

READ PARISH COUNCIL

02/02/2022

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

3 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor Hanson apologised for his absence.
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 5th January 2022** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *it was confirmed that the new website was running correctly however some information does require updating.*
5. **Public participation** – a thankyou note was received from the children of Read School for the donation made by the Parish Council.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – None
7. **Clerk's Report** – a report was received from the local PCSO with the monthly crime statistics for December;
Drugs-0
Vehicle crime- 2
Criminal damage excluding vehicles-0
Public order- 0
ASB- 1
Assault-2
Theft-1
Theft or UTMV-0
Burglary-0
Road Related Offence-2
8. **Reports from external meetings** –
Parish Council Liaison Meeting
Local Development Plan was discussed and is in the consultation stage.
It was noted that the Parish Council will need to respond to this regarding the amount of development in the local area, infrastructure and traffic conditions as well as how development in other local areas such as Clitheroe, Whalley and Barrow will be having effects locally such as traffic through the village. A bypass was proposed previously in 1990 which would ease traffic issues however funding was withdrawn. It was suggested that this bypass would need to be completed before any further development should take place in the village.
It was suggested that any development should be affordable and sheltered housing.

Simonstone Parish Council

Holding a joint event for the Jubilee was discussed, this may be an afternoon tea type event possibly geared towards the elder citizens of Read with Tea/Coffee, biscuits, cakes and music. It was discussed whether the event should be ticketed and what day this should be held. It was considered that people may have their own plans for the long weekend and that this would also be during the school holidays. Fancy dress and a raffle were also discussed. The Village Hall should be available. This suggestion will be taken back to Simonstone Parish Council for their input and ideas.

9. Playground:

a) To receive the playground inspection report – all seems to be in order, there was a small amount of litter in the playground area. It is likely that there are less children using the playground at the moment due to the recent weather.

b) Repairs and maintenance – The Lengthsman has made repairs and has replaced the seats on benches and the wobble-board. The Lengthsman has been unable to complete any painting due to the weather. Also see 11.t)

10. Allotment Management Committee report – an Allotment Management Committee meeting is scheduled for 8th February 2022. One recent tenant has vacated his plot and left to move to Liverpool. This plot has been re-let now.

Upon reviewing older documents it appears that some plots have previously been leased in joint names, it is considered that some leniency may need to be shown in these matters.

11. Decision Items

a) Telephone Kiosk

Weather has not been favourable for reviewing the Telephone kiosk for deconstruction at make refurbishment easier. It was considered that if refurbishment does not seem viable the Parish Council may look to sell the Kiosk.

RESOLVED: It will be assessed how easily the Telephone Kiosk can be deconstructed for refurbishment and further actions will be considered at a future meeting.

b) Jubilee Grant & Event

the Grant application has been submitted and it is considered that this money will go toward a picnic bench for Church Street Gardens and possibly some trees.

RESOLVED: Councillor Greenhough has been in contact with ARK Plastics for details of the picnic benches available and will decide and arrange installation.

c) Dementia Singing group

The Village Hall has proposed Thursday morning or Thursday Afternoon for as available slots for the singing group. The group will take place once a month starting from March. Funding can be attained from Dementia UK. It was suggested that once Covid is less prominent in the community children from the school could come sing at the group.

d) Lengthsman review

The Lengthsman has completed most of the work on the playground but needs better weather for the painting, he has done some of the fencing at the allotments and is hoping to complete that soon. They are looking to recruit an additional Lengthsman to help with workload as there is too much for him to carry out with a part time helper.

e) Defibrillator for the Village Hall

A defibrillator has been ordered however there is a one month delay in receiving

this. Over £2000 has been raised by local people to fund this. Defibrillator and casing costs £1400 so a commemorative plaque and bench will also be installed.

RESOLVED: The Defibrillator will be installed outside the Village Hall along with a plaque and bench

f) Readstone Defibrillator positioning

Readstone Football club have made enquiries about installing a defibrillator near the Straits Lane notice board. Clarity regarding the exact positioning is yet to be given and it was queried whether the unit would require power and if so where this would be sourced from. The Football association is providing grants for the unit.

RESOLVED: Further details of positioning and power sources will be requested.

g) Footpath 34

Footpath 34 has a boggy area which makes it difficult to use. The land owner has been in contact with the land user who has made investigations regarding the water logging. It is advised that a sough has been discovered which runs underground from the woodland down the gulley where the water is tracking to a big hole, then further underground into a ditch running along the south side of the field. This is blocked or possibly damaged. Attempts have been made for this to be cleared previously however the issue has persisted. Further attempts to rectify the problem are planned however the land is currently too wet for any machinery to access the area. Councillor Anderson has assessed the area along with Richard Matthews prior to the council meeting and located a conduit where it is believed the stream would have originally run. It is believed that the underground pathway the water would have originally taken may be blocked causing the current issues. It may be easier for the problem to be managed if the stream is diverted to prevent it splitting into two.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to the land owner about the issues with the recommendations from Richard Matthews and Martholme Greenwood.

h) Precept

The Precept has been raised slightly for the financial year 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. This is to account for rising costs along with repairs to the playground which may need to be covered for by the Council. For a band D property the cost has increased from £18.60 to £20.48.

i) Read Motor Bodies

An update has been requested from the Solicitors however this is yet to be provided. There is currently a substantial amount of brambles in the area however it is being used to park several cars.

j) Shipping container

An update has been received from Automotive tools who are using the container for storage. Work is being undertaken to finish the building and the container will be removed as soon as this is complete.

k) Car Park, Allotment Road and Retaining Wall

Councillor Anderson has been rebuilding the dry stone wall and hopes to continue once the shipping container has been removed.

The car park is beginning to become potholed, it is believed that poor drainage may be contributing to the problem by making potholes worse. John Lofthouse has previously maintained the car park and was agreeable to provide future maintenance.

The road down to the allotments is also in need of maintenance but is in a better state than the car park, it is considered that this road will be an ongoing issue as weather and winter conditions will wash the surface down and cars wheel spinning

on the steep incline will cause pot holes.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hacking will make contact with John Lofthouse to make enquiries regarding the maintenance of the car park and allotment road.

l) Trees for the Village Hall Community space

The community space by the Village Hall will be having trees in the beds at each corner and in the centre, it is considered that the Parish Council may make a contribution towards this when the construction of the beds is finished.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will pay for the five trees when they are needed.

m) Church Street Gardens – Management of Mature Trees

Davit Hewitt from Ribble Valley Borough Council has been contacted to review the mature trees around Church Street Gardens to advise the council of any appropriate actions which need to be taken for their maintenance. Any work which needs to be undertaken will need to be arranged by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Once the trees have been reviewed the matter will be discussed at a future Parish Council Meeting

n) Church Street Garden Picnic Bench & Tree

Councillor Greenhough has been to see examples of the picnic benches ARK Plastics can provide and will be meeting with a consultant and Councillor Pollard on site to review options.

RESOLVED: It is likely that a four seater picnic bench will be ordered for the area to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

o) Church Street Garden paving slabs

It is noted that some paving slabs have become cracked, possibly when the Christmas tree is installed. It was considered that it may be worth putting concrete in however this may crack again.

RESOLVED: The Lengthsman will be asked to review the area for repair.

p) Councillors Meal with Simonstone Parish Council

Due to Covid lockdowns a meal was never fully arranged for Christmas. It is considered that it may be more worthwhile to wait and celebrate the retirement of Rodger, the clerk for Simonstone Parish Council later in the year.

RESOLVED: No meal will take place at this time.

q) Refurbish Straits Lane Notice Board

It was noted that due to the weather and being housed under trees the notice board on Straits Lane is in need of maintenance.

RESOLVED: The Lengthsman will be contacted to see if he is available to varnish the notice board.

r) Clerk – 6 months with Read Parish Council

April Collinson celebrates 6 months of being with Read Parish Council as Clerk and has received her first pay increase as stipulated in her employment contract.

RESOLVED: Pay increase in line with SCP Scale.

s) Simonstone Parish Council Clerk Retiring

Rodger Hirst the Clerk for Simonstone Parish Council will be retiring in May after over 24 years of service, he will be missed.

RESOLVED: Read Parish Council would like to send all their best wishes to Rodger for a long and enjoyable retirement.

t) Grant Application for Playground

A grant application has kindly been completed by Councillor Anderson to request funding to assist with the repairs to the playground. This has been submitted however confirmation of whether this application has been successful will not be published until April 2022.

u) Allotment Invoices

All allotment invoices have now been paid.

12. Correspondence

Regarding the estate of Mr Summergill, the retaining wall is suggested to be moved. The matter will not be able to move forward until this is resolved, Read Parish Council are happy to pay 50% of the cost of moving the wall out of the proceeds of sale.

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

Planning Application No: 3/2021/1185, 10 Hammond Drive, Read, BB12 7RE

Alterations to planning permission 3/2017/1183 to include an extension of the driveway to form a new boundary and a car turntable as per the Design and Access Statement.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application.

15. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

10/01/2022	Donation to Royal British Legion	£20.00
17/01/2022	AC Salary - January	£256.00
19/01/2022	Donation to Read School	£200.00

b) Income

06/01/2022	Allotment Rent	£18.00
19/01/2022	Allotment Rent	£54.00
20/01/2022	Allotment Rent	£24.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 20th January 2022

Opening Balances 19.01.22			
Community Account	£7,001.00		
Business Saver Account	£9,580.96		£16,581.96
Add: Receipts			£14,523.60
Less: Payments			£10,252.99
Balance			£20,852.57

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Footpaths**
- **Local Development Plan**
- **Telephone Kiosk**
- **Church Street Gardens**
- **Jubilee**

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.