

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

21/09/2022

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Saint Peter's School Hall, School Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7HR on Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

4 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence – Councillors McKelvey and Finn apologised for their absence.

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 Pollard declared non-pecuniary interest in the Martholme Greenway.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 14th July 2022 and the suspended Parish Council meeting which had been scheduled for 8th September 2022 – *the minutes were read and agreed.*

4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – *none.*

5. Public participation – *none.*

6. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Peat reported that the Lancashire Social Care Scrutiny committee has received a report on Lancashire and Couth Cumbria Hospitals new configuration, it proposes to build two new hospitals; one for Lancaster and one for Preston, or to build a new one in Preston and extend Lancaster or to build a new one in Lancaster and extend Preston or to extend both Lancaster and Preston, this is part of large government initiative. A new Chairperson has been appointed to Mersey care, Rosie Cooper is replacing Beatrice Fraenkel who's term is set to end 31st October 2022. The Health and Housing committee have been focusing on homelessness in the Ribble Valley, this issue has been worsened recently due to the rising cost of living. A special meeting about this is being scheduled in the coming weeks. Concerns include the increase in young people that are becoming homeless due to families struggling, increase in levels of domestic violence and the "homes for Ukraine" 6 months financial support scheme coming to an end. Although homelessness is not usually seen as a large problem in the Ribble Valley Councillor Peat is working to get this exposed.

Regarding inflation local government staff have been offered a pay increase of £1,925 per year. An announcement of support for fuel cost were made today which will see energy prices for non-domestic energy customers such as businesses, charities and public sector organisations cut protecting them from rising energy costs.

7. Clerk's Report

a) several local residents have been contacted about overgrown hedges requesting these were trimmed. One resident had been in contact confirming that they were holding off due to nesting birds but that the hedges would be trimmed in September. Councillors noted

that several residents had auctioned the letters and trimmed hedges accordingly however that the post box was still difficult to access at the corner of Whalley Road and School Lane. The Clerk will write again to this resident asking the hedge is trimmed further to allow access to the post box.

b) The local PCSO has provided local crime statistics have been provided for the months of July & August as follows;

	July	August
Road Related offence	2	3
Assault	1	0
Theft	2	1
Public Order	1	1
Burglary	0	1
Vehicle Crime	0	3

Councillors noted that there had been recent thefts of bikes from sheds on Simonstone Lane by removing hinges to gain access, there is a public appeal for CCTV.

c) The Clerk has been in touch with Use IT in Rishton who have agreed to look into whether the parish council would be eligible for a free software package, if the Parish Council is not eligible the necessary software can be purchased outright for around £200 or subscribed to annually for about £60 per year which includes cloud back up. Councillors agreed the annual subscription would be best if the parish council did not prove eligible for the free subscription. Some prices for laptops will be emailed over once available.

Councillors noted that Ribble Valley may have knowledge of schemes or deals available for Parish Clerks. The Clerk will look into this.

8. Parish Plan work Group to report

Draft questions have been compiled and the Parish clerk will draw this up into a mock questionnaire for the council to go through at the next meeting.

9. Reports from external meetings

Martholme Greenway – Councillor Barker reported that some new benches have been installed along the Martholme Greenway as the others had been worn out. Permission has been granted to do some levelling off work to make the area more accessible for electric wheelchair/scooter users. Great Harwood and Rishton Rotary club have presented the greenway with an award for “significant contribution to enhancing the environment in Great Harwood”. Congratulations are formally extended to the Greenway group for this achievement.

Several dry Stone walling courses are available from the Martholme Greenway at a subsidised rate

Friend of Padiham Greenway – Councillor Pollard reported that there is frustration that the cycleway has not been able to be connected all the way through. There is a bridge near memorial park which has been closed due to subsidence, the coal authority is investigating whether this is due to mining subsidence.

10. Facebook and Website Report

A member of the public has been in touch regarding the Defibrillator outside the school hall which has had the instruction label partially removed. Laminated instructions are inside the case.

11. Decision Items

a) Road Safety

It was suggested that a public meeting be held regarding Road safety inviting the

Local County Councillor, Ged Mirfin. Concerns include the volume of traffic, speeds at which traffic travel through the village and the noise generated along Whalley Road. VMS was scheduled to be deployed locally however this has not yet materialised, Councillor Hampson will liaise with the County Council to follow this up. Previously PCSOs have surveyed the speed and volume of vehicles over a 1 hour period and found 1,526 vehicles travelling through the village in this time. The overall average speed recorded locally is around 34mph however it is noted that this is brought down through congestion when cars can only pass through slowly. Councillor Pollard noted that a tree along Simonstone Lane is starting to push the wall over.

RESOLVED: County Councillor Mirfin will be invited to a future meeting to discuss road safety. The Clerk will write to the farmer to ask that the tree and wall is attended to.

b) Celebration Sunday

The Celebration Sunday is planned to take place on Sunday 25th September, several organisations will be represented showing what is on offer in Simonstone and Read, there will be art from the children of local schools, refreshments and entertainment. A visit from the Deputy Mayor is expected.

c) Seniors Christmas Meal

The meal has been provisionally booked for Thursday 1st December. The price originally quoted was £27 per person, this has been negotiated down to £24 per person. Last year the cost was £18 per person split with the council covering £8 and individuals paying £10 toward, it is proposed to split the cost as £12 paid by each individual and £12 from the Council. 40 places will be available from each village and will be offered to residents aged 70 and over along with their partners.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to contribute £12 per person (x40) to the event as well as some funds towards prizes for the event entertainment.

d) Defibrillators

At the Scouts event concerns were raised about what would happen should someone need a defibrillator. Currently London Hearts has a £300 grant on offer which brings the cost of a defibrillator and cabinet to £1,489.20 (fitting not included).

RESOLVED: Further funding options will be looked into with North West Ambulance Service to be placed outside the Tennis Club.

e) Footpaths

On the Ordinance Survey map a path is noted from Low Farm to Lower Trapp Cottage, it is noted that residents of Lower Trapp Cottage may not wish to have the footpath too close to their property however if this was opened up it would allow people to walk from Low Farm to Whins Lane without having to walk on Trapp Lane and so would be of benefit to the community. It is proposed to approach the residents of Lower Trapp Cottage to ask that they consider re-opening this footpath. A further path is shown to the rear of Simonstone business park/Time computers which leads from the bypass to Simonstone Lane, if this was opened it would allow access from the Greenway to Goose Leach Wood along to Dunkirk farm. Only a small amount of metal fence would need to be removed to allow access and it does not appear that this would affect security for Time Computers. Time computers have been asked about opening this footpath in the past but no response has been received from them.

RESOLVED: The clerk will write to residents of Lower Trapp Cottage about opening the footpath and to Lancashire County Council regarding opening the footpath by Time Computers.

f) Stork Notice Board

It had been noted that the door of the noticeboard by the Stork had been open and looks as though it is in need of maintenance.

RESOLVED: The Lengthsman will be asked to re-paint/re-varnish the noticeboard as necessary.

g) SAAA opt out for external Auditor appointment

Councillors reviewed the option to opt out and that should an external auditor not be appointed correctly there will be an additional cost of £300.

RESOLVED: Councillors voted to remain opted in to the scheme.

12. Correspondence

Notes of thanks were received from the Environment Group for the donation towards a thermal camera to help residents identify and reduce heat loss from buildings.

The Scouts meeting was pleased to receive the presence of local councillors.

The Environmental group has suggested that the Parish Council may undertake regular bus stop cleaning, councillors noted that the bus stops are the responsibility of the Borough council and did not think it fair to place the extra cost on local residents should the Parish Council undertake this. The clerk will contact the Borough Council to request the bus stops are attended to.

Fort Vale energy use – a large pack of information has been received by the Parish Council regarding the energy used by Fort Vale who are a major emitter. This will be reviewed at the next meeting to give councillors chance to fully review the information. This will also be provided to Ribble Valley Borough Council for their opinion on the matter.

A letter was received from the Mayor of the Ribble Valley outlining a new 65 mile trail which has been set up around the Ribble Valley to celebrate the Jubilee and also to attract visitors to enjoy the beauty of the area.

Notification was received about a tree pushing a wall over near Valley Terrace

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

Application no. 3/2022/0625 - Twin Oaks Whins Lane Simonstone BB12 7QR

garages with external bike store. Resubmission of 3/2022/0018

Planning Committee

No Objections to the above application.

Application no. 3/2022/0755 - White Hill Stud Higher Trapp House, Equestrian Centre, Trapp Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7QW

Proposed timber stables for the isolation of horses and ancillary storage area.

Planning Committee

No Objections to the above application.

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

19.07.2022	100001	Clerks Wage AC (April & May)	£366.08
26.07.2022	100005	Audit	£70.00

26.07.2022	100007	Clerks Wage AC (June)	£320.14
26.07.2022	100008	Clerks Wage AC (July)	£228.74
27.07.2022	100003	Clerks Wage IRH (final)	£290.91
27.07.2022	101470	Repayment for Boston Seeds to IR Hirst	£46.99*
05.08.2022	100010	Environment group - Thermal camera	£150.00
12.08.2022	100002	ARK Plastics – bench	£529.20
15.08.2022	100006	Tax A Collinson	£12.60
15.08.2022	100001	Tax IR Hirst	£72.60

Unpresented cheques

101444	Burnley Hire	£36.00*
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b) Income

17.08.2022	IR Hirst – repayment overpaid wages	£34.80*
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*indicates accounted into the accounts for the previous financial year

c) Bank reconciliation as at 31 August 2022

Opening Balances 01.09.22			
Community Account	£13,117.78		
Business Saver Account	£9,232.18		£22,349.96
Add: Receipts			£8,434.80
Less: Payments			£4,156.65
Less Unpresented cheques			£36.00
Balance			£26,592.11

Payments to be made

Lengthsman (Sabden Parish Council)	£800.00
Rent of playing field and bus shelter (Ingham & Yorke)	£50.00
DM Payroll Services	£60.00
Clerks Wage (August)	£228.74
Reissue – cheque 101444* to Burnley Hire (dated 13/01/2022) confirmed not received	£36.00

15. Items for the next agenda

- Remembrance day
- Christmas tree arrangements

**The Next Meeting will take place on 13th October 2022.
The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.**