

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Read School, Straits Lane on Wednesday, 24 October 2007 at 7.30pm.

1. **Present:** Mrs. D. Collinson (Chairman), Mr. B. Jeffery, Mr. C. Law, Mr. A. Mashiter, Mr. G. Nichols, Mr. C. Pollard and Mr. D. Waterhouse.
Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. Forster
2. There were no declarations of Councillors' interests.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
4. **District Councillors' Report:**
Representations have been made to Lancashire County Council for the Stork footpath to be included in the 2008 budget allocation.
5. **Tennyson Avenue:**
It was agreed that the Chief Executive, RVBC, be asked to hold an inquiry into why it took 10 years to locate the document stating that the maintenance of Tennyson Avenue belonged to the Borough Council. There is a serious fault in the Borough Council's administration which must be addressed.
6. **CCTV - Recreation Ground:**
Ribble Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has agreed to grant £1000 towards the installation of CCTV on the playground. Padiham Life is considering a request from the cricket club and work will commence when confirmation of the grant is received.
7. **Dudley Hill Well:**
LCC to be asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the well.
8. **Senior Citizens' Party:**
Arrangements for the party have been finalised.
9. **Proposed Racecourse:**
Lord Zetland has advised the Parish Council that an outline Planning Application will be submitted in July 2009.
10. **30mph Site Meeting:**
Representatives from the Parish Council met Mr. Nugent and Mr. Cooke, LCC, to discuss the relocation of the 30mph speed limits on Straits Lane, Whins Lane and Dudley Hill. It was agreed that this proposal will be included in the Agenda for the next Ribble Valley Traffic Liaison Meeting and, subject to approval, will be advertised in December 2007.
11. **Post Box Relocation:**
The Parish Council has written twice requesting the Post Office to retain the large post box on the junction of Straits Lane/Whalley Road, the relocation of which has caused concern for many residents. The remaining boxes are inconveniently placed and are unable to accommodate large letters, packages or heavy volumes of mail. Having received a negative response from the Post Office, Nigel Evans, MP, has been requested to take up the matter on behalf of the Council. He has agreed to do so but it is anticipated that this could take several weeks. Other villages in the Ribble Valley have had the same problem and Nigel cannot give assurance that there will be a satisfactory resolution.
12. **Playground Future Maintenance:**
This to be considered when determining the precept in November

13. **Request for Donations:**
It was agreed to donate £30 to the Citizens Advice Bureau and the North West Air Ambulance.
14. **Councillors' Reports:**
a) RV Parish Councils Liaison Committee Meeting: There was a presentation by Digital.uk which was very informative. The switchover for this area will be in October 2009. Other items discussed included a report on the Lancashire County Council Parish and Town Councils Conference, an Community Futures update on Pathways to Learning and an update on Council Priorities.
b) Best Kept Village Presentation - this was held at the Stanley House Hotel, Mellor and was well attended. The Parish Council Chairman accepted the award on behalf of Read Cricket Club
c) Mayors 'At Home' - the Chairman attended this event at Mytton Fold
15. **Planning Applications & Decisions:**
Applications:
07/0886 Building to house swimming pool at Meadowlands, Dudley Hill - no observations
07/0915 Redevelopment of site with ground floor retail unit and 2no. duplex apartments at Friendship Garage, Whalley Road - no observations
07/0908 Proposed side first floor extension over car port with new pitch roof and three dormer windows to rear. New detached garage at Westways, Straits Lane - no observations
07/0968 Proposed demolition of existing uPVC conservatory and construction of replacement stone built lean-to garden room over existing garage and construction of a single storey garden store at The Barn, Dudley Hill
Decisions:
No planning decisions have been received
16. **Playground:**
a) Arrangements to be made to have the spring horse secured on the base.
b) It was noted that the gate catch was broken
c) The RoSPa report was currently being circulated to Councillors. It was agreed to get a quotation for the removal of the wooden edging to allow the grass to grow over the area not covered by the wet-pour surface.
d) The gate post has been repaired.
17. **Allotments:**
a) The tenant of Allotments 22, 33 & 34 to be requested to remove his property before 31 January and to charge 3 months rents from November.
b) United Utilities have installed a new water meter.
18. **Finance & Accounts:**
The following payments were authorised:
a) North West Air Ambulance - £30.00
b) Play safety - playground inspection - £84.60
c) Citizens Advice Bureau - £30.00
Receipts:
(i) VAT Repayment - £1,964.20
(ii) RVBC Grant - £8,000.00
(iii) Bank Interest - £44.23
19. **Items for the next Agenda:**
A. Victoria Lodge Hedges
B. Badge of Office
C. Precept
20. The date of the next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 21 November 2007 at 7.30pm.
The meeting closed at 8.40pm.