

READ PARISH COUNCIL

08/06/2021

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Tuesday 8th June, 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: Lesley Foster (Clerk)

members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillors Bennett and Pollard.
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 11th May 2021 – *the minutes were approved with an amendment to correct a typing error on item 13r).*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *none*
5. **Public participation:**
 - A resident asked if Read Parish would be leaving the Ribble Valley and being transferred to Hyndburn. The current thought is that it will not be. Nigel Evans MP and Councillor Bennett are both advocating for it to remain in the Ribble Valley.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – *none*
7. **Clerk's Report** – *none*
8. **Reports from external meetings** –
Simonstone Parish Council – Councillor Pollard was not present to report on this meeting.
9. **Playground:**
 - a) **To receive the playground inspection report** – The playground bin has been getting overfull on Fridays, progressing to overflowing on Sundays, especially when there has been a cricket match on. Councillor Hacking has been in contact with the secretary of the cricket club about this. Some allotment users have allegedly been putting rubbish in the cricket club's wheelie bin, which may be contributing to the issue.
 - b) **Repairs and maintenance** – The repairs the lengthsman agreed to do are waiting to be carried out. The cargo netting had not yet been agreed to be repaired. A discussion of possible solutions for this took place.
10. **Allotment Management Committee report** – Councillor Anderson has given Councillor Hanson a sketch relating to which fence posts need repairing by the lengthsman, after displaying a notice about this. There are four plots causing concern at the moment due to lack of maintenance, one of which has been held for a while and the holder claims he will do more, one of which is a new tenant that may now have a friend helping, one of which had had absolutely nothing done but has now had some work started on it, and a final plot where nothing has been done and Councillor Anderson has not been able to get in touch with the allotment holder. The Clerk will write to this final allotment holder to give one month's notice for them to start working on the plot or to give it

up and lose the deposit, in accordance with the allotment terms and conditions.

11. Decision Items

a) Councillor vacancy

Sally McKelvey was elected unopposed to the first of the vacancies.

The other vacancy's notice period is still ongoing.

RESOLVED: To accept Sally McKelvey onto the council as a councillor.

b) Approval of Financial Statements and Annual Return

i) To note the Internal Audit Report

RESOLVED: The Internal Audit Report 2020-2021 is noted.

ii) To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED: The Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021 is approved.

iii) To approve and sign the Accounting Statements

There was a discussion about the accounting statements.

RESOLVED: The Accounting Statements 2020-2021 are approved.

c) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2021-2022

RESOLVED: To appoint Geoff Lambert as the Internal Auditor for 2021-22.

d) Gratuity for Internal Auditor 2020-2021

RESOLVED: To award Geoff Lambert a £60 gratuity for his work on the internal audit 2020-21.

e) Parish Plan

The Communications Group will discuss the Parish Plan over the next 12 months.

f) Website update

The website update has now been completed and is up and running. Everything seems to be working. The contractor will be able to provide training to the new Clerk or to some councillors if needed.

g) Adoption of telephone kiosk

The relevant Village Hall representative was not present to give an update about whether the Village Hall wants the telephone kiosk.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Greera at the Village Hall about the telephone kiosk.

h) Celebration Sunday

The event will be held jointly with Simonstone. It will be held on 26th September from 11am to 3pm and will be open to residents. The mayor has been invited.

i) Christmas party

The event will be held jointly with Simonstone. Some councillors are going to view the room at the Higher Trapp soon. A portion of the event will be paid for by the council and a portion by the residents who attend. There will be flyers and the event will go in the newsletter. The date will be the first Wednesday in December.

j) Xmas tree light up

There was discussion about the potential date of the event, and whether this should be on the first Friday or the first Saturday in December.

k) Read Motor Bodies

The Clerk had written to Read Motor Bodies to arrange a meeting to discuss the lease. The meeting has not yet taken place. Recently it has been noticed that there may have been some work taking place on the land at the back of Read Motor Bodies to flatten it out, possibly in collaboration with Automotive Tools. There was discussion of the issue.

l) Litter bins

Ribble Valley Borough Council is in the process of conducting a litter bin review. There are multiple bins in the village which are regularly overfull, but it is not possible to order a new bin until RVBC have finished their review. Councillor

Hacking volunteered to email and ask how the review is going.

m) Lengthsman

There was discussion of the possibility of getting the lengthsman to create a walkway. Councillor Pollard had written to LCC to ask about possible funding. It was noted that it may be the responsibility of LCC to do this in the first place.

There was discussion of the email received from Sabden Parish Council's Clerk about the lengthsman scheme.

RESOLVED: To pay the full previously agreed £900 into the lengthsman scheme, rather than the new smaller amount suggested.

n) Church St Gardens

There was discussion of the progress on the work done. Councillor Anderson has now put up the bird box. There are some pots and flowers ready to be added, and the bench will be varnished.

o) Cricket Club lease

The Cricket Club have been informed of their increased rent amount as based on the calculation in the lease, in accordance with the decision taken earlier in the year. The next possible review date will be in 2024.

p) Football Club lease

There was discussion of the football club lease and whether the rent amount should be changed. It was suggested that the amount could be compared with other similar places to see whether it is reasonable.

q) Automotive Tools disclaimer

A disclaimer had been received from Automotive Tools about their use of the land behind Read Motor Bodies, which the Clerk read out.

r) Clerk vacancy

The Clerk is leaving at the end of July. Interviews for the new applicants are taking place on Monday 14th June. There will be a handover period during July when both the existing and the new Clerk are employed.

12. Correspondence –

The Clerk read out an email that had been received from a resident regarding the litter issue in the playground area.

The Clerk had also received a letter regarding a portion of an estate that had been left to Read Parish Council. The Clerk is looking into what must be done to receive this.

Councillor Hacking had received a communication from the PCSO, which she read out as follows:

“I've had a look at the jobs over the last month and there's nothing much to report. There was a couple of suspicious circumstances incidents but when they were looked into there were legit explanations and there was an incident at a cafe with a male becoming abusive when challenged over wearing a mask but thankfully he left of his own accord and didn't cause further issues.”

The email also included the contact details of the new temporary PCSO, which can be added to the website.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There was one planning application received since the time of the last minutes, as follows:

Application 3/2021/0428, 8 Hammond Drive Read BB12 7RE

Proposed extensions to side and rear, and first floor extension. Remodelling of layout including integral garage with bedroom suite over.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application.

15. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

17/5/21	Parish and Town Training	£25.00
17/5/21	R&S Village Hall booking for Civic Sunday	£65.00
17/5/21	R&S Village Hall booking for meetings	£130.00
17/5/21	WaterPlus	£133.17

b) Income

7/5/21	Simonstone Parish Council playground contribution	£350.00
7/5/21	Allotment deposit	£50.00
7/5/21	Allotment deposits	£100.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 30th April 2021

Opening Balances 01.04.21			
Community Account	£3,371.28		
Business Saver Account	£9,580.24		£12,951.52
Add: Receipts			£10,836.00
Less: Payments			£2,120.64
Balance			£21,666.88

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Footpath 34**
- **Councillor vacancy**
- **Clerk vacancy**
- **Adoption of telephone kiosk**
- **Litter bins**
- **Christmas party**
- **Read Motor Bodies**
- **Football club lease**

The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.