

READ PARISH COUNCIL

08/09/2021

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

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Barker, Greenhough, McKelvey, Pollard

In attendance: April Collinson (Newly appointed Clerk)

2 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies from Councillors Hanson and Bennett.
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 9th July 2021** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** –
 - *Following item 11a) of the previous Minutes new councillor John Barker has been co-opted on to Read Parish Council. Welcome to Councillor John Barker who is also on Simonstone Parish Council.*
 - *Welcome to the newly appointed Clerk to the Parish Council, April Collinson. Unfortunately Sharon Troth was unable to continue as clerk due to personal circumstances.*
5. **Public participation:**
 - Councillor Hacking confirmed the PCSO attended the Village Hall this morning and is also planning to attend the Constitutional club cafe to maintain a public presence in the village. 2 constables also attended the Village Cafe.
 - Councillor Hacking read out the following report that had been received from the PCSO:

10/07/2021 – 2 crates of beer were stolen from a shop on Whalley Road
20/07/2021 – Criminal Damage to a resident's gate where the panels were kicked through. The resident had not seen or heard anything and there was no CCTV.
27/07/2021 – Suspicious circumstances, a female approximately late 20's knocked on a resident's door at 12.30am asking for a taxi. When spoken to by the resident through the letter box the woman then left. The informant saw a car parked nearby but could not see if the lady got into it. The informant was worried that she may be knocking door to door and this may be a scam possibly asking for money. No additional calls received for this incident or anything reported similar.
01/08/2021 – Calder Vale, an informant called to report potential drunk driving, an elderly male was sat in a chair by a vehicle with the window down. Male was sat eating and having a drink of orange juice. An officer attended and all was in order.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – Councillor Bennett provided a report that the Meadow View problems regarding the alleged failure to secure a section 38 agreement with Ribble

Valley Borough Council is now a subject of a complaint against Ribble Valley Borough Council with the Ombudsman.

7. Clerk's Report – none

8. Reports from external meetings –

Simonstone Parish Council – Simonstone Parish Council had discussed that due to there not currently being a vicar there would not be a Civic Sunday and would be having a community get together instead which Read is also involved in. The Christmas party had been discussed, Councillors Hacking and Greenhough are liaising with Simonstone Parish Council to organise this. A non refundable contribution of £10 toward the £18 cost of the afternoon including meal and entertainment is being asked, with the Parish Council covering the other £8. There are 80 places available to be divided evenly between Read and Simonstone. Speeding and noise on the A671 was discussed. The result of this discussion was to request permission for a mirror to be installed at the junction of Trapp Lane and Whins Lane at the Parish Council's expense. Simonstone Parish Council is working with landlords in order to repair stone walls along the Martholme Greenway with the help of Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership. The Lengthsman Scheme was discussed and that Lancashire County Council are continuing the scheme and offering a grant of £500.00. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was discussed and ideas to celebrate this with a picnic bench on land near The Stork Hotel and a commemorative garden although this to be discussed further at the next meeting.

9. Playground:

a) **To receive the playground inspection report** – Litter continues to be a problem, a branch was pulled down from a nearby tree. This was sawn off and removed to prevent further damage. The new gate has been installed from the playground to the football field.

b) **Repairs and maintenance** – see 11.f) ROSPA Report

10. Allotment Management Committee report – The waiting list now stands at 20 people. 2 are moving off the allotment and there will soon be 3 vacant plots.

There are queries over where the deposit is to be returned to one allotment holder who has requested both the deposit and rent back. Returning rent is not usual procedure. A query had been raised where a tenant was wanting to rent the adjoining plot in joint names, this is not something which has been done before as it may be used in some cases as a way to skip the waiting list however it may be acceptable if both names are on the tenancy from the beginning – this will be discussed at a future council meeting.

New conditions or a probationary period may be introduced for new tenants of 3-6 months to ensure tenants are using the plot. As rents are fairly low some tenants may not feel pressure to use the plot as their investment is minimal. Some leeway may be given if there are special circumstances such as illness or injury. This will be discussed further at the next council meeting.

The damage to the football field had been raised by a resident and it was suggested that the gate by the football field could be locked. This has been done in the past and raises issues with allotment users leaving the gate open, losing their key or forgetting the combination. It will be raised at the Annual General Meeting in October to discuss with allotment holders. A note about the AGM will be sent around to allotment holders which may also be used to remind tenants that rent will be due.

The road down the hill from the football pitch providing access to the allotments is becoming worn due to wheel spin as cars struggle with the terrain. This is causing the road to become uneven, it is considered that those making the holes should be filling them and so currently no action is being taken.

11. Decision Items

a) Telephone Kiosk

John Lofthouse had been approached about moving the telephone kiosk however this is not something he has experience with, there has not been many ideas put forward for it's use. A member of the public had shown interest in purchasing the kiosk however would not be able to move it.

RESOLVED: To advertise the kiosk on Facebook and in the village to see if anyone wishes to repair and refurbish it, leaving it where it currently is, with the council offering to pay for materials.

b) Footpath 34

There was further discussion about the possibility of installing a walkway across the boggy areas of this footpath. It was confirmed that the lengthsman had not done the work creating the other wooden walkway on the footpath, it is likely this was either Lancashire County Council or the Gas Board. Councillors Barker and Pollard offered a section of wooden walkway from the Martholme Greenway Group could be installed over the boggy area.

RESOLVED: To write to the land owner asking permission to install a wooden walkway in the area.

c) Litter Bins

Councillor Hacking has contacted Ribble Valley Borough Council in order to attain an update on the Litter bins review. She was informed the review is still in progress.

d) Environmental Group

The Environmental Group has organised a free environmental talk on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.30pm at Simonstone School Hall.

The environmental Group have also suggested that they would like to plant wildflower patches around the village. Concerns were raised over maintenance and grass cutting as well as residents who would like the area to remain looking tidy and would not want the grass to be uncut.

The Group is also considering installing recycling bins at the Village Hall and continue to do a great job litter picking to keep Read clean.

RESOLVED: To meet with Environmental Group to review proposed wildflower areas and discuss further.

e) New Gate on Playground

The new gate from the playground to the football field has been installed. This allows children to access the football field without having to walk on the road. Safety concerns were raised that people coming from the allotments or the football field may begin using this as a shortcut rather than walking around the playground. It was suggested that a sign could be put on the gate but this could not be enforced. Previously there was an opening to the cricket club along the concrete path. Reopening this would redirect non-playground users from going through the playground.

RESOLVED: To write to the Cricket Club to ask about re-opening a gate in the fence.

f) ROSPA Report

Quotes for the replacing the cargo net have been requested from 2 firms, quotes had been received previously however these were bundled with other work which the lengthsman will be able to complete once the children return to school. Lets Play Everywhere will be visiting the playground on 23rd September 2021 at 10am to produce a quote.

g) Boundary Hedge Cutting

Jason Shaw usually cuts the boundary hedge however it appears to have been cut

by residents this year. It was queried whether Jason Shaw was responsible for other hedges such as the playground as this will also need cutting.

RESOLVED: To contact Jason Shaw to ask if he usually cuts the hedge for the Playground

h) Speed calming measures on Hambledon View

Residents have raised concerns about speeding on Hambledon View, many seem to have visited local businesses before speeding along the street. It was noted that there is a speed change sign to 20 mph when coming along Fountains Avenue but no speed change when coming along Campbell Street.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Lancashire County Council to request a speed change sign is added and to request speed calming measures.

i) Parking Problems Surrounding Junctions

Many street junctions have double yellow lines to prevent parking and ensure there is visibility when exiting the junction however some do not have these lines. It is believed that this is because traffic was less of a problem when the lines were originally added about 25 years ago. It was noted that often although the double yellow lines are present they are often not enforced.

RESOLVED: To send a letter Lancashire County Council requesting double yellow lines on more junctions (to be included in letter for matter 11.i)

j) Church Street Gardens

Councillor Greenhough commented how the Church Street Gardens look lovely thanks to work undertaken by the Environmental Group. Sunflowers have been planted, they are looking to plant more bulbs and get more seating. Councillor Anderson fixed a paving stone trip hazard, it was noted that many of the paving stones are uneven due to the roots of trees. The cost of fixing this has previously been looked at however the roots would quickly disrupt the paving again. Dog mess continues to be an issue. The lower areas do not have any seating and it was thought that a picnic table could be placed there, possibly for the Queen's Jubilee next year.

k) Low Wood use as Party Venue

Councillor Hacking had made enquiries around the use of Low Wood as a party Venue. She has received an email from Steve Maggs who has visited the venue and due to another query surrounding this property. The matter is now being investigated by the planning department. He will provide an update once one is available.

l) Christmas Tree Light Up Event on Friday 3rd December 2021

There is currently no Vicar to bless the tree, it was suggested that Claire Holbrook could bless the tree, then on to the village hall where children from Read School will sing carols. Drinks and biscuits will be served.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hacking to Contact Claire Holbrook to check if she would be able to bless the tree.

m) Christmas Meal at Higher Trapp on Wednesday 1st December 2021

Volunteers may be needed for Transport but we will know more once tickets are being sold.

n) Parish Councillors Christmas/New Year Meal

Councillors are not taking part in the meal at Higher Trapp. It was suggested Councillors could join with Simonstone who are having a Christmas meal at Higher Trapp.

RESOLVED: This will be raised with Simonstone Parish Council

o) Celebration Sunday 26th September 2021

Tickets have been printed and notices are going out to local shops. Several tables

have been organised for the day, there will be entertainment and refreshments. The hall will open for set up at 9.30 and open to the public from 11am. The Mayor plans to visit on the day. It is hoped many residents will visit to help celebrate coming out of lockdown and all the help of volunteers and organisations within the village.

p) Newsletter for Autumn/Winter 2021

It is hoped the newsletter will be sent out by November in order to get replies for the Christmas Meal. It was suggested Simonstone may wish to contribute as there are several joint ventures at the moment.

RESOLVED: This will be raised with Simonstone Parish Council

q) Code of Conduct Session Dates

An email was received from Ribble Valley regarding Code of Conduct Training Sessions. They have given dates but not times yet, these will be confirmed in due course.

r) Request from Victim Support

Victims have had limited support through Covid due to the restrictions.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made

s) Air Quality Monitor

Information has been received showing there quite low levels of pollutants, they have confirmed they will not get in touch unless there is reason to. The monitoring will be ongoing. The results will be published on the Parish Council website.

t) Archiving

Councillor Hacking and the new Clerk have been going through documents and paperwork and have been able to set aside for Archiving a bulk of paperwork. 6 years of recent paperwork needs to be kept and many documents older than this can be reviewed for Archiving.

u) Read Motor Bodies

The Lease for Read Motor Bodies runs out in 2022. Residents have complained about Read Motor Bodies skidding cars across the playground Car Park when parking them there. Councillor Hacking has confronted staff for parking the cars on there as it is non commercial parking. Mr Ledger has stated they will begin using the land at the rear once the Auto Shop is no longer using it for construction equipment. Mr Ledger was notified of an inspection to be scheduled in September. Different lengths of leases were discussed. Conditions to improve and secure the area could potentially be made a clause of the lease.

RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange an inspection for the week commencing 27th September 2021 to look at renewing lease.

12. Correspondence – A resident has reached out through the Parish Council Facebook with concerns about the tyre tracks left on the football field, they suggested locking the gate leading to the field.

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

Application 3/2021/0800, 5 Whalley Road, Read, BB12 7PB

Proposed application to use the roof of the garage (to rear) as terrace area and erection of fences around the edges of the garage roof to act as balustrades.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application. A resident had raised concerns that this would block light to their property however there was no grounds for Read Parish Council to object to the application and so they were advised to contact Ribble Valley Borough Council regarding

this

15. Finance & Accounts:

The Internet Banking is being set up by Barclays, several cheques for invoices have been sent out in the meantime however do not appear to have been cashed, these will likely show in next month's accounts.

a) Payments

20/08/21	A Collinson Salary August	£256.00
20/08/21	Petty Cash	£40.00

b) Income

There was no income since the time of the last meeting.

c) Bank reconciliation as at 31st August 2021

Opening Balances 01.04.21			
Community Account	£8,128.77		
Business Saver Account	£9,580.24		£17,709.01
Add: Receipts			£11336.00
Less: Payments			£5,771.62
Balance			£23,273.39

15. Items for the next agenda

- Adoption of telephone kiosk
- Allotments – Tenancy in joint names & Bond repayments
- Read Motor Bodies Inspection feedback
- Footpath 34
- Litter Bins
- Opening to the Cricket Club from the playground
- Celebration Sunday Feedback
- Environmental Group

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm.