

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

07/09/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **St Peter's school church hall, School Lane, Simonstone on Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk) & Karen Farnhill (new clerk)

Borough Councillor Peplow and 2 members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – none

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

3. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2023 – approved.

4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – *The Celebration Sunday event was discussed at Read Parish Council's last meeting and the suggestion was brought forward that this could become a biannual event or take place in a later month such as January. It was suggested contacting other participants and local clubs to gauge opinions on this. Councillor Peat and Councillor Hacking of Read Parish Council will meet to discuss this further.*

Councillors all confirmed they have completed their declaration of interest forms.

5. Public participation – a resident of Clough Lane spoke of issues of speeding vehicles along Clough Lane and Trapp Lane, the council received word that drivers are hitting Clough Lane doing speeds of 60 mph. when residents have confronted drivers they have received abusive comments in return. It was suggested that traffic calming measures should be used. There is also no pavement along many of the roads locally causing an extra hazard for pedestrians. Along Clough Lane there is a 20mph speed limit however many drivers do not adhere to this when coming from Trapp Lane. Children travelling to school are in danger. The Road Safety Group are uniting with other Parish Councils to raise issues to Lancashire County Council. Clough lane is being monitored by the Road Safety Group. A report from each village is being compiled highlighting issues and suggesting how these can be tackled most effectively. To change a speed limit there is a large cost associated. Traffic needs slowing on the approach to Clough Lane. The PCSO may be able to take some action regarding monitoring speed. Lancashire County Council will not change the speed limit on Trapp Lane as they have been asked about this in the past. It was suggested that the SpID (Speed Indicator Device) could be placed at the entrance to Clough Lane. It was understood that other areas have many speed bumps to slow traffic. In the past actions have been taken in response to speed related fatalities, this is an outdated view and new tactics are in place to monitor issues and drive change where this is needed most. Speed change signs are sometimes hidden by the trees, the lengthsman will be asked to review this.

There is a SpID plate on Clough Lane, the SpID could be placed here more often. Ribble Valley Borough Council have some SpIDs which can be rented, a quote will be requested.

6. Borough Councillor's Report –

Borough Councillor Peplow advised that Ribble Valley Borough Council have a summer recess in August so few have been Committee meetings held.

Full Council was held on 11th July confirming Committees for Councillors Peplow and McCrum as follows:

Councillor Peplow: Community Services, Licensing, Parish Liaison

Councillor McCrum: Accounts and Audit, Economic Development, Policy and Finance

Councillor Peplow advised he attended the Community Services Committee on 22nd August and successfully requested that an additional box should be added to the application form used by recreation and culture groups to apply for grant funding from Ribble Valley Borough Council. This now asks how the project contributes towards environmental sustainability and will encourage applicants to consider the environmental issues.

Councillor Peplow advised he will be meeting with the Head at Simonstone St Peter's CE Primary School to introduce himself and discuss issues of mutual concern including road safety and ways the School may be able to add its weight to the campaign. Contact has been made with County Councillor Ged Murfin in connection with road safety and discussions have started about the different issues of concern, a summary of the measures considered necessary to improve road safety will be provided to him.

Councillors have not yet agreed to meet with me on site however the dialogue has commenced and pressure on Lancashire County Council will be maintained through Councillor Murfin. All residents who witness road safety related incidents or crashes are encouraged to notify the Parish Council as well as the Police whether or not any person is injured or the Police attend. It was emphasized that Police data is collected by the County Council to provide support for any road safety improvements and therefore this reporting is essential if our case for road safety improvements is going to be made successfully for action by the County Council.

Councillor Peplow advised he will be meeting a member of staff from Ingham and Yorke tomorrow to request permission from the Huntroyde Estate to erect some community road safety awareness signs on Estate land bordering on Back Lane, Whins Lane, Trapp Lane and Sadden Road in Simonstone. The same applies to land in Read bordering Back Lane and Whins Lane. It would be a major boost if the Huntroyde Estate supports our rural lanes road safety campaign. He advised he will update the Parish on the outcome and would like to arrange a public meeting in the Parishes to discuss and agree the next steps in relation to rural lane safety. He advises that he has continued to report potholes, trip hazards and blocked road drains using the 'LoveCleanStreets' app that is available to download free from Google Play Store or Apple's App Store. He advises he would encourage all residents who are confident using a smart phone to report any defects with roads, footpaths or hedges they come across. The app is easy to use and keeps whoever reported a fault up to date with progress. He confirmed that the drop kerbs have been improved and tactile pavings provided at footpath crossing points near the petrol station many months after he first reported the issue. The County Council is sometimes very slow to do the work but we will only get these things done if we ask for them by reporting them.

Councillors Peplow and McCrum held the first Councillor Drop-in sessions at Read and Simonstone Village Hall on 22nd July and 26th August from 10-11am and were very pleased to meet some residents on both days. They will now be alternating between Read and Simonstone Village Hall and the Simonstone Old C of E School on School Lane.

The upcoming drop-ins at Simonstone Old C of E School on School are as follows:

- 10-11am Saturday 23rd September 2023
- 10-11am Saturday 25th November 2023

- 10-11am Saturday 24th February 2024
- 10-11am Saturday 27th April 2024

A flyer will be displayed in the Notice Board outside Simonstone Old C of E School showing these future dates. The alternate months' drop-ins (none held in December) will be held in Read.

PCSO Katie Ferguson has been asked her to take action on problem parking / obstruction at and near the junction of Whins Lane and Trapp Lane.

Councillor Peplow advised he is looking into a potential planning enforcement issue relating to the cycleway running through the Simonstone Business Park from Blackburn Road to the north west corner at the rear of the site. Following a resident request, he has assisted in enabling a consultation process to decide whether residents on the Fountains Avenue Estate wish to become a "No Cold Calling Zone" (NCCZ). All residents should have received a consultation letter and window / door sticker. If the majority of responding residents confirm they want to become a designated zone, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards will put NCCZ signs up on suitable lamp posts. Several areas of Simonstone have already adopted this scheme.

He advises he would like to thank Councillor Scott Cunliffe on Burnley Council for his successful efforts to get general and human waste cleared from the lay-bys on the A682 just outside the Parish and Ribble Valley Borough Border at around the time of the May election. The volume of waste was considerable and agreed to be beyond the scope of volunteers. Further discussions will be held with Scott about this ongoing problem much of which is caused by insanitary behaviour by HGV and van drivers. A more permanent management solution is needed to prevent an eyesore and health hazard at the gateway to the Ribble Valley.

7. Clerk's Report

Handover to the new clerk Miss Karen Farnhill has started and will continue until the current clerk leaves.

The PCSO has provided the crime statistics for July & August.

In July;

Assault x 1 - Alcohol was a contributing factor.

Burglary x 1 - 1 x shed break occurred in June but not reported until July.

Anti-Social Behaviour x 1 - Related to Electric bikes on the Highway.

Theft x 2 - 1 theft of a Motability Scooter from Greenacres and 1 theft of personal possession.

Theft from a vehicle x 1.

Damage to a vehicle x 2 - 1 is known offender and personal the second is an unknown offender, the victim has been targeted on a number of occasions having parked his car at the bottom of Haugh Avenue, all the nearby houses have drives so wouldn't be aggrieved by his parking as sometimes seen in cases like this and he isn't aware of any ongoing disputes so there appears to be no reason why he seems to be being targeted. Any additional information can be reported to the PCSO.

In August;

Theft x 1 - Make off without payment from Petrol Station.

Damage to a vehicle x 1 - Wing mirror deliberately knocked off a parked car.

Road related offence x 1 - Mobile phone use whilst driving.

During August a Community Road Watch was conducted for vehicles traveling over the 20mph limit in the Lawrence Avenue / Harewood Avenue location this tasking was as a direct result of speed concerns being raised via the Road Safety Partnership.

PCSO has confirmed some details from a recent incident involving a tractor crash outside the petrol station. The driver was 18 so could legally drive any tractor of any size.

8. Facebook & Website Report

Meeting dates have been updated

9. Decision Items

a) Ribble Valley Draft Economic Plan

The document is noted however no timescales for this are given. Councillors commented that they are disappointed that there are no measurable outcomes. Regarding town centre action plans, money is being invested into local town centres. There are no notes about how to manage the increase in traffic from increased popularity of the area and increase in hospitality and tourism. There will be extra traffic in Read & Simonstone if there is more traffic headed toward Whalley & Clitheroe.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to respond with disappointment that there are no measurable outcomes and no evidence of handling/anticipating traffic problems.

b) Wall payment

Payment has been made and the wall has been fully repaired

c) Notice board

A quote has been requested and will be reported at the next meeting.

d) Coronation marking of the event

Objections to the Picnic Bench have been received, concerns include litter, damage and anti-social behaviour. Trees were suggested to be added to the Parish Green (across from the Stork Hotel), fruit trees were suggested and it was considered that space should also be given for children to play. An Oak tree was suggested with commemorative plaque.

RESOLVED: Councillors will look into providing a commemorative Oak tree.

e) Parish Clerk

Miss Collinson leaves on 30th September, Miss Farnhill starts on 1st September to allow handover to take place. The new clerk has a holiday booked for the first week in October so will not be available for that meeting. Councillors discussed solutions.

RESOLVED: Councillor Maureen Vaughan agreed to take brief minutes at the October meeting.

f) Christmas Tree event

As the schools have only just returned from summer break a meeting has not been arranged with the Head Teacher, this will be arranged to organise an event with Councillors Norse & Finn.

g) PROW Biodiversity grant

Public right of Way goes through the equestrian area however most people walk around. PROW funding cannot be used on a path that is not a public right of way. It was suggested the official pathway needs marking more clearly. The right of way was moved at Borough Council level however this has not been changed at County Council Level. The lengthsman can be asked to put signs up indicating the correct pathway. It was noted that the Gallops may have been put in without planning permission. The current pathway used is muddy however as gates have been put in then people can access the true PROW.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will apply for the grant. The Clerk will write to landowner to advise we are planning to put up markers indicating the correct

PROW pathway.

h) Road Safety

Road safety issues were discussed as part of the public participation section of the meeting.

i) Seniors Christmas Lunch

The Higher Trapp Hotel has been booked for Thursday 7th December for eighty guests. This will be distributed 40/40 between the parishes of Read and Simonstone. The cost stands at £20 per person. The Parish Council will fund £10 per guest from the parish and each guest will be asked to fund £10. Currently a £25 deposit per parish has been paid. It has been suggested that the parish council could put funding towards 6 raffle prizes with costs to be split evenly between the two Parish Councils. Read will be advertising in their newsletter. It was suggested that Simonstone could do the same. Councillors will suggest additional information for the newsletter which will be discussed at the next meeting.

j) Lengthsman Rates – to confirm increase to £20/h

Angela from Sabden Parish Council has suggested that the new lengthsman's wage is in need of an increase. The scheme is good value for money and the quality of work is good.

RESOLVED: it was agreed to increase the pay to £20 Per Hour.

k) LALC/NALC Subscription

Agreed to make to make the payment to continue subscription.

10. Correspondence

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order - Whins Lane, Simonstone 21/08/2023 – 25/08/2023

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order - Blackburn Road, Simonstone 16/09/23 - 27/09/23 (overnight closure)

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order - Whins Lane, Simonstone, on the 31/07/23, until 02/08/23, to enable New Water Connection works to take place.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order - Blackburn Road, Simonstone 16/09/23 - 27/09/23 (overnight closure)

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order - Clough Lane, Simonstone 02.10.23 - 19.10.23

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

Application 3/2023/0560 Sunny Bank, Whalley Road, Simonstone, BB12 7HT

The application is for Two single-storey extensions to side and rear.

No Objections

Application 3/2023/0521 Evesons Barn, Simonstone Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7NU

Proposed conversion of disused agricultural barn to one dwelling, including demolition of attached outbuilding, creation of garden area and parking.

No Objections

12. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

Date	Chq no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total
13.07.2023	101518	RSVH – Coronation event	£212.79	£0.00	£212.79
17.07.2023	101519	clerks partial backpay plus	£91.70	£0.00	£91.70

		June increase			
25.07.2023	101521	Clerk's Wage (July 2023)	£320.44	£0.00	£320.44
26.07.2023	101514	Use IT – maintenance & support (Mar, Apr)	£4.16	£0.84	£5.00
26.07.2023	101509	Use-IT – office package (Jan)	£11.28	£2.26	£13.54
26.07.2023	101513	Use-IT – office package (Feb, Mar, Apr)	£33.84	£6.78	£40.62
04.08.2023	101523	RSVH – Coronation event	£12.50	£0.00	£12.50
08.08.2023	100011	P Hardman – wall repair	£750.00	£0.00	£750.00
14.08.2023	101520	HMRC Tax (June 2023)	£18.80	£0.00	£18.80
14.08.2023	101530	HMRC Tax (July 2023)	£21.00	£0.00	£21.00
14.08.2023	101525	L Pickering Audit fee	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00
16.08.2023	101524	ICO Data Protection fee	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
16.08.2023	101528	REG environment group grant	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
23.08.2023	101526	Clerks Wage (August 2023) plus partial backpay	£320.44	£0.00	£320.44

b) Unpresented cheques

Cheque no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total
101529	M Hacking (50% xmas meal deposit Higher Trapp)	£20.83	£4.17	£25.00

c) Income

Date	Description	Total
17.08.2023	HMRC VAT return	£476.09

d) Payments to be made

Description	Net	VAT	Total
Use IT – maintenance & support (April, July)	£4.16	£0.84	£5.00
Use-IT – office package (5 months)	£11.03	£56.40	£67.70
Clerk's Wage (September 2023)	£248.24	£0.00	£248.24
New Clerk's Wage (September 2023)	£248.24	£0.00	£248.24
Painting of "Simonstone" sign	£95.00	£0.00	£95.00
LALC/NALC Subscription	£228.91	£0.00	£228.91
HMRC VAT (August 2023)	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00

e) Bank reconciliation

Balances 31.06.23			
Community Account	£14,940.87		
Business Saver Account	£9,660.69		£24,601.56
Add: Receipts			£476.09
Less: Payments			£2,071.83
Less: Unpresented cheques			£25.00
Balance			£22,980.82

f) Budget/Spend analysis

Noted that a donation has not yet been made to Read Parish Council for the Playground

14. Items for the next agenda

- Playground donation
- Noticeboard
- Coronation tree
- Newsletter – Stephen to lead
- Christmas Tree event - Greera & Stephen
- Seniors Christmas Lunch
- Celebration Sunday
- Road Safety

6Gi at Time Tech Park prohibited by advertising agency from using 6G internet as an advert. There are flags with 6Ginternet printed on them outside the technology park. This is a matter for the Advertising Standards Agency.

The meeting ended at 8.08 pm

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th October