

Simonstone Parish Council
The Annual Parish Meeting
to be held on 19th May 2016.
in the Old School, School Lane, Simonstone
at 7.00pm
Agenda

- 1. Apologies**

- 2. The Chairman's Report**

- 3. Approval of the minutes**

I.R.Hirst.....

Clerk to the Parish Council

A speaker from the Padiham Community Action group which has approx 500 members . will address the meeting prior to the start of the Annual Parish Council meeting concerning The Burnley Local Plan proposals and it's possible affects to the River Calder downstream of the Shuttleworth Meade Business Park should the developments take place.

[Chairman's initials.....]

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Agenda

Apologies –

- 16/92. **Appointment of Chairman** of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2016/17.
- 16/93. **Appointment of vice-Chairman** for the ensuing year.
- 16/94. **Appointment of Councillors** to represent the Parish Council on the following bodies for 2016/17

Office	2015/16	2016/17
RV Parish Liaison Committee	David Peat and Graham Meloy with new members attending when available.	
L A Local Councils	Coun Peat and Meloy	
Parish Planning areas	As allocated by Chairman	
Governance Panel	David Peat, Geoff Hodbod and Greera Norse.	
Bank Signatories	All members	
Champion for the Elderly	David Peat and Greera Norse	

- 16/95. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2016** for approval.
- 16/96. **Declaration of interests.** Coun J Shaw PA. 0384
- 16/97. **Public Participation.** (open forum on any village matter to last no more than 15 mins. 3 mins per speaker).
- 16/98. **Decision items;**
- 16/99. **Matters raised from previous meeting**
- a. **Housing** for the Elderly, Following the possibility of developing suitable housing, an appraisal as been received for the building of 8, 2 bedroom bungalows on a shared ownership of a development. The Proposer has asked if the Parish Council would like to take matters forward.
 - b. **Spot On Autumn** Schedule of Plays – Council to consider the menu of events available for the Autumn and to decide on a Show. Menus have been distributed to members by email. It would be helpful if members would bring to the meeting their selection of three performances listed in priority .
 - c. **Stall for village fete – 25th June** A packet of wild flower seeds has arrived and to be ready for packeting prior to the fete.
 - d. **School fete stall or game** – Brought forward from April meeting for consideration when members are requested to consider a suitable game eg Bat the Rat, Lucky draw or any game that members may know of.
 - e. **Options for Christmas buffet.** The services of Rob Mason (Entertainer) has been confirmed. He will attend. A response from the caterers as requested has not yet been received.

[Chairman's initials.....]

- f. **Christmas tree planting.**The Clerk will report any outcome at the Parish Council meeting.
- g. **Garden competition** Councillor Hodbdod to report
- h. **Defibrillators.** The first training session was deemed to be a success and 15 Time employees attended and session and a First Responder assisted with the training. Further courses are being arranged.
- i. **Civic Sunday** Arrangments 5th June for the service at St Peter’s Church a 9.30am. has been made.

16/100. Community activities - Working party

- a. **Members are** requested to assist in setting up, and managing the hall for the show “The Professor of Adventure”on the 20th (tomorrow night) at 7pm in the School Hall. Please bring any unsold tickets with you to the Parish Council meeting.

16/101. Correspondence items

- a. An email was received asking for the minutes of the April meeting and the agenda for the May meeting.
- b. An email suggesting an improvment may be made to the Parish Council website forwarded to our website manager for information.
- c. Letter re fracking see attached
- d. Padiham Community Action Groups see above speaker.
- e. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme – attached for information
- f. Spot on finance cuts, see attached.

16/102. Reports

- a. **Planning Training Event** –Couns. Jayne Shaw and Sue Bridge to report

Application 3/2016/0384	Officer Adam Birkett	Grid ref : 377833 433344
Address	Norwood Blackburn Road Simonstone BB12 7NQ	
Proposal	Removal of condition 2 of planning permission 3/1999/0860 to remove the occupancy restriction. Location	
Parish Council		

Resubmission of the Application below

Application number 3/2015/0906	Officer: : Robert Major	Grid Reference 377104 434586
Address	Land adjacent to Time Business Park,	
Proposal	Proposed Business Park comprising of 18 industrial units for b2 general industry andB1 (offices and light industry)	
Parish Council	Concerns were raised about vehicle parking and manouveabilty and the impact on the highway congestion especially at peak periods.	

LALC –

- 16/103. Martholme Greenway –** . A request from the group for assistance on the 14th May on the Fund raising open day on the Martholme viaduct when a steam train will be crossing over the bridge.

- 16/104. Lengthsman programme** of work for 2016-17. Are there any additional requirments which needs to be done in the coming year.

16/105. LCC

[Chairman’s initials.....]

- a. **Cabinet agenda** Item for the meeting to be held on 10th May where proposals to change how the county council delivers some of its local services were discussed. See the following link.
<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=40174#mgDocuments>.
 Consultation on the proposals start on the 18th May . A decision on a final set of proposals is due to be made in September. (Read Library closure)
- b. – **LCC reference A671** complaint 156004Highway concerning the road works at the bottom of Haugh Ave on A671. The matter has been reported to BT Openreach for their attention. There is no phone communications system that is available to speak to anyone who can assist in resolving the matter. An additional complaint has been lodged with LCC via email but the matter shows on the County Council website as being resolved.

16/106. RVBC – Following the start of the new civic year the programme for the Council’s meetings has been received. The dates for the Parish Liaison meetings clash with the Parish Council meeting dates which are on the 9th June and the 8th September. Does the Parish Council wish to change the dates of its meetings to the following Thursdays.

16/107. LALC- see attached minutes

- a. **Ribble Valley Branch meeting 25th May 7.00pm** West Bradford Village Hall.

16/108. Finance

- a. **Audited accounts for the year 2015-16 for approval**

- b. **Accounts to be paid**

i	Tower Mint/IRH	Birthday Medals	£189.00
ii	Les Pickering	Audit Fee	£65.00
iii	Boston Seeds/IRH	Flower seeds	£20.00

16/109. District Councillors reports See attached report.

16/110. The next Parish Council meeting is on the 9th June at 7pm.

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

Ribble Valley BC.

Planning and Development Committee meetings Agenda 14 April and 19th May.

Subject: Notification of Appeal

An Appeal has been made Against Refusal of Planning Application 3/2016/0086
 22 Simonstone Lane Simonstone Lancashire BB12 7NP

I R Hirst
 Clerk to the Parish Council

[Chairman’s initials.....]

E-mail: davepenney75@gmail.com

Letters to the Press
For attention of Farmers & Landowners

Noyna House
2 Noyna Street
Colne BB8 0PE
8th April 2016

Dear Editor

As a former farmer and rural rector, I am concerned about the potential dangers and damage that fracking could pose to farming and agriculture as well as the livelihood of farmers and landowners.

Following the 14th round of Petroleum Exploratory Development Licences, large swathes of rural areas have been earmarked for fracking in East and South Lancashire. If fracking goes ahead, the countryside will bear the brunt. Do they realise what they will have to face if they allow fracking on their land?

1. The Government will not make full Environment Impact Assessments obligatory. It is not prepared to stop fracking in areas prone to flooding and seismic activity. Fracking operations will be allowed in residential and water protection areas.
2. While the Environment Agency does not know the full extent of chemicals to be used in the fracking process, it has given permission to use hydrochloric acid at 15% concentration in acid wash. This acid is very harmful to public health, pollutes water and damages the environment. Over 400 peer reviewed publications on the impact of shale gas development have indicated 96% potential risks to public health, 92% to air quality and 73% to water contamination.
3. The Government will allow venting and flare-offs of climate changing greenhouse gases including methane, which is 27 times more potent than CO₂, and the radioactive & carcinogenic gas radon.
4. Under the Infrastructure Act, fracking companies will be able to pump back "any substance" into the ground in fractured wells, such as toxic waste and other dangerous pollutants, including untreated poisonous waste water and even radioactive waste. This practice has led to many earthquakes in US and Canada up to 5.1 on the Richter Scale.
5. There is no legal obligation on companies to maintain the safety and integrity of closed wells. In the US and Australia it is common for the cement sealed wells to crack and leak substances harmful to the environment, the water supply and public health.
6. Some major Insurance Companies are refusing to insure for damage to housing/property caused by fracking within a 5 mile radius of wells. This has led to a large drop in the value of properties and where insurance can be obtained premiums go through the roof.
7. The Government will allow fracking firms to drill exploratory boreholes and set underground explosive charges without having first to seek planning permission.
8. Fracking firms will not have to take out Insurance to cover the costs of clearing up accidents and pollution. In other words, the landowner will have to foot the bill for any clean up.
9. The independent and professional MEDACT Report concludes: "One can state categorically that fracking poses threats to human health". This report has been endorsed by the British Medical Association in its Journal.
10. The Government DEFRA un-redacted Shale Gas Report reveals the extent of impacts on people living near fracking wells in rural areas. These impacts include adverse health problems from toxic pollution (respiratory, carcinogenic, skin illnesses) and financial hardships (devaluation of properties and increase in insurance premiums). The Report also found that fracking would have an adverse financial impact on agriculture and tourism.
11. The claim that shale gas is a cleaner form of transitional energy is not true. In fact, if fracking is allowed to proceed it will mean that the UK will not be able to honour its commitment to reduce its global warming emissions made at the Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015.
12. While the Government (George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer) has claimed that fracking will create a lot of jobs, the fracking industry stated categorically that it won't (Lord Browne, formally of BP and Cuadrilla, and a Government adviser).

I feel that the Farming and Landowning Community should be aware of these potential risks and harm. I would urge them to refuse permission to frack on their land. If they do allow fracking, the water, earth and air will be polluted for generations to come, making it difficult to make a living off the land, growing crops and rearing livestock. If they need to diversify, then go for renewables not fracking!

Rev. David Penney
Dated: 8th April 2016
Noyna House, 2 Noyna Street, Colne Lancashire BB8 0PE
Tel: 01282 870076; Mobile: 07948 203836

[Chairman's initials.....]

16/101d

Subject: Burnley Local Plan

Message: I am writing on behalf of the Padiham Community Action group. We have nearly 500 members. Our Facebook page has currently over 1900 likes . A significant number of shops and small businesses in Padiham support our objectives. Local schools ,environmental,angling and walking organisations have also expressed strong support. We specifically strongly object to proposals to industrialise greenbelt land in Padiham at Eaves Barn and along Blackburn Rd .

Padiham Town Council support our objections and have recently written a letter to the Burnley planners stating their opposition to these options,

In view of the recent flooding the following information may be relevant.

Burnley Council's Emerging Local Plan contains proposals to develop two greenbelt sites either side! of the S huttleworth Mead Industrial Estate . These areas are upstream of Whalley,Simonstone and Altham.

During periods of heavy rainfall these areas soak up much of the water. There is a strong probability that, If these sites are built on , the water would run off into the Calder and flood areas downstream.

We hope that local councils will consider the Burnley local plan and contact the council to state their objections.

We are willing to arrange ,before one of your council meetings,a short ten minutes presentation of our position .

Regards

David Edmondson
Deputy Chair PCA

Tops for customer satisfaction – 95% of residents are very or fairly satisfied with Ribble Valley as a place to live (Perception Survey 2013)

[Chairman's initials.....]

Please can you disseminate this information at your next parish council meeting – for information

As part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership there are currently two surveyors out and about in the area. One – Rigby Jerram – is surveying wildlife habitats and field boundaries; the other – Robin Gray – is carrying out an assessment of landscape character.

They are both undertaking this work on behalf of the AONB to help inform the forthcoming activity programme of heritage projects. They will only survey from public roads, rights of way or open access land; and if they need to enter private land they will make every effort to contact the landowner to obtain permission. If any landowners have concerns about the surveys please ask them to contact me directly?

We have set up a Facebook page to keep people in touch with what's going on with the programme – **Pendle Hill HLF Project** – so please have a look and 'like' us to keep informed

Many thanks

Cathy

Cathy Hopley
Development Officer
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme
Forest of Bowland AONB

01200 448000 / 07891 537835

Dear Spot On promoters.

16/110f

Local authority cuts to arts budgets

You will be aware that Lancashire County Council is now in the process of making huge cuts to its libraries and museums offer by 2018. District councils are also making similar cuts to their services. However, it is not so public that the entire arts budget for the county will be cut fully by 2018 and the county Arts Unit will close in a year's time.

This will affect Spot On, along with other organisations you may know (eg, The Dukes, Burnley Youth Theatre)

Spot On is a service delivered in partnership with LCC and Cheshire Rural Touring Arts. We are a consortium (Cheshire Lancashire Touring Partnership). As a result of this, our £10,000 per annum investment from the county is ring-fenced at the same level as now, until 2018; whilst other organisations will face two years of stepped cuts. However, after that, we will receive nothing. In addition we have been slowly losing district support, and the number of districts able to fund local Spot On activity has dropped to six (West Lancs, Wyre, Lancaster, Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen and Ribble Valley). It is likely their support may also disappear by 2018 or be at very low levels. We know Lancaster cannot support us after 2018.

Further, the nature of our partnership means we are unable to apply to trusts and charities for other funds

LCC and district investment is £13,300 a year. Which is 15% of our turnover including your box office income. In 2015/16 the amount we paid out in guarantees and artist accommodation came to £15, 738. If we lost all our local authority support overnight- we would either have to cut our guarantee system completely or cut our hours down to a point where the level of service will be significantly diminished.

We have two years to plan for these cuts and this is what we are doing:

- We are looking at new partnerships, and new ways of working out our finances. The Arts Council is supportive and we are working with our consortium partners to explore other avenues of investment.
- We will email you a confidential survey for you, and your committees to complete to better inform us of the impact of any cuts, and identify where we can best place our funds
- We will conduct a full audience survey in Autumn 2016, explaining the cuts, the possible impact and researching how your audiences may react to either ticket increases, fewer shows, or other programme changes. We want to know what they could pay, or would pay if they knew the service was at risk. Its easier for us to ask this, than you. This will help us focus our actions for the following year.
- We are happy to come and talk to you in person, and to your committee to explain the issues in more detail, present findings, and maybe find ways of supporting your activity locally
- We are happy to talk to your audiences at future events
- We will share data and reports with you.

[Chairman's initials.....]

What we ask you to do:

According to our figures, if the average adult ticket price went up by £1, we would save about £3000. £10 a head at current attendance levels covers nearly all the the cuts. It doesn't sound so bad when we put it that way. Our partner scheme in Cheshire has an adult ticket pricing range of £7.50 - £11 for its shows. We ask that you consider raising your autumn ticket price by a minimum of £1, and explain to your audience why.

We ask you to talk to your Parish council (if you haven't already) about supporting your work to the value of £100 - £200 a year. A small grant from every parish council where we have a venue, would make a big difference. This is something we could do on your behalf if you prefer.

We ask you to talk to your Councillors - about your worries and concerns. Councillors have their own local budgets. Again, £100 or £200 a year to each venue will make a difference.

You will know we are working with libraries- this is completely separate Arts Council money and does not affect our rural service. In many ways- its supporting it by giving us extra staffing hours and more buying power with artists. They haven't taken any local authority money otherwise connected to our rural work. This work is raising our profile, and bringing in new audiences to Spot On.

These cuts won't go away- so if we can't voluntarily find ways of raising £13300 a year between us, then I will have to make hard decisions about artists, guarantees, fees and of course, the number of venues we work with in the future. This sounds hard- but we do need to balance our budgets by 2018.

All creative ideas are welcome and any changes we make, will be implemented from Spring 2017 onwards.

If you have any questions, or want to talk to me more please get in touch

Many thanks

Sue

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Sue Robinson
Manager
Spot On Lancashire
t: 01254 660360
[e:sue@spotonlancashire.co.uk](mailto:sue@spotonlancashire.co.uk)
w: www.spotonlancashire.co.uk
skype: suekp.robinson
twitter: spotonsue
facebook: Spot On Lancashire

[Chairman's initials.....]

Simonstone Parish Council

Audited Accounts for the year 2015/16.

2014/15		Budget	Actual
Actual		2015/16	2015/16
8000	Precept	8200	8,200.00
131	Gov Grant	130	130.00
22.07	Interest	15	5.56
249.50	VAT	100	544.89
275.00	Grants		312.93
1,409.51	Entertainment		553.43
	mics	555	16.20
£10,087.08	Total	£ 9,000.00	£ 9,763.01
Expenditure			
2014/15			Actual
379.88	Subscriptions	415	380.88
199.49	Insurances	220	200.70
60.00	Audit Fee	60	216.00
1,948.18	Clerk- Salary	2450	1,970.60
487.40	HMRC	0	492.60
476.04	Printing etc	550	690.42
137.52	Jewel	50	-
	Web/computer	10	115.27
175.00	Hire of hall	175	175.00
50.00	Rents	50	50.00
140.00	Chairman's Allow	145	140.00
247.00	Training	200	171.60
350.00	Donations	250	50.00
850.00	Enter/ Theatre	1100	308.24
259.20	Christmas	330	255.55
268.93	Ground maintenance	870	760.00
210.00	Cont to Play Area	300	300.00
1,080.00	Lengthsman	950	700.00
1,906.10	Capital	200	353.99
651.60	Environment Litter	400	374.40
933.55	Sign post	600	419.42
£10,809.89		£9,325.00	£8124.67

[Chairman's initials.....]