of working party to be arranged.
- b. Tree Planting and Tree lighting on the 29th November
- c. Tree blessing on the 1st December At 6.pm
- d. Parish Party 6th December.

14/166 **Matters for reporting to the appropriate authorities.**

Simonstone Lane verges- weed killing,

14/167 **Next Parish Council meeting 9th October 2014.**

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

**RVBC.**

- a. Planning meeting Agenda for the meeting on the 21th August,
- b. Accounts and Audit Committee 25th June 2014
- c. Parish Liaison meeting Agenda 11th September 2014..
- d. STAN THE VAN service has been withdrawn.

Chairman’s Signature.....

[Chairman’s initials.....]