

READ PARISH COUNCIL

14/04/2021

A meeting of the Parish Council was held digitally on Zoom on **Wednesday 14th April, 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Greenhough, Hanson, Pollard

In attendance: Lesley Foster (Clerk)

4 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillors Bennett and Collinge.
2. **Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
 - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest from Councillors *on items on the agenda.*** – *Councillors Pollard and Greenhough declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Martholme Greenway Group.*
 - 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 10th March 2021** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *The overgrown hedge mentioned in the previous meeting has now had an attempt made at cutting it back.*
5. **Public participation:**
 - **Councillor Hacking passed on a comment on behalf of the PCSO, who was not present at the meeting.** There had not been much of note, with some driving incidents and COVID breaches. The only incident of note was a tractor theft from Whalley Golf Club. There had been another break in in Chatburn shortly after, and enquiries are ongoing. There had been an incident where someone had called the police with concerns about their elderly neighbour, who it was discovered had fallen and couldn't get up. Because of this good neighbourly behaviour they were taken to hospital for treatment and their family alerted. Councillor Hacking also noted that the PCSO is going on maternity leave from 14th June, and another officer will cover the Read area from then.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – The Clerk read out the following report on behalf of Councillor Bennett, who had sent apologies:
“I have been dealing with the residents of Meadow View off Whins Lane in Read who have complained about unfinished roads and drains due to the developer failing to enter into a Section 38 agreement and then subsequently going bankrupt. I am dealing with this via RVBC planning department and other agencies. It is very complex and on going.”
7. **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk reported that she has now finished the training course she began last year. She also reported that the precept had now been paid into the council bank account, and that due to the government not having renewed the legislation permitting digital council meetings, the meetings would have to take place in person from 7th May 2021.
8. **Reports from external meetings** –
Simonstone Parish Council – SPC had discussed Civic Sunday and the Christmas party. They had provisionally discussed holding a Civic event on 26th September in the Village Hall. They had discussed holding the Christmas party at Higher Trapp, which would cost

£18 per person in total, with guests contributing £10 towards that cost. They had agreed to send a letter to the County Council election candidates in support of Martholme Greenway.

Parish Council Liaison Committee – Councillor Pollard had attended the Parish Council Liaison Committee meeting. A new model code of conduct is being published. A new planning policy is also being discussed. Highway safety was discussed, as there had been reports of people driving too quickly in the Sabden area. There had been an issue with dog theft in some villages, and it was suggested that parishes could be made aware of these incidents by police. The return to in-person meetings was also mentioned.

9. Playground:

a) To receive the playground inspection report – discussed under item 11i).

b) Repairs and maintenance – discussed under item 11i).

10. Allotment Management Committee report – There are a total of 11 people on the waiting list, including 3 who are waiting for specific plots. There may be some plots available soon. The fences have been looked at by the lengthsman.

Regarding the deposits, some tenants have been complaining that there are items on their plot which they did not put there, including asbestos and tyres. One tenant has not yet paid the deposit. It was suggested that a letter could be sent to this tenant. It may be possible to get some of the allotment holders to help each other remove items from their plots. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to hold an allotment holders' meeting when possible.

11. Decision Items

a) Code of Conduct

An email had been received from a councillor after the last meeting with concerns over some of the conduct. The councillors were reminded to be respectful and not get personal during discussions, and some of the sections of the current Code of Conduct were read out.

b) Pecuniary and non-pecuniary matters

It had been brought to the council's attention that some of the rules relating to pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests may not have been followed correctly. Councillors were reminded of the rules regarding pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. A discussion took place about prejudicial interests, which are not presently mentioned in the Read Parish Council Code of Conduct.

c) Planning applications

The present system for reviewing planning applications was discussed. All councillors present were happy to continue with the current system. Councillors were reminded that as there is a deadline for submitting responses to RVBC for each application, that applications should be reviewed promptly after receipt.

d) Bin on Whalley Road

The Clerk had written to RVBC, who thought that the bin had been ordered. However, it didn't seem to have been received or paid for, so further correspondence was sent and a reply to this is awaited.

e) Church St Gardens

Councillor Greenhough and a resident have been discussing potential ideas for the improvement of the area. Councillor Hanson was thanked for the prompt removal of the Christmas tree from the area. It was mentioned that there will soon be another green space in the area by the new Village Hall car park.

RESOLVED: To make available £100 for the improvements to Church St

Gardens.

f) Adoption of telephone kiosk

Councillor Hacking had contacted RVBC to ask if planning permission would be needed to move the kiosk. The conclusion was that it may be needed and that they should be contacted again once the parish council have decided what to do with the kiosk. Councillor Hacking agreed to contact the Village Hall to determine how serious their interest is in the kiosk.

g) Read Motor Bodies lease

The Clerk had written to the solicitors for advice regarding this, but was still waiting for a response. Councillor Hacking had spoken to Read Motor Bodies about the area at the back of the premises. They may potentially clean this up and use it for parking cars, but had not done this yet.

h) Overgrown foliage

This had been discussed under item 4).

i) Playground

The lengthsmen had viewed the playground and said that he was capable of performing most of the repairs, except for the repair to the cargo net climbing area. He had been asked if he could put together a quote to estimate how much this would cost. It was decided that it would be best to wait for the quote before going ahead with this option.

The corner of the imitation grass in the playground is missing and the curb underneath can be seen. It was noted that the bowling club may have spare artificial turf.

j) Readstone Environmental Group

It was noted that REG has done a wonderful job by the side of the cricket field. They have also done a lot of work around the rest of the village, and also on litter gathering at the car park. If their effort continues it may be worth considering entering the Best Kept Village competition.

k) Christmas party

The Village Hall has been provisionally booked for a Civic Sunday event on 26th September by Simonstone Parish Council. A discussion of ideas for this event took place. Higher Trapp is being considered for the Christmas party. They can host up to 80 people for a midweek lunch. Further details will be discussed in the future.

l) Air pollution monitoring

No reports about this have yet been received. The Clerk will write to ask to hear about the results as they come in.

m) Finger post at Cobcar Nook

A letter was received from Duncan Armstrong. There was discussion of which of three possible destinations should be on one of the arms of the new finger post.

RESOLVED: The destination on the finger post will be Read Heights. The Clerk will write to Duncan Armstrong with this decision.

n) Dog fouling

An email had been received from a resident regarding dog fouling in the village. Councillor Hacking had received some anti-dog-fouling signs from RVBC and was happy to print more as long as the Parish Council will pay printer expenses.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hacking will print anti-dog-fouling signs for display around the village.

o) Resignation of Councillor Ridge

Councillor Ridge had given notice of resignation from the council. The Clerk had received details of the procedure for getting a new councillor and will be displaying the relevant notices shortly.

p) Insurance renewal

The pre-renewal documents had been received, but no quote price had been received yet.

q) Little Green Bus

Previously the Parish Council had donated £150 to Little Green Bus in 2019. There was discussion of whether to donate again.

RESOLVED: To donate £150 to Little Green Bus.

r) CC elections

A draft letter was circulated which the Martholme Greenway group had asked if the Parish Council would send to all candidates in the County Council elections.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will redraft the letter so that it is sent from the Parish Council rather than Martholme Greenway, and then the letter will be sent to all candidates.

12. Correspondence – The Clerk had not received any additional correspondence not already covered under a decision item.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There were two planning applications received since the time of the last minutes, as follows:

Application 3/2021/0162 The Nurseries, Old Coal Staithe, Read BB12 7RT

Demolition of conservatory, utility and garage and construction of single storey extension to rear and porch to front. Resubmission of application 3/2020/0945.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application.

Application 3/2021/0256 7 Tennyson Avenue, Read BB12 7RN

Proposed single detached garage, front extension adjacent to porch, removal of three windows from kitchen and one window from utility as a revision to original plan approval ref 3/2020/0304.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application.

15. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

22/03/21	Use of Zoom Premium for meetings (reimbursed to Clerk)	£60.00
22/03/21	Water plus March 2021	£112.42

b) Income

8/3/21	Interest on deposit account	£0.24
29/3/21	Allotment rent and deposit	£68.00
29/3/21	Allotment deposit	£50.00
31/3/21	Allotment deposit	£50.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 28th February 2021

Opening Balances 01.04.20			
Community Account	£2,776.49		
Business Saver Account	£14,575.13		£17,351.62
Add: Receipts			£16,286.40
Less: Payments			£20,225.50
Balance			£13,412.52

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Items relating to the Annual Parish Council Meeting**
- **Parish Plan**
- **Website update**
- **Civic Sunday**
- **Christmas party**
- **Playground**
- **Church St Garden**
- **Adoption of telephone kiosk**
- **Read Motor Bodies lease**
- **Air pollution monitoring**

At this point the meeting ended.