

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

16/06/2022

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 16th June 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Peat
Councillors: Barker, Finn, Hampson, Hargreaves, McKelvey, Meloy, Pollard.

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

2 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence – None.

2. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors *on items on the agenda.* – none.

2.2 To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) – none

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate – none.

By way of full disclosure councillors Barker, Hargreaves and Meloy declared non-pecuniary interest in the Martholme Greenway.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 12th May 2022 – the minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – an update was provided regarding several items;

A memorial tree had been requested however it was found that the request had come from a person who was not resident in Simonstone and so could not be approved.

The commemorative bench for the Platinum Jubilee was installed prior to the celebrations.

5. Public participation – none

6. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Peat reported that the bin on Simonstone Lane will now be emptied by on a basis and reviewed at a future date to ensure the safety of staff when doing so. There have been 37 places made available to Ukrainian refugee families within the Ribble Valley and so far 20 families have arrived. It was announced that after the Food Festival in Clitheroe, Clitheroe market will be being upgraded.

7. Clerk's Report

a) A new email address has been set up for the clerk as the previous one could not be transferred. The new email address is simonstoneparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com

b) The council was made aware of a problem regarding multiple blocked gullies in the local area. The blocked gulleys have been reported to Lancashire County Council who have taken action to clear blockages and have confirmed they will continue to monitor the site.

c) In relation to the banking mandate change, the paperwork has been delivered to Barclays and chased up by phone today, they have some missing information and have provided a form for councillor Pollard to fill in. This will be passed to Barclays as soon as possible to allow access to the banking for payments to be made as needed.

d) Different options were discussed regarding the new laptop for the clerk and a budget of about £300 was set.

e) Upon recommendation from Read Parish Council DM Payroll Services will be handling the calculation and reporting to HMRC of the clerks wages.

8. Parish Plan work Group to report

Various topics have been gathered and the questions are being drafted. Various distribution and collection methods were discussed as well as how to prevent questionnaires being duplicated. Queries were raised regarding a question about merging Read and Simonstone Parish Councils as the implications of this would not be obvious to residents and may cause confusion. The council voted to exclude this question in favour of an “additional comments” or “add your thoughts” box in which residents could note any comments not covered in the questionnaire.

9. Reports from external meetings

Martholme Greenway – The Martholme Greenway group have had a pitch at the Great Harwood show where there was plenty of interest from the public. The first section of dry stone walling has been finished. The pathways are permissive pathways, and all are public rights of way. In Goose Leach Wood there is an information board showing the paths.

10. Facebook and Website Report

Information for drowning prevention week has been circulated from the fire brigade. Operation Propulsion has been activated by local police which involves targeting areas of antisocial behaviour and speeding, more officers will be deployed to relevant areas. The code of conduct for Simonstone Parish Council has been updated on the website to reflect updates made previously.

11. Decision Items

a) Road Safety

A “Please Drive Carefully” sign had been placed at the west end of Read when entering the village, VMS data has been gathered from vehicles entering Read and shows trends of speeding. The sign and measurements were planned to be taken from Simonstone however the devices could not be placed in the original site. A second small radar box will be placed near Simonstone School which will measure both the volume and speed of traffic, this box is less noticeable and so should provide more realistic data. The timing of this was discussed along with what could be done to help slow traffic and improve safety.

RESOLVED: The measuring box will be placed to take measurements during term time, this is anticipated to be around 2nd September 2022.

b) Simonstone road sign on A671

The Simonstone sign seen on entry to the village from Padiham has become damaged and dirty over time, some of the village symbols of two roses, a key, and a stork have become detached. Options of refurbishment or replacement were discussed as some other villages have gotten new signs for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

RESOLVED: Councillor Pollard to seek to obtain quotes from Keith Prosser and Duncan Armstrong.

c) Ribble Valley Local Plan

There was a meeting regarding the Ribble Valley Local Plan held for councillors recently. It was noted that Simonstone Parish Council have already made submissions regarding the Local Plan.

d) Celebration Sunday/Christmas Lunch

It was noted that participants had enjoyed last years celebration Sunday and Christmas Lunch. The dates of 25th September 2022 for the Celebration Sunday and Thursday 1st December 2022 were suggested.

e) Councillor Participation and the use of mobile phones during council

meetings

Awareness was raised that Councillors should give their full attention to business during Parish Council Meetings although it is understood that technology such as phones and tablets/laptops can be used to view documents and make presentations as well as making meetings more accessible.

f) AGAR & Accounts

The relevant parts of the AGAR and Accounts documentation were reviewed by councillors.

RESOLVED: The accounting statement were agreed. Councillor Jacqueline Hampson abstained from the vote due to having only joining the Parish Council in October.

g) Overgrown Hedges

It was noted that some areas of pavement have become encroached upon by hedges and vegetation from residents gardens.

RESOLVED: The clerk will write to the residents responsible to ask for the matter to be resolved.

h) Environmental Group Grant application

A grant application had been received from the environmental group asking for money towards thermal imaging cameras. It was proposed that the cameras could help residents see where their homes are losing heat and allow them to combat this resulting in residents saving money as well as helping the environment. The group had requested £250 towards the project which will cost a total of £588.

RESOLVED: A grant of £150 will be made to the environmental group towards the thermal imaging camera project.

12. Correspondence

CPRE renewal Membership of £36 was requested and agreed to be paid.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There was one planning application received since the time of the last minutes, as follows:

Planning Application No. 3/2022/0507 – Norden, Turnstead Avenue, Simonstone, BB12 7NR

Proposed single storey extension to rear.

Planning Committee

No Objections to the above application.

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments to be made

Audit	£ 70.00
CPRE Membership Renewal	£ 36.00
Jubilee Bench	£ 529.20
Clerks Wage (Roger Hirst – April & May)	£ 290.91
HMRC (Roger Hirst Tax)	£ 72.60
Clerks Wage (April Collinson – April & May)	£ 457.48

b) Income

No income for this period.

c) Bank reconciliation as at 31 May 2022

Opening Balances 01.06.22			
Community Account	£		
Business Saver Account	£		£
Add: Receipts			£
Less: Payments			£
Balance			£

15. Items for the next agenda

**The Next Meeting will take place on 14th July 2022.
The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.**