

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

13/10/2022

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Saint Peter's School Hall, School Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7HR on Thursday 13th October 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

4 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence – *County Councillor Ged Mirfin sent his apologies.*

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 and Councillor Finn declared a non pecuniary interest in the Village Hall after recently becoming a trustee.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 21st September 2022 – *the minutes were read and agreed with minor amendments.*

4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda –

It had been note that the bus stop was seen to be receiving maintenance.

Councillor Peat has made contact with a charity which supports the North West Ambulance service with a view to securing some funding towards a defibrillator which could be placed near the tennis club.

5. Public participation – *The local PCSO attended and brought information about local issues; there have been several shed break-ins locally where items have been stolen. Several monitors had been stolen from a HGV near Fort-Vale in June, a suspect has been apprehended and charged. Usual warnings were given that as the evenings become darker, the cover of darkness could be used to cover criminal activity and that the public should be vigilant and aware of suspicious activity.*

Concerns were raised about pedestrian safety when walking along roads in the darker evenings, it was suggested that advice could be included in the Parish newsletter suggesting walkers ensure they are visible by using reflective clothing or lights.

6. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Peat reported that the Borough Council is suffering financial constraints however the council does have reserves and is not looking at reducing services. The Borough Council is looking to make it more accessible to get a disabled facilities grant which could be used to pay for an accessible shower, stair lift or other aid. It is hoped that this will help those who need it most.

Investment zones are areas where business rates are not paid and there are no planning controls, it was considered that this is not appropriate for Simonstone business park however there are plans to introduce this scheme to Salmsbury which would bring more good graduate jobs to the area which would in turn increase house prices through demand.

The Warm and Welcoming initiative is run by the County and is providing services through libraries which will allow people to stop in and warm up during the winter, two cafe clubs

run in Read and Simonstone and it may be that as there is no library locally then an additional club could be set up. Citizens Advice Bureau in Clitheroe has experienced issues where no financial support is given other than from the Borough Council. The Boundary commission report on the Parliamentary Boundary is due on 8th November 2022, there will be a one month consultation following this date.

7. Clerk's Report

a) The Crime statistics for September have not yet been received.

b) A suggested quote had been received from Use IT computers, the quote was for a Lenovo 14" laptop with Core i5 10th Gen processor, 8GB ram, 256GB SSD, 14" screen, Windows 10 pro and a 12 month warranty along with work setting up the computer system and installing necessary programmes. Some monthly subscriptions were also suggested;

Laptop	£397
Set up work at £45/h	£135
Office 365	£0
Total (excluding VAT)	£532.00
Suggested subscriptions:	
F Secure Anti Virus	£2.50 monthly
Backup & Spam	£4 monthly

Councillors agreed the above quote.

8. Parish Plan work Group to report

Questions were discussed and refined, the clerk will refinish the questionnaire so that it may be finalised.

9. Reports from external meetings

Martholme Greenway – Dry Stone walling courses have been run from Martholme Greenway and local school children also engaged. The courses saw a good uptake and a variety of participants.

Village Hall – it was reported that there are four new trustees in the process of joining the Village Hall Trustees, there is also interest from an additional three people in joining, this will allow the workload to be more evenly distributed. There have been two recent resignations. The community space has been through pre-planning and planning permission documents have been submitted to Ribble Valley, this is awaiting their comments. Several new projects are in planning and volunteer groups are being discussed.

Celebration Sunday – a variety of local clubs and organisations attended to show off what is available within the villages, the entertainment was well received, and refreshments were provided for free to those who attended. It was noted that further information could be provided about the Parish Council and the Village Hall and that some stalls started to pack up around 2pm, when the event was scheduled to end at 3pm. The event was also scheduled to take place on the same day as an event held by the Cricket Club which may have effected attendance. The winning artwork from each school will be framed and placed in the Village Hall.

10. Facebook and Website Report

Nothing to report

11. Decision Items

a) Road Safety

Unfortunately County Councillor Mirfin was unable to attend this meeting.

RESOLVED: County Councillor Mirfin will be invited to a future meeting to discuss road safety.

b) Remembrance Sunday 13th November

Remembrance service will take place on Sunday 13th at 12noon, wreaths will be

laid in remembrance.

c) Christmas Tree Event

The Christmas tree event will be organised in conjunction with Simonstone School.

RESOLVED: The clerk will make arrangements for a Christmas tree and lighting event.

d) Seniors Christmas Meal

The event has been arranged and tickets will be sold from the end of October, the meal will take place from 12noon at the Higher Trapp on Thursday 1st December. The event will be for residents aged 70 and over and partners, tickets will be £12 per person and 40 tickets are available for each Parish.

RESOLVED: The event will be advertised on facebook and word will be spread at the local cafes.

e) Newsletter

It has been proposed that a newsletter be prepared for Simonstone.

RESOLVED: Councillors will put forward content to be collated.

12. Correspondence

None.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There were no planning applications received since the time of the last minutes

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

22.09.2022	101474	Clerks Wage AC (August)	£228.74
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b) Unpresented cheques

101471	Sabden Parish Council – Lengthsman scheme	£800.00
101472	Ingham & Yorke – field and bus shelter	£50.00
101473	D M Payroll Services	£60.00
101476	Burnley Hire Centre*	£36.00*

*indicates included in accounts reconciliation for previous financial year

c) Income

no income for this period

d) Bank reconciliation as at 30 September 2022

Opening Balances 01.09.22			
Community Account	£12,889.04		
Business Saver Account	£9,232.18		£22,121.22
Add: Receipts			£8,434.80
Less: Payments			£4,385.39
Less: Unpresented cheques			£910.00
Balance			£25,260.63

e) Payments to be made

50% share Higher Trapp deposit for seniors Christmas meal (to be reimbursed to M.Hacking)	£50.00
Clerks Wage (September)	£228.74
PKF Littlejohn Audit Fee	£240.00
Celebration Sunday consumables (to be reimbursed to M.Hacking)	£19.98

Celebration Sunday school art prize money (to be paid to St. Peter's C of E School)	£50.00
Poppy wreaths x2 (to be reimbursed to clerk)	£85.00
Read and Simonstone Village Hall (Celebration Sunday/Hall)	£45.00
Read and Simonstone Village Hall (16 th June 2022)	£20.00

15. Items for the next agenda

- Road safety
- Parish Plan
- Boundary commission
- Christmas tree arrangements
- Seniors Christmas meal event

The Next Meeting will take place on 17th November 2022.
The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.