

Simonstone

Annual Parish Meeting

to be held at 7.00 pm on 12th May 2022 at
St Peter's School Hall School Lane Simonstone
Simonstone
AGENDA get report number W684878

Attendances

Apologies;-

Chairman Annual Report

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2022

Last years AGM was by Zoom/email and the Covid Regulations remained until after the July meeting..

Nevertheless the Parish Council met on 9 other occasions ,after July face to face although using the Village Hall,The Higher Trapp and St Peters .

Patterns emerged in the year;

We met and discussed the Boundary Commission proposals in July and February;both meetings opposed the changes..

We reviewed our systems ,behaviours and standards by adopting a revised Code of Conduct,looking at Web and Facebook controls and management,Risk to and Safety of Councillors,Handling Intimidation. Speed and Road Safety on the A671,WhinsLane/Trapp Lane were discussed several times.Landowner and LCC reluctance have limited progress for now..

A cluster of Environmental Issues were discussed and reviewed.We began to review air pollution, using RVBC equipment ,on the A671,We welcomed the Readand Simonstone Environment Group to a presentation and sought their plans for the future.They are helping seeding and works on Simonstone Lane.We also formally raised resident safety fears on Back Lane with the Police .

We continue to support by publicity or finances a range of local bodies ,including,Citizens Advice, Little Green Bus used by Residents generally.We have not assisted Martholme nor the Hall this year particularly as other sources were available.We did help the School as their fundraising had collapsed with Covid and were pleased to fund benches for the Peaceful Garden.We also assisted the Tennis Club to facilitate developments.

Together with ReadPC,a post Covid celebration social was held in September ;it was a showcase for local voluntary bodies and was well attended, including a visit by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Ribble Valley.

The Platinum Jubilee will occur in June 2022 and we plan to provide benches and appropriate tree shelters(the latter donated by local business) on the Fountains Estate .

The Parish supported Remembrance Day Commemoration in November;it was good to see so many residents of all ages present.

A different Christmas Celebration took place in December when reflecting declining numbers and availability of assistance ,we joined Read PC in a Joint event at the Higher Trapp.Five days later we joined the School in the Christmas Tree lighting.

We have started to plan a revised Parish Plan ,but this will be a major feature of 2022/23.We have contributed to the Borough Local Plan 2023 raising concerns at traffic levels and that we believe that Housing development should be restricted in this area.

As in previous years, the Parish Council has been fortunate to have able and willing Parish Councillors who have cooperated and given their time and skills.Ms Norse resigned as a Parish Councillor in August and Ms Hampson was Coopted in October.

In January 2022 ,Mr IR Hirst Parish Clerk announced his intended retirement at this meeting in his 25th Year. We are hosting a Celebratory event in April ;we are pleased to welcome Miss April Louise Collinson as our new Parish Clerk.

Fellow Councillors and Residents,I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2021/22.

David Peat OBE
Chairman
Simonstone Parish Council.

Simonstone Parish Council Parish Council Meeting Chairman David Peat OBE

to be held at 7.00 pm on 12th May 2022 at
St Peter's School Hall, School Lane, Simonstone.

AGENDA

Attendances

Apologies;-

64.

- a) **Appointment of Chairman** of the Parish Council for the municipal year
- b) **Appointment of vice-Chairman** for the ensuing year.
- c) **Appointment of Councillors** to represent the Parish Council on the following bodies for 2022/2023.

Office	2021-2022	2022-2023
RV Parish Liaison Committee	Robert McKelvey	
LA Local Councils	Robert McKelvey	
Parish Planning Area	As Allocated by the Chairman	
Governance Panel.	Stephen Finn, David Peat	
Bank Signatories	David Peat, Clifton Pollard, Stephen Finn Graham Meloy	.
Champion for the Youth & Elderly	Robert McKelvey	.
Read Simonstone Village Hall	Robert McKelvey	
Martholme Greenway	John Barker, Graham Meloy and Elisa Hargreaves	
Lengthsman Coordinator	Stephen Finn, Clifton Pollard	.
District Councillor	David Peat & Richard Bennett	
Facebook	John Barker	
Website coordinator	Stephen Finn	

65. Declaration of interests

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

67. Decision items

70) Minutes of the meeting dated 12th April 2022 for approval.

71. **Public Participation (members of the public are invited to raise matters of concern, time limit of 3 minutes per item/person.)**

72. **Declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests.**

73. **Clerks reports**

a. **Lengthsman - during the last year there have been increases in costs and wages which have stayed the same since the Parish Council joined the scheme at £12 per hour. It has been helped the Council to provide an efficient year end and there was a surplus of £44, after a subscription of £842**

b. **The new rate of pay had been agreed for the Lengthsman at £16 per hour ,and his assistant at £15 per hour.**

It has been suggested that this year's contribution should be £800. In the light of the new pay agreement Council may like to update this figure.

There is still a 20% contribution to the PC's from the ANOB Grant. Please note that Kissing gates are no longer supplied .Only Swing gate are provided.

74. **The Annual Account** for the year ending 31st March the Internal Auditor has approved the Account for 2021-22 and members ready for the AGAR return to be completed and forwarded to the External Auditor Details of the councillors request ha been forward to all members for their consideration

75. **Councillor's** report. Clerks response ;-

a) Cllr. Hampson has expressed a wish to see a copy of all the accounts for the past 5 years. However, the accounts for the year 2021/22 are in the process of being audited and will be made available once the Parish Council has considered the accounts approved by Parish Council's Internal Auditor. At tonight's meeting along with all the relevant paper work prior to Council agreeing that that this year's "Annual Governance and Accountability return for 2021/2022." may be completed and forwarded to the External Auditor for examination. Once the return has been forwarded to the external auditor there is a period of 30 days determined by the External Auditor when interested parties. inspect the documents and ask questions of the External Auditors at possibly the Parish Councils expense. (a recent case cost the Parish Council £35,000) it is the responsibility of the PC to respond. At the end of the process the Parish Council will consider and report and address any points of concerns that may arise.

As the Councillor has expressed a matter of urgency in looking into the Parish Council's financial affairs The Parish Clerk is concerned that any financial information should have been audited and correct before it is made available for discussion.

However, as there are audited records available for over 20 years, complete with the necessary documentation available for the Councillor to see should she so wish. Or these can be forwarded to the member should members approve this course of action.

All the information is on the web as records go back to the 1700s and interested parties may seek further information by visiting the Council Archives or Parish website. Thanks to selfless contribution by former Councillor Hull who transcribe all the parish records assisted by his wife Nora, Roland died at the Age of 94 last December.

76.Cllr Hampson Financial Planning of the Parish Council please see the attached documents.

Attached are the statement of accounts for 21/2. 20/1,19/20,18/19 17/18 and the Budget for 22/3.

77. **Signpost Cleaning – the Complaint regarding the state of the highway had been reported and the Clerk received a phone call informing him that all the Highway notices had been added to the to do list and they would be cleaned when it is possible. The Village name plates are the responsibility of the District Council, Finger posts are also the responsibility of the County Council**
78. **Cllr. Barker to update the Council on;-**
a) Face book
b)Martholme Greenway.
79. **Cllr. McKelvey to report. RSVH The Village Hall Platinum Celebration Commemoration:**
80. **Cllr Finn to report; Website**
81. **Cllr Pollard to report on the Platinum celebration project.**
82. **PLANNING No applications this month .**
83. **Parish Plan. Working Group report details have been forwarded to Members of the Group.**
84. **Borough Councillor David Peat to report.**
85. **Finance .**
a) **The Annual Account** for the year ending 31st March Auditors report has .been approved . Members are due to consider and complete the AGAR return
(i)**Barclays Change.** Accounts, Saving and Current to online banking Application to be completed and approved
(ii)Appointment of Bank signatories. Appointed
86. **Payment of accounts.**
(i)**A Collinson Salary £50.58**
(ii)**HMRC Tax £12.60**
(iii)**April Collinson Salary £**
(iv)**I R Hirst Salary £**
(v)**IR Hirst back pay £**
(vi)**Salary to 15/5 £**
(vii)**Expenses to 15/5 £**

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting 9th JUNEth 2022,

Members of the Public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings.

**I R Hirst.....
Clerk to the Parish Council**

