

READ PARISH COUNCIL

13/10/2021

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 13th October, 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

3 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies from Councillors Greenhough 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 8th September 2021** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *none*
5. **Public participation:**

A representative from the Environment group advised they will be requesting a donation from the Parish Council for a thermal imaging camera and wildlife cameras, it is believed that the thermal imaging camera may help residents locate areas of the home where heat is escaping so that this can be rectified saving the resident money and also helping the environment. There are hopes of becoming a hedgehog friendly village. The wildlife camera could help encourage interest in the project by allowing children and families to see the wildlife local to them and increase knowledge of nature, especially as hedgehog numbers are on the decline. The wildlife cameras would be mobile and so could be used in several different areas. This will be discussed at the next council meeting.

The pollinator project has been looking at areas which could be seeded for wildflowers, the areas currently being looked at are a verge of land near the corner of Tennyson Avenue, an area by the allotment car park and an area by the wall of Friendship Mill.

A member of the public raised the notion that Read could become known as an 'Environmentally Friendly Village' where residents are encouraged to recycle as much as possible, reduce CO2 emissions and become as ecologically friendly as possible. It is currently unknown whether there is an accreditation that could be achieved in this.

6. Borough Councillor's Report – *none*

7. Clerk's Report – a report was received from the local PCSO with the monthly crime statistics;

Drugs – 0, Vehicle Crime – 0, Criminal Damage Excluding Vehicles – 0, Public Order – 0, Anti Social Behaviour – 1, Assault – 4, Theft – 1, Burglary – 0, Road Related Offence – 2.

8. Reports from external meetings –

Simonstone Parish Council – Simonstone Parish Council are considering placing a picnic bench near the Stork along with some trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Liaison Meeting – Dog Fouling and general waste bin collection is still under review. There has been an increase in dog theft. There was a talk about Sports in England, who were looking to confirm what people want to be available locally and when, they were also

looking to get people active who are currently inactive. There are currently no grants available.

9. Playground:

a) To receive the playground inspection report – see 11.g)

b) Repairs and maintenance – Then Lengthsman has been asked to do some repairs on the playground, this should be able to take place now that the children have gone back to school.

10. Allotment Management Committee report – The waiting list now stands at 16 people. There will be 2 vacancies at the end of the month. Some fencing needs attending to which will be assigned to the lengthsman. An Annual General Meeting will take place on 26th October at the Con Club. The gate between the car park and the road will be locked on the 6th November as the Cricket Club will be holding a bonfire event, this has happened in previous years.

11. Decision Items

a) Telephone Kiosk

The Scouts have agreed to paint the telephone kiosk and a local company has agreed to provide and install the Perspex glass. The exterior of the box still needs rubbing down before it can be painted. It was suggested that a tradesman could be hired to rub it down or for the box to be sand blasted.

RESOLVED: Enquiries will be made with regards to sand blasting the telephone kiosk.

b) Allotments – Tenancy in joint names and Bond repayments

Joint names could be put on the application form however one person must be liable for the rent. A second person could not be added at a later date as this may allow people to jump the waiting list.

A 3 or 6 month probationary period may be introduced to ensure tenants make use of the allotment, it was suggested that 6 months would allow the allotment to become over grown.

2 tenants have been asked to leave the allotments recently. One tenant took on the allotment but did not engage in any work on it, so their bond will not be returned. The second tenant did tidy up the allotment by cutting grass when asked to do so however there was a large amount of wood left which they were going to burn but were told not to. It was considered that if the allotment would have been in a fit state to have been given to a novice gardener or if the state of it would have been overwhelming for them. It was discussed that the primary purpose of the bond was to prevent people leaving large rubbish requiring a skip to remove items, in this sense the bond has been fulfilled. The council voted and reluctantly agreed to return the bond.

RESOLVED: The terms will be amended to allow joint tenancy only from the start of a tenancy with one main tenant being liable for rent along with a 3 month probationary period to ensure tenants are using the allotment. A cheque will be written to return the bond.

c) Footpath 34

A letter was received from Mrs Speak confirming that they are in agreement for Read Parish Council to provide and install a walkway over the boggy section at the top of the field and maintain it. She also raised concerns about the lower walkway which has become damaged and dilapidated. The Lengthsman has previously repaired the lower walkway and can be asked to review this for further repair. Plans will be drawn up for the new section and discussed with Mr & Mrs Speak. It was discussed whether providing better drainage may resolve the problem more

permanently along with whether the land owners would want their field dug up to install drainage.

It was noted that the sign for Footpath 15 has been damaged and that a new post is needed for this.

RESOLVED: The lengthsman will be asked to review the lower walkway for repairs and plans for a new walkway over the higher boggy area will be drawn up. A letter will be sent to Lancashire County Council requesting a new post and sign for footpath 15.

d) Litter Bins

The litter bin review being undertaken by Lancashire County Council it still unfinished. We will be informed once this is completed.

e) Defibrillator Grant

An email was received advising defibrillator grants are available, the grants would not cover the full cost of a defibrillator. There are several defibrillators already in the village. There was no reference to maintenance in the grant email. Read Parish Council is unsure who is responsible for checking and maintaining those which are already in the village.

f) Playground Gate

The Cricket club have agreed for the gate from the playground to the cricket club to be opened again, they did advise that in winter the metal gate from the cricket club to the car park would be locked for security which would mean the new gate would not be used.

RESOLVED: The lengthsman will be asked to reopen the gate to the cricket club.

g) Playground Cargo Net/Repairs

A company has come to review the net which needs repairs, they will contact the company which made the equipment and generate two quotes, one for parts and labour to fix the net and the other for parts and instructions so that Read Parish Council can fix the net independently.

A handle has been removed from another piece of equipment, the handle was located.

RESOLVED: Await the quotes for the cargo net repairs. Councillor Anderson will review the damaged equipment

h) Request for speed restrictions on George Lane

Councillor Bennett had discussed with a resident that this matter had previously been raised at a Parish Council Meeting but it was not evident whether a letter had been sent.

RESOLVED: A letter has now been sent to Lancashire County Council highlighting concerns and requesting a 20 is painted onto the road surface as a reminder.

i) Celebration Sunday (26th September 2021)

11 tables were arranged from various organisations within the village along with entertainment from local groups, the event was attended by over 150 people in the morning alone. The event has highlighted what is going on in the village and has helped boost community spirit. Tea, coffee and biscuits were provided and several people offered to make donations and pay for drinks. It is considered that this event may be held again next year and may be held in the name of a charity where people could make donations.

j) Christmas Residents meal 1st Dec

The meal is planned for Wednesday 1st December 2021 and is open to residents aged 70 and over. Posters have been printed to go in the notice boards, the Parish

Council website and Facebook page. The event will be publicised in the newsletter. Tickets will be on sale from the end of October at both Village Hall & Con Club Cafe and cost a £10 non refundable deposit towards the cost of the event.

RESOLVED: the event will be publicised as above

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

Claire Holbrook who is in training to become an officiate has been asked to attend the tree light up. The Village Hall has been booked previously but an invoice has not yet been received. Councillor Hanson has agreed to provide the tree. Refreshments will be provided at the Village Hall and the children from the School will be available to sing.

l) Newsletter

A piece from Penny has been requested to go in the newsletter and a piece from Cllr Anderson regarding the allotments or hedge maintenance.

m) Ribble Valley Liaison Meeting - CCTV

CCTV was discussed and a 25% reduction is available along with the idea that several Parish Councils could join together and purchase a mobile CCTV unit to share.

RESOLVED: Prices will be looked at and reviewed

n) Environmental Group

This was discussed during the Public Participation section of the meeting.

o) Request to improve the Village with floral decorations

It was noted that several businesses are just glad to be open following Covid. Some other areas have floral displays with large tubs and baskets but this would require someone to water them regularly. The environmental group does a wonderful job arranging litter picks as well as planting wildflowers. This may give residents the chance to be more active and could be mentioned in the newsletter. It was noted that in the past Read has won the Best Kept Village award and it would be nice to achieve this again.

RESOLVED: This will be mentioned in the newsletter

p) Boundary Hedge

The Boundary Hedge has been cut, some residents have done this themselves. The hedging around the playground has also been cut. It is believed that this is done annually

q) Code of Conduct

Dates have been changed for the Code of Conduct training. Currently Councillors Hacking and McKelvey have been booked to receive the training.

r) Remembrance Sunday

Owing to a wreath mix up last year Read Parish Council received 3 wreaths. One of these will be used for this year and the remaining one for next year, it was discussed that a donation should be made for the value of a wreath.

RESOLVED: A donation to the Poppy Appeal will be made.

s) Read Motor Bodies

The Lease for Read Motor Bodies runs out in 2022. The area was inspected and a discussion with Mr Ledger took place. Mr Ledger assured the council that the pile of earth on the land will be cleared and chippings will be put down so that the land can be used to park cars. He was advised that the council are considering only offering a 1 year lease to ensure issues are sorted. It was queried whether a solicitor is needed every year or if a rolling lease can be drafted.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Mr Ledger advising we are going to offer a 1 year lease at this time with the intention to renew next year. Clerk to contact the solicitor to request a 1 year lease is written up and query whether this would

need to be renewed via solicitors annually or if this is something that can be done in house.

12. Correspondence – A letter was received from Lancashire County Council in response to the request for double yellow lines around junctions to Whalley Road and speed concerns along Hambledon View, the letter advised that they would review whether the junctions with Whalley Road would benefit from H bar markings although they state that they would not be able to justify such measures at this location. In Relation to Hambledon View they state that they have investigated the casualty and speed data for the area which indicates there is no clear speeding issue which would justify measures.

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

Application 3/2021/0851, 95 Whalley Road, Read, BB12 7PB

Proposed garden room building with ancillary store to front garden. Resubmission of 3/2020/0379.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application.

A resident raised queries surrounding 5 Whalley Road as there is a bath on the roof blocking their light, it was confirmed that the house is tenanted and the tenants do not like the bath on the roof. The Parish Council has no power with regards to this

15. Finance & Accounts:

Thankfully the internet banking has now been set up. This will allow payments to be made much more efficiently.

a) Payments

06/09/21	WaterPlus	£242.37
07/09/21	ROSPA Report	£115.80
22/09/21	S Troth Salary Tax (August)	£51.20
24/09/21	Payroll Services	£60.00
27/09/21	A Collinson Salary (September)	£256.00
27/09/21	S Troth Salary (August)	£204.80
01/10/21	Victim Support donation	£50.00

b) Income

27/09/21	Concurrent Functions Grant RVBC	£557.00
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c) Bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2021

Opening Balances 01.10.21			
Community Account	£7,409.60		
Business Saver Account	£9,580.72		£16,990.32
Add: Receipts			£11,893.00
Less: Payments			£7,215.79
Balance			£21,667.53

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Black Hill incidents**



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- **Church Path**
- **Playground Cargo Net**
- **Telephone Kiosk**
- **Read Motor Bodies Lease**
- **Christmas Meal**
- **Christmas Tree**
- **Newsletter**
- **Parish Council Meeting dates for 2022**
- **Thermal camera/wildlife cameras**
- **Dementia Singing Group**

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm.