

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

6/11/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read Village Hall, East View, Read** on **Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: Karen Farnhill (clerk)

Borough Councillor Peplow and 1 member of the public attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Norse

2. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors *on items on the agenda.*

Cllr Pollard confirmed an interest in the subject of Martholme Greenway with no pecuniary interest.

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

Cllr Peat reminded all present of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct and of the need to respect each other. He stated that as a Councillor one is entrusted to represent local residents. He added that the Code had 10 principles which everyone had signed up to and these could be viewed again on the RVBC website.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 5th October 2023 – *approved.*

A number of issues were raised following the previous meeting regarding correspondence and interaction between Councillors.

- a) Cllr Vaughton stated that she had found an email sent on 19th October 2023 insulting and upsetting and would not have intentionally missed sending information.*
- b) Cllr Finn wanted to clarify that he had not been a volunteer on the Martholme Greenway and asked Cllr Hampson for copies of the photos she had of him working. Cllr Hampson said that defamatory remarks had been made and they raised issues under the Code of Conduct.*

Responses received needed further clarification and if necessary would be referred to Mair Hill.

Members also commented on the increased use of emails in decision making and the Chairman agreed to circulate thoughts on regulating these issues.

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

- a) LCWIP – there has been no agreement*
- b) Layby bins – it has been agreed that 2 should be purchased and this should be*

followed up - KF

- c) Letter to Fort Vale required – KF*
- d) Newsletter – approximately 500 copies required. Distribution list to be provided by Alan*
- e) Christmas Tree switch on event – Greer to be contacted to check final details. The date is confirmed as Friday 1st December and the switch on will be 4pm. The School will provide the music. Stephen has the lights and Karen has the Magic Button if it is needed. Clifton requested that if there are any spare lights could these be used by Read Parish Council. A donation to pay for the Christmas gifts for the children was agreed. There are 71 children in the parish and a small chocolate Santa had been suggested. DP stated that it was too late to make any changes to this but next year the donation should be a specific gift for the school.*

5. Public Participation

Ms R Travis from Simonstone Lane attended the meeting

a) she expressed her concern about the weight and speed of traffic on Whalley Road

b) and about the effluent being pumped into the River Calder at Altham Bridge

Cllr Peplow explained that the effluent was due to mine workings and had been sampled in 2020. Concern was expressed about the smell and whether the substance was hazardous. It was agreed that RVBC Environmental Health Team should be contacted to check the problem.

A discussion was held about the possibility of having an independent chemical analysis of the effluent once further information has been gained from RVBC.

6. Borough Councillor's Report –

Borough Councillor Peplow gave his report. A copy is attached.

7. Clerk's Report

No Crime statistics provided.

8. Facebook & Website Report

Nothing to report

9. Decision Items

a) Remembrance Day

Two wreaths have been purchased by the Clerk and reimbursement is required. The cards require writing prior to the ceremony.

b) Rural Levelling Up

DP asked for any ideas on how a grant could be used. It was suggested that a question could be asked in the Newsletter as a Stop Press Item. – SF and JH

c) Road Safety

JH confirmed the 5 areas of concern, and that feedback was awaited

- a) Trapp Lane/Whins Lane
- b) Trapp Lane/Clough Lane – signage covered by trees.
- c) A671 in front of the school, School Lane and Simonstone Lane
- d) Simonstone Lane – residential speed problem
- e) Woodfield estate off Whins Lane – sight issue

The main Road issues fall under a separate project.

- d) **Notice Board** – quotes obtained, and decision made to purchased from Notice Board Company at a price of £988.78
- e) **Playground Donation** - £375 – previously agreed and to be processed - KF
- f) **Seniors Christmas Lunch** – 18 tickets sold so far. Event to be advertised in the Newsletter and via posters at the café. A cheque for £375 will be required for the deposit. – payment agreed.
- g) **Bypass Position** – AD stated that traffic through the village had continued to grow and there had been no increase in the infrastructure. It was agreed that a joint working group of 3 councillors from each Parish should be formed with Read PC. CP agreed to contact Read PC. Views should also be sought from the public via the Parish Plan Questionnaire.

10. Correspondence

- a) Correspondence from Mr Anderson – Letter to be sent to Mr Gee requesting the pruning of the overhanging Brambles on Simonstone Lane - KF
- b) Whins Lane Excavation in the quarry – RVBC to be contacted to request planning officer visit. – CP

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

Application 3/2023/0799 – Calder Vale Park, Simonstone

Discharge of conditions in relation to surface water drainage

No Objections

Application 3/2023/0832 Old Barn House, Simonstone Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7NX

Certificate of Lawfulness. Single story extension to rear following demolition of conservatory, install air pump, upgrade roof and alterations to fenestration.

No Objections

12. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

Date	Chq no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total
14. 10 2023	101529	April Collinson holiday pay	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00
19.10.2023	101535	A Collinson Sept salary	£248.24	£0.00	£248.24
23.10.2023	101532	HMRC Tax August 20223	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00

b) Unpresented cheques

Cheque no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total
101536	Use IT – maintenance & support (April, July)	£4.16	£0.84	£5.00
101537	Use-IT – office package (5 months)	£11.03	£56.40	£67.70

101534	New Clerk's Wage (September 2023)	£248.24	£0.00	£248.24
101533	Painting of "Simonstone" sign	£95.00	£0.00	£95.00
101531	LALC/NALC Subscription	£228.91	£0.00	£228.91
101539	HMRC A Collinson	£16.60		£16.60
101538	A Collinson holiday pay	£30.45		£30.45
101544	CPRE membership	£36.00		£36.00
101542	PFK Littlejohn	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00

c) Income

Date	Description	Total
04.09.2023	Interest - Barclays	£25.22

d) Payments to be made

Description	Net	VAT	Total
HMRC Tax (September 2023/outgoing clerk)	£16.60	£0.00	£16.60
Clerk's wage (November 2023)	£248.24	£0.00	£248.24
Bus Shelter Cleaning	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00
Read Playground donation	£375.00	£0.00	£375.00

e) Bank reconciliation

Opening Balances 30.09.23			
Community Account	£14,095.13		
Business Saver Account	£8,910.69		£23,005.82
Add: Receipts			£25.22
Less: Payments			£299.24
Less: Unpresented cheques			£795.84
Balance			£21935.96

f) Budget/Spend analysis

Noted that a donation has not yet been made to Read Parish Council for the Playground Noticeboard purchase £988.78

Payment required for Remembrance Wreaths

Deposit required for Seniors Christmas Party £375.00

14. Items for the next agenda

- CPRE – Role and responsibilities
- Parish Plan.
- Bypass Update
- Bus Shelters
- Pay rise approval for Clerical Staff

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 4th January at 7.00pm at St Peters Church Hall, School Lane, Simonstone BB12 7HR