

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

8th February 2024

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read and Simonstone Village Hall, East View , Read, on Thursday 8 February 2024 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: Karen Farnhill (clerk)

1. Apologies for absence –

Borough Councillor Peplow represented by Cllr Gaye McCrum
Cllr Finn, Cllr Norse

2. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations

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

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. Public Participation

None

4. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 4th January 2024 – *approved.*

Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda –

- a) *On page 1 point 4.C was requested by Cllr Norse.*
- b) *From page 2 point 4.5 traffic reduction was not mentioned.*
- c) *Page 4 printer budget was £250 to include VAT.*

5. Public Participation

None

6. Borough Councillor's Report –

Borough Councillor McCrum gave the report prepared by Councillor Peplow. A copy is attached.

7. Clerk's Report

1 x Assault
1 x ASB
4 x Road related - 3x No insurance and 1 x drink driver

8. Facebook & Website Report

Nothing to report

9. Decision Items

a) ByPass Group

Cllr Duckworth reported that S Nearey had agreed to join the Group which would be meeting the following week. He asked for agreement in principle for support from Simonstone Parish Council for a proposal for the Bypass.

It was agreed that an information document would be produced and forwarded to all Simonstone Parish Councillors for their comments and then an appropriate decision could be made and proposals forwarded to RVBC and Lancashire County Council as necessary.

b) Parish Plan Working Group

To be reconvened.

Cllr Pollard to withdraw from the Group. Group to comprise of Cllrs Finn, Duckworth and Hampson.

Plan to be reviewed and completed as soon as possible with consideration being given to the questions relevant to the Businesses in the area.

c) Fort Vale

Cllr Pollard confirmed that he had been in discussion with Fort Vale and was awaiting a meeting.

The footbridge and stream erosion would also be discussed.

The Lengthsman will install the Commemorative Bench once permission has been granted.

d) Bus Shelter Litter Bins

Cllr Duckworth asked about progress. Two bins are required and a steel post removed in the layby. Bins are to be ordered once the type and location is confirmed.

e) Printer

The Clerk reported on the HP printer she had purchased for £50 with a £3.99 per month contract for cartridges.

Cllr Hampson thought that a greater amount of printing would be necessary

It was agreed to hold off making a purchase until the new Clerk is in post.

f) Parish Clerk Vacancy

Cllr Peat explained that he was having difficulty appointing a new clerk. He had asked for advice from M Hill and M Scott at RVBC. He had asked an existing clerk who is prepared to do the role but not until after the end of April 2024. He suggested that the role should be broken up and that Cllrs Peat and Finn would work on the agendas and Cllr Hampson would complete the March and April minutes.

Mr David Rogers CPFA from Oswaldtwistle would help with the accounting which should amount to approximately 2.5 days work. Cllr Peat suggested that an honorarium should be paid for this.

All agreed on this temporary measure.

g) Parish Liaison Meeting

Cllr Peat reported that the data being used to formulate the local plan is out of date.

All information will be circulated in the next few weeks.

h) CPRE

Cllr Hampson distributed information about the remit of the CPRE and it was agreed that it should be reviewed to establish if enough value is gained from membership.

i) Meeting dates

The dates circulated by Cllr Peat were accepted and it was noted that there was no venue for the 2nd May meeting due to elections.

j) Banking

Cllr Peat had visited Barclays Bank in Fishergate Preston. Simonstone Parish Council had been registered as a charity this has now been changed to a Parish Council Account. Next step is to change address in order to receive the bank statements then Cllr Duckworth will need to attend Barclays with Identification in order to be added to the signatories. Subsequently we shall adopt ebanking.

k) Christmas Lights

Cllr Vaughton suggested that Simonstone should have some Christmas lights on the lamp posts through the village. A discussion was held and costs and procedures discussed. Further information is required.

l) Safe Lanes

Cllr Pollard reported on the progress with the Safe Lane signs. They can only be put on private land and he is discussing this with the landowners.

m) Planning Issue

Cllr McKelvey expressed his concern about work being carried out at Rock Bottom Cottage, Whins Lane. He said it was unclear what was happening and that planning permission had just been submitted. This would need consideration as soon as possible.

10. Correspondence

None

11. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements

None

12. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

Again no bank statements have been received

Date	Chq no.	Description	Net	VAT	Total

b) Unpresented cheques

f) Budget/Spend analysis

14. Items for the next agenda

- Parish Plan.
- Bypass Update

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

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