

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

12/01/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read and Simonstone Village Hall, East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

2 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence – Councillor Meloy had sent their apologies 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 and Councillor Finn declared a non pecuniary interest in the Village Hall.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 17th November 2022 – the minutes were read and agreed.

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

In relation to the boundary commission it was noted that Ribble Valley Borough Council opted that the original plan was their preference although this would include Simonstone in the Hyndburn constituency. The Parliamentary Boundary Commission has acknowledged receipt of Simonstone Parish Council's response and is due to publish the final recommendations in the summer.

5. Public participation - none

6. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Peat advised that he has attended three large events recently, a police working group event looked at violence against women and girls after identifying this is at a low level within the Ribble Valley compared to surrounding areas, the event emphasised that this is only reported crime which is low and it may be that crime is not reported. The event looked at safe places such as refuges for women and children to ensure they feel safe reporting crimes.

Adult social care NHS scrutiny committee discussed changes being made to social care payments and accommodation in nursing homes however the timetable for this has been delayed.

MerseyCare has 13,000 people and is a £700 million enterprise providing community mental health services to Merseyside and Cheshire with an outpost in Calderstones, Whalley. Lancashire and South Cumbria Care Trust is beginning to convert some of the premises on Calderstones so that as disability patients leave, psychiatric patients can move in.

7. Clerk's Report

The Crime statistics for November & December are as follows;

November 2022;	December 2022;
1 x Assault	3 x Burglary
1 x Theft	1 x Criminal Damage

1 x Nuisance 2 x Road Related Offences	1 x Public Order 2 x Road Related Offences
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Councillors discussed the high number of Burglaries for December and noted that these have been shed break-ins along Simonstone Lane.

There has been some delay in completing the order for the clerk's new laptop, this is estimated to be complete in February.

8. Parish Plan work Group to report

The Parish Plan the work group are looking at including local business input, Councillors also discussed that distribution, collection and processing the data of the questionnaires will be a big job. It was discussed that the return rate might be better in summer months rather than winter months, it was suggested it may be best to distribute the questionnaire after the Parish Council's AGM.

9. Reports from external meetings

Martholme Greenway – There as recently been some disruption to the environment near the Viaduct bridge where an area of trees has been removed, there has been a large public response to this. Some more dry stone walling has taken place.

Village Hall – Planning permission for the outside space has been granted subject to some amendments being completed. The Village Hall is looking into refreshing the on-site toilets to make these more modern and also more disability friendly.

10. Facebook and Website Report

It was suggested that Parish Council Meetings could be advertised on the Facebook.

11. Decision Items

a) Road Safety/progress on traffic

Following the formation of the road safety work group an invitation to collaborate had been extended to councillors of Read Parish Council. The invitation has been accepted however it was currently unconfirmed which councillors would join the group. Councillor Jacqueline Hampson reported that VMS data had been received from Lancashire County Council however the data appears to be inconsistent and incorrect at points for example there appears to be no data for periods which would be expected to be peak times as well as the road appearing extremely busy at 4am.

RESOLVED: *the clerk will write to Lancashire County Council about the data and ask that this is checked for errors.*

b) Learning from xmas tree event

The Christmas tree light up event saw a low public attendance of only 2 people. Councillors discussed that this was advertised in the newsletter published by the council as well as a newsletter from the School, it seems that word was not sufficiently spread. A meeting with the school will be set up further in advance of the next tree light up event to ensure the event is properly publicised. Councillors discussed that a Christmas tree which was planted in the Parish Garden some years previous should now be large enough to serve as the Parish Christmas tree, this would mean a new tree would not need to be purchased every year. Councillors went on to discuss the Seniors Christmas meal, the meal went well and the seating arrangements had seen improvements from the previous year, it was noted that although the quizzes were enjoyed they may have gone on a little too long.

c) Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau

After previously discussing the Citizens advice Bureau in Clitheroe and which it is noted is struggling financially, Councillors had voted to make a donation of £150 at the end of January 2023 provided the service is still running.

12. Correspondence

Following submission of the Parish Council's response and comments to the Boundary Commission England an acknowledgement of this had been received. A note of

thanks had been received from the Little Green Bus following the donation made to the service.

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

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

17.11.2022	101476	Burnley Hire (reissue of 101444)	£36.00*
21.11.2022	101485	Newsletter printing	£95.00
28.11.2022	101484	Clerks Wage (October)	£228.74
28.11.2022	101486	Clerks Wage (November)	£228.74
07.12.2022	101481	Celebration Sunday school art Prize	£50.00
07.12.2022	101471	Lengthsman Scheme	£800.00
22.12.2022	101487	Clerks Wage (December)	£228.74

*indicates included in accounts reconciliation for previous financial year

b) Unpresented cheques

101473	D M Payroll Services (April 22 to September 22)	£60.00
101488	D M Payroll Services (October 22 to March 23)	£60.00
101489	Little Green bus	£150.00
101490	Higher Trapp (Seniors Xmas Party)	£370.00

c) Income

05.12.2022	Interest	£5.29
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d) Bank reconciliation

Balances 02.01.23			
Community Account	£10,483.10		
Business Saver Account	£9,628.64		£21,773.67
Add: Receipts			£8,858.80
Less: Payments			£8,733.35
Less: Unpresented cheques			£640.00
Balance			£21,259.12

e) Payments to be made

Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 150.00
Clerk's wage (January)	£228.74
Xmas Tree	£ 372.00
Seniors Xmas meal raffle prizes	£11.09
Celebration Sunday Art competition framing	£55.00

15. Items for the next agenda

- Coronation
- Safety rail by School Lane and Whalley Road

The Next Meeting will take place on 9th February 2023.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.