

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

16/03/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Saint Peter's School Hall, School Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7HR on Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

2 member of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence – no apologies for absence were received

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 Meloy and Pollard declared non-pecuniary interest in the Martholme Greenway and Councillors Finn and McKelvey declared a non pecuniary interest in the Village Hall.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2023 – Councillor Barker raised to amend the minute 10.f) to add that Councillor Hampson had made comment that there were public issues of mistrust regarding the accounts and that these issues were unfounded.

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

The new laptop for the clerk had been collected and added to the asset register.

The Clerk had prepared an updated Asset Register. Councillor Hampson commented that the previous Clerk had advised of some First Aid equipment, believed to be CPR training dummies, which was kept in his shed which was not listed on the asset register. Councillors discussed that it had previously been offered to the Council however there was some uncertainty over whether this was accepted.

The current clerk will contact the previous clerk to clarify this.

5. Public participation - none

6. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Peat reported that the council tax for the next financial year has been agreed by the Borough Council, this sees an increase of £5 and will be the lowest in the Lancashire and 10th lowest in the country, it was noted that some areas pay twice as much.

The Haweswater Aquaduct Replacement Programme (HARP) has a 10 year plan to put in a secondary aqueduct to future proof the water supply. A meeting about this is taking place as the work is likely to cause significant disruption.

7. Clerk's Report

The Crime statistics for February are as follows;

1 Burglary (house)

1 Assault

1 Antisocial Behaviour

1 Road Related Offences

8. Reports from external meetings

Martholme Greenway – Dry stone walling has been taking place. The planning permission application for Bridge Heywood Caravan Park has received further objections and has yet to be approved. The Padiham greenway meeting was attended by Martholme Greenway members and was also attended by Roy Halliday from Lancashire County Council who is senior project officer of the Remade Scheme, information was given about the Active Travel plan as well as local cycling and walking infrastructure. A consultation took place last year and there was a large response from people wanting to get across the viaduct, another consultation period will take place in May. There is a change of emphasis towards segregated routes where cyclists will be away from roads where possible.

Village Hall – Several new tables have been delivered to the Village Hall which can be used for events in the Hall. The Tots and Tea group has received a sizeable grant from the National Lottery which will allow them to use the south yard to let the children play outside as well as funding craft activities and toys.

Film nights are being publicised on Facebook.

9. Facebook and Website Report

This Parish Council Meeting was advertised on the Facebook.

10. Decision Items

a) Request from Peter Jelley's family

Peter Jelley was a long standing member of the village and heavily involved in village life, His family have made a request to plant a tree along with his ashes and a install a commemorative plaque in the parish garden. Councillors discussed that this brings forward opportunity to create a policy for items of commemoration. Councillors agreed that this request seems reasonable.

RESOLVED: The clerk will write to the family to advise of the outcome and also draft some guidance.

b) Coronation event

It is noted that a grant of at least £250 can be expected from Ribble Valley Borough Council toward coronation events. An event will be taking place at the Village Hall which will be ticketed and where food will be provided. The cost of food will be £3.50 per head ordering 100 boxes. The Village hall will not be charging for the rent of the hall for the event and making no profit from the event. There will be entertainment at the event.

Councillors discussed making a grant to the village hall for 50% cost of the food plus some funds for decorations etc. for £200. Councillor Hampson raised that she felt the Council works more with the village hall than other groups in the village regarding events. It was discussed that a working group from both Parish Councils had come forward with the plans and not the village hall directly, the village hall will also not be making any profit and will be losing money by hosting the event without charge. It was also noted that any group within the village could come forward with ideas and suggestions for events for the coronation and ask for a grant/support with this from the Parish Council. The event will be publicised on the noticeboards in both Simonstone and Read as well as on the Council's website and Facebook and local shops will be asked to display these.

RESOLVED: 6 Councillors voted to support the event with a grant of £200. No objections were received.

c) Road Safety

The Road safety group have met and come with a list of proposals, it is suggested that Lancashire county council be approached to ask that the village is visited to see first hand the issues faced. it was suggested that contact be made with LCC Highways and Transport department.

RESOLVED: A letter will be drafted from Chairman Peat to County Councillor

Swarbrick asking for a meeting to discuss the issues.

d) Active Travel Plan (Cycling)

Councillor Pollard asked that the plan could be used to protect the route of cycleway 685 from development Councillor Pollard had drafted a letter to Ribble Valley Borough Council detailing this which was read out to the meeting. Councillors asked that the letter is circulated to review and consider fully to be discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: The draft letter will be circulated prior to the next meeting to be discussed in full.

e) Diary 2023/2024

Councillors discussed dates for upcoming meetings. Councillors agreed for the meetings to remain on the second Thursday of the month however there will be an exception to this when the clerk is on Annual leave in May when the meeting will take place on the third Thursday.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of dates will be published in the noticeboards and on the website.

11. Correspondence

A pack of leaflets and posters advising that voters will need ID to vote has been received. Flyers have been placed in the noticeboards and will be in the village hall, local shops will be asked to display the information.

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

Application 3/2023/0084 Calder Vale Park, Simonstone Lane, Simonstone BB12 7ND

The application is for a proposed new production facility (Class B2) and associated works. Resubmission of approved application 3/2021/0947

Councillors discussed the application and there were no current objections.

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

date	Chq no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total
03.02.2023	101494	Clerks Wage (January)	£228.74	£0.00	£228.74
13.02.2023	101491	Dove Skye – Christmas Tree	£310.00	£62.00	£372.00
21.02.2023	101496	Clerks Wage (February)	£228.74	£0.00	£228.74
02.03.2023	101497	Use IT – Clerk's Laptop	£640.12	£128.03	£768.15

b) Unpresented cheques

Cheque no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total
101495	Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00

c) Income

no income for this period

d) Payments to be made

Description	Net	VAT	Total
Clerks Wage (March 2023)	£228.74	£0.00	£228.74
Clerk's expenses	£132.56	£7.67	£140.23

e) Bank reconciliation

Balances 01.03.23			
Community Account	£8,379.38		
Business Saver Account	£9,628.64		£18,008.02
Add: Receipts			£9,058.80
Less: Payments			£11,037.07
Less: Unpresented cheques			£150.00
Balance			£15,879.75

15. Items for the next agenda

- Active Travel Plan

The Next Meeting will take place on 13th March 2023.
The meeting ended at 8.05 pm.