

Simonstone
Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.00 pm on 1st July 2021 by Zoom

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76736542405?
pwd=UGs4cHFPS3VJVm0xTjltWHcxVUxOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76736542405?pwd=UGs4cHFPS3VJVm0xTjltWHcxVUxOUT09)

Prior to the start of the Zoom Meeting to hear about the Boundary Commission Proposal for the Parliamentary Constituency of Ribble Valley, the presentation was given by David Peat District Councillor for Read and Simonstone and Chairman of Simonstone Parish Council to which members of the public attended. Distribution of information about the Meeting had been distributed to each street, notice boards and the Parish website in Simonstone.

The Meeting was an open item for information and discussion by members of the Public of both Read and Simonstone.

After the Discussion the Parish Council decided on what action to be taken at the following Parish Council Meeting .

Minutes

Attendances :-David Peat, Graham Meloy, Robert McKelvey, Clifton Pollard, Stephen Finn, Elisa Hargreaves, John Barker. Chairperson Read PC.

Apologies;- none

75) Declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests none.

76) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th May 2021.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

77) Boundary Commission consultation for the Parliamentary Constituency of Ribble Valley. The Parish Council held a public meeting before the start of the Parish Council Meeting where the Chairman reported to people attending the concerns that the had been considered and the effect the proposals could have. A document had been distributed giving Parish Council's view on the proposal and had been displayed on the Parish Council Website. There was a full discussion with members of the public who were in attendance. The proposals, as attached below, were put to the vote.

It was resolved to approve the document for forwarding to the Boundary Commission. 4 abstentions were recorded.

78) Clerk's report – item for RV Parish Liaison Meeting on 16th September : Changes to Microsoft, Google and Cloud and cost implementations for Parish Councils. Are there any alternative ways, e.g. sector/joint licensing, the use of open source

systems, closed systems, avoiding the use of the Cloud.

It was resolved to request the idea be discussed at the next Ribble Valley Parish Liaison Meeting.

File no 951

- 79) **Parish Governance Review** Clls. Finn and McKelvey reported that
- a) The parish Council should adopt the recently adopted Ribble Valley Code of Conduct with amendment to the read “Simonstone Code of Conduct”
 - b) Website usage Terms and conditions
 - c) PC Risk Assessment 2021
- It was resolved** to approve the above documents.

- 80) **Civic Sunday** to be held on 26th September in the RSVH Terms and conditions have yet to be agreed.

It was resolved to note the report and request that arrangements be finalized at the next Meeting.

- a) **Christmas Party** on the 1st December. Party arrangements have been agreed. The event would take place at the Higher Trapp and would be for 80 guests, 40 from each Parish and the cost of tickets would be subsidized by £10 each. The Meal would be seasonal with entertainment provided. Elderly single people would take precedent and be transported by Councilors to the event. No Councilors would be invited. Graham Meloy and Marie Hacking would make the final arrangements.
It was resolved to approve the arrangements.

- b) **Christmas Tree Switch on 6th December – The** Headteacher of St Peters School had suggested that the whole event could be held within the school grounds using the Schools facilities. Following on from previous occasions she was keen to avoid crossing the roads in the dark, therefore improving safety. She hopes to have engaged the School children in activities. Members welcome this positive intervention.

It was resolved that the Parish Council explore the suggestion further and that the Clerk make arrangements for a special visitor to attend at an appropriate time.

- c) **Post Christmas** event for Parish Councilors of both Simonstone and Read to be held in January.

It was resolved to consider arrangements at the Parish Council Meeting.

81) Highway Matters

- a) **Cllr. PEAT. Reported Speeding Traffic and Traffic noise** on A671, Simonstone Lane and minor roads in the village causing disturbance to residents throughout the Village.
- b) **Cllr. Meloy reported** details of the accident at the junction of Trapp Lane and Whins Lane. The PC had previously requested measures to make the approaches to the junction safer. The road markings were adjusted after a previous request and a traffic mirror was also requested but the LCC Highway Committee rejected this at that time. On Whins Lane cyclist had been was knocked down recently and the police had attended the scene.

It was resolved that the Clerk report the matter to the Police and the Ribble Valley Road Safety Committee requesting that the road markings be upgraded at Trapp/ Whins Lane Junction and to request that a Traffic mirror be installed to give

motorists a better chance of avoiding accidents at this miss-aligned offset junction. The Parish Council is willing to install a Traffic Mirror at it's own expense if permission can be given by the Highway Authority. The speed limit on the lane had been considered some 6 years ago.

File no 950

82) **Cllr. Pollard reported :-**

- a) Altham Bridge Footpath steps were in need of attention as Giant Hogweed was growing out of the 14 steps and on the river bank upstream from Altham bridge.
- b) He told the Meeting that some vehicles were emptying toilets by the side of the public footpaths and that this was happening on a regular basis.

It was resolved that the Police and the Borough Council be informed.

83) **Post Emergency get together.** It has been suggested that residents from both Read and Simonstone could have post emergency "Get Together" in place of the Annual Fete.

It was resolved that Cllrs. Meloy and Pollard consider arrangements for the annual event.

84) **Martholme Greenway Cllr. John Barker reported:-**

- a) that some of the drystone walls along the trackside were being rebuilt at the eastern end of the rack as a Training Project by the County Council.
- b) Servicing the litter bins was, at present, being carried out by volunteers. The Clerk told the meeting he was awaiting the result of a survey of litter/dog waste bins throughout the District after a request to had been made to the RV Cleansing Department.

It was resolved that the Clerk request a response from John Heap regarding the matter.

85) Planning

- a) Planning application 21/04821 Trapp Farm Trapp Lane Simonstone.
- b) Planning Application No: 3/2021/0627 Grid Ref: 376975 434352
Proposal: Erection of an outbuilding in front of the principal elevation of the main house. Location: 12 Westminster Close Simonstone BB12 7ST.

It was resolved not to object to the above application.

86) **Platinum Celebration** to be considered at the PC Meeting on 12th August.

87) Finance

- a) **Grant request- St Peter's School-** Cllr. Peat reported that he had visited the School and in conversation with the Head teacher during a tour of the school and grounds the head Headteacher pointed out outdoor areas used for teaching zones, a nature area, a peace garden. The latter needs two new benches (low level no backs) at £425 each fitted. The school had applied for Lottery Funding for a 30 place Gazebo for outdoor learning. The Clerk reported that a formal application had been received and he awaited confirmation of the financial details.

It was resolved to support the request.

b) Payment of accounts

i) HMRC	Income tax	£134.80
ii) I R Hirst,	Salary.	£539.68
iii) I R Hirst,	Expenses	£98.02
iv) CPRE	Subscription	£36.00
v) FIXIT 4U	Comp repair	£50.00

It was resolved to pay the above accounts

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 12th August 2021 at 7pm

Members of the Public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings

Chairman's Signature.....

File no 948

Boundary Commission Proposals for the Ribble Valley Constituency June 2021

Simonstone Parish Council has considered the proposed changes to the Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituency and considered its position at a Meeting of Simonstone Parish Council at its Meeting of 1st July 2021

It is worth stating that the Parish Council understands and supports the concept of equal and fair sized Parliamentary Constituencies in the United Kingdom as a crucial building brick of our(or any) Parliamentary Democracy.

By way of background ,the Parish of Simonstone has a population of some 1100 people(2011),and alongside our neighbours in Read with a population of approximately 1400 persons (2011) makeup the bulk of the East Whalley Read and Simonstone ward of Ribble Valley BC.

The Parish is entirely within the area of the Pendle Hill Heritage initiative, operated by the Forest of Bowland AONB from offices in Clitheroe and our voluntary bodies receive grants and support There from and other Ribble Valley services

We appreciate that this proposal is not about changing Council Boundaries but following recent publicity about Council mergers in Lancashire ,there is a high degree of cynicism and mistrust about the longer term intention of this proposal. More to the point

- 1) Simonstone Parish(and Read Parish) are built on either side of the A671 ,which links Oldham to Clitheroe. Settlements are about 3/4 mile to a mile on either side on this road ,which is a Primary Route(and between Burnley and Whalley ie these villages) is judged one of the most dangerous roads in England).
- 2) The southern route of A678 is a shorter road between Padiham and Blackburn and serves the Simonstone Enterprise Park, a major employer in Ribble Valley, with very few domestic properties close by).
- 3) Public Transport follows this road ; the service bus (M2) provides a half hourly Burnley/ Clitheroe service. **There are no direct public transport links to Accrington**

- 4) Our local Primary school, St Peters Simonstone , is a feeder school to Faith or County Secondary Schools either in Whalley (RC) or Clitheroe (other county schools)

- 5) Our primary care is provided by GP Clinics largely in Sabden, Whalley or Clitheroe.

- 6) Hospital Appointments tend to be at Clitheroe Community Hospital or the major DGHs in Burnley or Blackburn.

Thus bearing in mind that for transport, education and health, residents of Simonstone (and Read) look to the rest of Ribble Valley ,and are served by religious and voluntary services from Clitheroe and Environs and cannot directly access services or links with Accrington (the Principal town of Hyndburn Constituency),(Direct public transport is not feasible from the village We do not agree to the proposed transfer from Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituency to the Hyndburn Constituency.

Minute 21/77) Resolution; Simonstone Parish Council is committed to the maintenance of the Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituency boundary for Ribble Valley Wards .

Signed –Simonstone Parish Council Chairman Councillor David Peat OBE. Dated 1/7/2021