

Simonstone Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Held following the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May, 2022 in St Peters Church School Hall

Minutes

Attendances :- Cllrs. David Peat, Robert McKelvey, Clifton Pollard, Elisa Hargreaves, John Barker, Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Finn, Graham Meloy, the Parish Clerk and 4 Members of the Public.

Apologies; None

22/64 a) Appointment of Chairman – Councillor David Peat was nominated and voted to continue as Chairman for another year.

b) Appointment of Vice Chairman – Councillor Stephen Finn was appointed Vice Chairman

c) Appointment of Councillors to represent the Parish Council on the following bodies for 2022/2023. The positions were allocated as follows;

Office	2021/2022	2022/2023
Ribble Valley Parish Council Liaison Committee	Robert McKelvey	Robert McKelvey & Jaqueline Hanson
LALC	Robert McKelvey	As Allocated by the Chairman when necessary
Parish Planning	As Allocated by the Chairman	As Allocated by the Chairman when necessary
Governance Panel	Stephen Finn, David Peat	Stephen Finn, David Peat
Bank Signatories	David Peat, Clifton Pollard, Stephen Finn, Graham Meloy	David Peat, The Clerk & Stephen Finn
Champion for the Youth & Elderly	Robert McKelvey	As Allocated by the Chairman when necessary
Read and Simonstone Village Hall	Robert McKelvey	Robert McKelvey
Martholme Greenway	John Barker, Graham Meloy and Elisa Hargreaves	John Barker, Graham Meloy and Elisa Hargreaves
Lengthsman & Footpaths Coordinator	Stephen Finn & Clifton Pollard	Stephen Finn & Clifton Pollard
District Councillor	David Peat & Richard Bennett	David Peat & Richard Bennett
Facebook	John Barker	John Barker
Website Co-ordinator	Stephen Finn	Stephen Finn

22/65 Declaration of interests

Councillor Barker, Councillor Hargreaves, Councillor Pollard and Councillor Meloy declared an interest in the Martholme Greenway. Councillor McKelvey declared an interest in the Village Hall. Councillor Hampson declared that she had recently become a Magistrate.

22/66 Public Participation

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

It was noted that a complaint had been received from a local resident prior to the beginning of the meeting. This was not to be discussed as part of the meeting but would be dealt with privately and passed to the Ribble Valley Monitoring officer.

22/67 Decision Items;

22/70 Minutes of the meeting of 14th April 2022 for approval;

Minute 22/58 states that Councillor Pollard was to make contact regarding a memorial tree, contact was made through the Environment group and so direct contact could not be made – it will need to be assessed whether the memorial tree was for a resident. The outgoing clerk and the Chairman will check for contact details. Following this amendment the minutes were approved.

22/73 Clerks Report

The outgoing clerk reported that the costs of the Lengthsman have increased due to increased wages owing to the rising cost of living and the scheme taking on an assistant.

22/74 The Annual Account

The Audit is ongoing at this time.

22/75 Councillor Hampson's Request to see the last 5 years financial records

Financial records are available on the Parish Council website and available publicly once audited. Councillor Hampson explained that she has received financial queries from residents and so was seeking the information to explain the financial situation of the Parish Council. As the accounts are audited annually and any payments have to be approved by multiple council members there is an extremely low risk that anything would be improper with the accounts. It was resolved that if a member of the public has any queries regarding the Financial situation of the Parish Council which cannot be resolved by looking at the files available on the Parish Council Website, they should write to the Parish Council stating their queries so that this can be looked into properly.

22/76 Councillor Hampson Financial Planning

Councillor Hampson had asked to see the financial records for the previous five years, to assist in financial planning. This was discussed in minute 22/75, these records are available on the Parish Council Website.

22/77 Signpost Cleaning

A 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.

22/78 Cllr. Barker to update the Council on;-

a) Facebook - Nothing to report.

b) Martholme Greenway. – dry stone walling is underway and will continue over the next few weeks. Thanks are given to the volunteers who have been doing the prep-work and the man who is doing the dry stone walling itself.

22/79 Read and Simonstone Village Hall & Jubilee Celebrations

There has been a special celebration cafe has been organised for the Wednesday and the Friday which will have entertainment such as bingo and music. There will also be a talent contest in Read and Simonstone Village Hall as well as a brass band playing in Altham Parish Church.

22/80 Cllr. Finn to report; website

It is proposed that an image of the bench be added to the website once it is sited.

22/81 Jubilee commemorative bench

The Parish Council has ordered an engraved bench to commemorate the Jubilee, residents have commented regarding where this is to be sited and an appropriate location has been devised.

The costs for this are;

Item	cost	VAT
Bench	£345	£69
Engraving	£96	£19.20
Total	£441	£88.20
<u>Total inc VAT:</u>		<u>£529.20</u>

Extra costs will be incurred for the flagging of the area the bench is to be sited on.

22/82 Planning

No planning application received this month.

22/83 Parish Plan

The working group have been meeting to discuss the Parish Plan. This work is in progress.

22/84 Borough Councillors Report

The council has spent £35 million on COVID grants in the last two years, residents should have received £150 of energy rebate for households in council tax bands A-D.

A shared prosperity fund of £2 million will be coming to Ribble Valley over the next 3 years however details of how this will be distributed are not yet available. In 2019 the Ribble Valley was the happiest borough in the country and are now the healthiest borough in the country. Take That have also decided to film locally. On 24th May the Duke of Lancaster will exercise its freedom to march through the town of Clitheroe with banners flying and bayonets fixed. 169 Ukrainians are coming into Lancashire, 3 families have arrived so far and there are ten housing units available within the Ribble Valley.

Councillor David Peat has been made Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee which is responsible for litter bin reviews, the first meeting is the 9th June which conflicts with the scheduled date for the next Simonstone Parish Council meeting. This was discussed and it was confirmed the next Simonstone Parish Council meeting will take place on 16th June 2022.

Correspondence

A resident has been in touch regarding several blocked gullies from devil's elbow through Read and Simonstone as well as down Simonstone Lane and up School Lane/Trapp Lane. The Clerk will report the blocked drains to Lancashire County Council online using the "report it" tool.

22/85 Finance

- a) The Annual Account for the year ending 31st March 2022 is currently with the Internal Auditor
- (i) Barclays Mandate Change form will be completed at the conclusion of this meeting and
- (ii) Appointment of Bank signatories. Appointed

22/86 Payment of Accounts.

- (i) A Collinson Salary (March) £50.58
- (ii) HMRC Tax (AC March) £12.60
- (iii) April Collinson Salary (April) £228.74
- (iv) I R Hirst back pay £46.80
- (v) I R Hirst Salary to 15/5 £ 363.51

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting 16th June 2022

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

Chairman's Signature.....