

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

18/05/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read and Simonstone Village Hall, East View, Read BB12 7PS on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Peat
Councillors: Duckworth, Finn, Hampson, McKelvey, Norse & Pollard.

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

5 members of the public attended.

1. List of Councillors Elected –

Alan Vincent Duckworth
Stephen Finn
Jacqueline Hampson
Robert Eric Jebb McKelvey
Greera Katrina Norse
David Alan Peat
Clifton Charles Pollard
Maureen Vaughton

2. **Apologies for absence** – apologies for absence were received from Councillor McKelvey

3. **Appointment of Chairman** – David Peat proposed and seconded

4. Appointment of Vice Chairman and Council Representatives

Vice-Chair	To be confirmed
RV Parish Liaison Committee	David Peat & Jacqueline Hampson
LA Local Councils	To be reviewed as necessary
Parish Planning Area	Vice Chair and two other councillors to be confirmed
Governance Panel	Clerk
Bank Signatories	David Peat & Stephen Finn
Champion for the Youth & Elderly	To be reviewed as necessary
Read Simonstone Village Hall	To be reviewed as necessary
Martholme Greenway	To be reviewed as necessary
Lengthsman Coordinator	Alan Duckworth & Clifton Pollard
District Councillor	Gaye McCrum & Malcolm Peplow
Facebook	Maureen Vaughton & Jacqueline Hampson
Website co-ordinator	Jaqueline Hampson & Stephen Finn

Councillor Stephen Finn was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice Chairman as well as Greera Norse also being nominated and seconded for the position. Councillor Hampson put forward that any person making a deciding vote (in this case the vice chair should the chairman be unavailable) should be from the village of Simonstone. Other councillors believed that any councillor should be eligible to be vice chair as they were eligible to become councillors and were voted into the role by the residents of Simonstone. It was resolved to confirm the guidance in this matter and decide the position at the next meeting. This would go on to impact the Parish Planning Area post, which will also be reviewed following confirmation of the guidance at the next meeting.

5. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations

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

5.2 To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) – *none.*

5.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

Regarding the speeding on Clough Lane – for clarity Jaqueline Hampson declared that she had been working with the conservative party to make connections to assist the village in improving road safety.

6. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 13th April 2023 – *minutes were read and agreed*

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

Regarding minute 13/04/2023 10.a) Coronation, it was noted that Gayle Wray and John Barker asked for litter pickers which had been provided by Ribble Valley Borough Council. 4 litter pickers were provided for REG and 2 for The Martholme Greenway.

Regarding minute 13/04/2013 10.d) PROW (Public Rights of Way) Scheme, the Lengthsman and been contacted to make enquiries about replacing the stile with a gate as well as the waterlogged area.

Regarding minute 13/04/2023 10.f) Maintenance issues, the lengthsman had begun to make repairs to the wall of the Parish Garden where the top stones had gone missing, unfortunately a vehicle has since damaged the wall causing it to need much more extensive repairs. The Clerk has contacted the PCSO about the incident to see if it has been recorded so that a claim may be made against the vehicle's insurance. Details of the Council's insurance will also be checked to confirm whether this is covered.

Councillor Peat noted that a TTRO will be in effect for one week of July, this will close part of School Lane to traffic and may worsen local traffic flow.

8. Public participation –

A member of the public wished to extend Thanks to Councillor Maureen Vaughton for her work on the coronation celebration along with other councillors including Stephen Finn, David Peat and Clifton Pollard. It was noted that these events take a lot of work in preparations, she confirmed it was good to be supported by the councillors.

A resident raised issues with Litter bin emptying, councillors discussed that it is Ribble Valley Borough Council who empties the litter bins. All bins are now numbered and should there be an issue with any of them there will be a number to call and request emptying.

A resident raised concerns about some Japanese knot weed seen growing locally, It was confirmed that this is a Borough council issue so should be reported to Ribble Valley Borough Council.

8. Borough Councillor's Report – none

9. Clerk's Report

The Crime statistics for April for the area of Read & Simonstone are as follows;

Drugs - 0

Vehicle crime - 1

Criminal damage excluding vehicles - 0

Public order - 0

Anti-social behaviour - 0

Assault - 0

Theft - 0

Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle - 0
Burglary – 0

10. reports from external meetings

none

11. Decision Items

a) Parish Council Code of Conduct

Councillors are expected to sign up to the Code of Conduct, this is available on the Parish Council Website and will also be circulated to councillors via email.

RESOLVED: Councillors are to read the document thoroughly and confirm their acceptance.

b) Speeding on Clough Lane

The council received a report that the 20mph speed limit on Clough Lane is not being followed, there were concerns about children washing cars parked roadside. It was noted that there is more of an issue traveling the down the hill. This road is a single-track lane. Councillors commented that there are clear signs and a SPID in place in the area. Road Safety and speeding has been a key issue which the Parish council is working to resolve and has created a dedicated Road Safety working group to help address this.

RESOLVED: The Road Safety Group will monitor this area of concern and review.

c) Completed Repair and Painting of Simonstone Sign on A671

Duncan Armstrong has completed painting of the "Simonstone" sign and this has been put back in place. Councillor Hampson suggested printing a Card of Thanks for his work as he has quoted this at a low materials only cost. An invoice will need to be presented before payment can be made.

d) Cost of Coronation Picnic table/bench

A grant of £500 for the coronation was received from Ribble Valley Borough Council. Some of this money has been put toward the indoor street party event held in the Village Hall. Councillors had discussed purchasing a picnic table with a commemorative plaque for the village. Councillors discussed some options and quotes presented and decided that rounded/octagonal picnic benches preferable as these seemed easier for people to get into the seat as it would not be necessary to shuffle along or climb over the seat. Low maintenance was seen as preferable. The Lengthsman will need to be contacted for a level paved area where the picnic bench can be sited. ARK plastics is local and has been used before for the Jubilee Bench, the offer an eight seater picnic bench with a round top, this is made of 100% recycled plastic and is available in Black or Brown with a cost of £765+VAT plus shipping, there are options for a plaque in stainless steel (£65) or brass (£60) plaque. The plaque would say that the picnic table was installed in the year of the coronation of King Charles III with funding from RVBC and Simonstone Parish Council to commemorate coronation on 6th May 2023.

RESOLVED: Enquiries will be made with the Lengthsman initially.

e) Report back from Coronation event

Feedback from the event was very positive. The event was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor who is soon to become the Mayor showed interest in attending any future events. The event was advertised on noticeboards and in all shops in the village as well as on social media. Comments were made that some residents only stumbled across the event last minute but greatly enjoyed attending the event. The event raised £237 from the raffle and £257 from ticket sales for a total of £494 to be split between two local charities; Ribble Valley food bank & Pendleside Hospice.

f) Plastic free Initiative

Gayle Wray from REG spoke about the Plastic free initiative that the group is trying to achieve throughout the village which will encourage local people to stop using single use plastics, this would help to prevent litter and the use of oil in producing these plastics as well as CO2 emissions. 5 councillors would need to sign up to give up three single use plastics from daily living (for example plastic bottles, soap dispensers, plastic spoons etc.). An award is available should the council sign up. The council would be asked to support events such as the planned mass unwrap at Tesco, this would take place outside the store and with consent of store manager. The Parish Council would be able to add a symbol to the letterhead to show support for the plastic free initiative. It was suggested the council could show support and spread awareness by including information in the newsletter.

RESOLVED: Councillors voted to support the Plastic free initiative and take the plastic free pledge.

g) Noticeboard

Councillors discussed the noticeboard by the Stork Hotel and the quotes which had been gathered to that point. Councillors discussed looking for a more economical replacement.

RESOLVED: Councillors resolve to look for cheaper quotes prior to next meeting.

12. Correspondence

none

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

Application number 3/2023/0304 at 9 Woodfields, Whins Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7SB

The application is for Proposed erection of a single storey side extension.

No objections

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out of accounts

date	description	Net	VAT	Gross
20/04/2023	Clerk's wage	£228.74	£0.00	£228.74
21/04/2023	Clerk's expenses	£5.75	£0.00	£5.75
28/04/2023	RSVH – Hall Hire	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
28/04/2023	RSVH – Hall Hire	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00

b) Unpresented cheques

Chq no.	description	Net	VAT	Gross
101495	Citizens advice bureau	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
101504	Website domain & hosting fees	£133.05	£0.00	£133.05
101506	Lengthsman scheme	£335.76	£0.00	£335.76
101507	Npower xmas lights 21/22	£5.31	£0.27	£5.58
101508	Npower xmas lights 22/23	£3.86	£0.19	£4.05
101509	Use-IT Microsoft office package	£11.28	£2.26	£13.54

Cheque 101495, donation to Citizens Advice Bureau, will be withdrawn as the business is no longer active.

c) income received

11/04/2022	RVBC - Precept	£8,400.00
17/04/2022	RVBC - Coronation grant	£500.00

d) Bank reconciliation as at 29 April 2023

Balances 01.04.23			
Community Account	£8,018.08		
Business Saver Account	£9,640.59		£17,658.67
Add: Receipts			£8,900.00
Less: Payments			£274.49
Less: unpresented cheques			£641.98
Balance			£25,642.20

e) payments to be made

Description	Net	VAT	Gross
Clerks wage May	£228.74	£0.00	£228.74
RVBC – litter bin emptying (annual)	£420.29	£84.06	£504.35
Ingham & Yorke – playing field & bus shelter rent	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
Painting of “Simonstone” sign on A671			TBC

Spend vs budget has been assessed and there has been recent underspend.

15. Items for the next agenda

Selection of Vice chairman

Litter bins

Road Safety

Parish plan working group

Noticeboards

The Next Meeting will take place on 8th June 2023.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm