

READ PARISH COUNCIL

02/03/2022

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

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

2 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor Bennett 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 2nd February 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 representative from Readstone Environment Group attended the meeting to extend a thank you to the council for the donation towards the wildlife and thermal imaging cameras. Training is being undertaken by group members to operate the cameras. A small amount of funding has been received from the National Lottery towards a big clean project in preparation for Jubilee celebrations, the Scouts and Cubs will be assisting with this. Some hedgehog houses will also be being placed and several patches of land have been seeded. Praise was extended to Councillor Anderson for the dry stone walling he has been working on and it was confirmed that once this is complete plants will be added to the area. The Group will be making efforts to contact local schools and businesses regarding a plastic free initiative where single use plastics are given up. A leaflet will be distributed throughout Read and Simonstone about the group projects. Concerns were raised about plastics washing down the river and ending up being a local problem however this may be difficult to trace up stream.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – A brief report was received from Councillor Bennett confirming that the Meadow View residents have been in communication with a firm of Solicitors who specialise in actions against Local Authorities. Councillor Bennett will liaise with them and the Lawyers to try and sort out the very complex matters involving the unfinished road.
7. **Clerk's Report** – a report was received from the local PCSO with the monthly crime statistics for January;
 - Drugs-0
 - Vehicle crime- 2
 - Criminal damage excluding vehicles-0
 - Public order- 1
 - ASB- 1
 - Assault-2
 - Theft-0
 - Theft or UTMV-0

Burglary-0

Road Related Offence-2

It was noted that there have been some burglaries recently both in business and residential properties.

8. Reports from external meetings –

Simonstone Parish Council

A meeting was held with local residents regarding concerns about joining the Hyndburn constituency. This was to clarify that joining the Hyndburn constituency does not mean that the area would come under Hyndburn Borough Council, It would remain under Ribble Valley Borough Council. A meeting will be held regarding the Boundary Commission proposal at Preston Town Hall on 14th and 15th March.

For the Platinum Jubilee it is intended that a commemorative bench will be placed locally.

9. Playground:

a) To receive the playground inspection report – a large noticed appears to have broken and blown from the Cricket Club along with a large black tub. Councillor Hacking has gathered the broken pieces up and contacted the Cricket Club who have collected this.

b) Repairs and maintenance – The wobble board and benches which have recently received maintenance appear to be in good condition. A grant has been applied for to fund the cargo net repairs although we will not get a response for this until April. The Lenghtsman will be painting some of the equipment once the weather is better as well as laying down more woodchip as the ground is quite wet.

10. Allotment Management Committee report – an Allotment Management Committee meeting took place. There are 16 people on the waiting list and no available allotments. An inspection of the allotments shall take place around May. Some fencing is still awaiting repair and some has now been repaired. It has been requested that locks be placed on the two gates leading down to the Allotments. These two gates are located at the top of the hill leading down through the allotments and between the playground car park and the football field. These gates have been locked in the past and issues have arisen where keys have been lost or combinations forgotten. It was suggested that this may help prevent burglaries at the allotments, joy riding on the football field and undesirables. It was debated whether a lock would be needed on both gates or just one and noted that the football club have confirmed they would be fine with the top gate being locked if necessary. Councillor Anderson abstained from voting in this matter and it was decided a lock would be added to the top gate only for now as this would help protect the football field as well as the allotments. This will be reviewed at a future date to see if a further lock is needed for the lower gate. Councillor Anderson will research the different locks available and find out what will be best suited.

11. Decision Items

a) Telephone Kiosk

Some residents have expressed an interest in purchasing the Telephone Kiosk but have not made an offer when asked to do so. It has been discussed several times that the kiosk may be difficult and expensive to move and there will also be the matter of filling the hole which would be left behind. It was queried whether the kiosk could be given back to BT who would have more experience restoring/removing kiosks, if BT would take the kiosk back this would prevent the kiosk becoming a financial drain on the Parish but may not be what some residents would want.

RESOLVED: The Telephone Kiosk will be advertised to local residents on the

Facebook and the website with contact details should they wish to make an offer. The ground would have to be reinstated after the removal of the Kiosk. The Clerk will also make attempts to contact BT about whether they would be willing to take ownership of the Kiosk back should no residents be interested.

b) Footpaths

Hill Speak has been contacted about the sodden footpath, no work can be undertaken until the ground is dry enough for machinery to come on to the land. Concerns were raised that the proposed pipe may not be placed in the most effective position for drainage as the culvert may be damaged. It was suggested some hardcore may be added to some of the areas to help make the ground more stable in preparation for next winter.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hanson will make contact to ensure effective management of the water takes place.

c) Footpath Width

The pavement on both sides of the main road from Friendship Mill toward the hill has become quite narrow due to earth washing from the fields. Lancashire county council has been contacted about this. It was noted that several summers ago the footpaths toward Devil's elbow was attended to and it seems likely that this will need doing again.

RESOLVED: The width of the footpath has been reported to Lancashire County Council and the response is that it has been assessed and work will be undertaken. No date has been given for the work to be carried out

d) Local Development Plan

Development in the Ribble Valley has caused increased traffic through Read toward Manchester and surrounding areas. It was noted that the traffic is affecting the quality of life of residents. The plans for the bypass previously proposed in the 1990s would help ease the amount of traffic through the village however this could have adverse effects on local businesses. It was suggested that the traffic through the village should be monitored alongside air pollution levels and that these could be compared with levels over the last 10 years. It was noted that there seem to be significantly less pedestrian crossings in Read compared to other local areas such as Whalley.

It was suggested that a letter should also be sent to Ged Mirfin our County Councillor regarding the bypass scheme and asking for another pedestrian crossing.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Ged Mirfin and also draft a Local Development plan.

e) Church Street Gardens

The commemorative picnic bench for the Queen's Jubilee has been ordered. Councillor Pollard has contacted David Hewitt regarding the trees which are in need of maintenance who has advised he would email what was needed for the trees to be assessed but no email has been received. It was suggested that quotes from other tree maintenance specialists should be attained.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact David Hewitt and Councillor Hanson will seek out further quotes.

f) Jubilee

It was confirmed that the Village Hall is no longer available for the event planned for the Thursday as another event is taking place. The cafes will still be taking place on the Wednesday and the Friday and it is hoped that these will be themed specially to the occasion where possible.

RESOLVED: As the Village Hall is unavailable for the Thursday the Parish

Council will not be able to hold an event as previously thought.

g) Dementia Singing Group

A Bluetooth connection is required for the new sound-system which is on order. Song books have been attained and the group is likely to meet on Thursdays once a month in the afternoon.

RESOLVED: The group will be advertised at the cafes once a date has been fixed.

h) Food Van for Car Park

The council had been approached with a request for a food van on the car park by the playground. Concerns were raised that this may cause litter and the smell of cooking food may not be welcomed by those who live nearby.

RESOLVED: It was voted that this was not something that Read Parish Council feel would be suitable at the moment.

i) Read Motor Bodies

A one year lease has been requested and this is being worked on by a solicitor currently. It was noted that opting for only a one year lease may be more expensive as this will have to be renewed annually however this will hopefully encourage the area to be better kept. It was noted that some of the area is being used however the area has not been completely cleared and so cannot be fully utilised. Cars from Read Motor Bodies are still being parked on the car park and surrounding streets.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Read Motor Bodies regarding the cars parked on the car park and local streets requesting they are placed on the leased land as promised and encouraging the land to be fully cleared to enable this.

j) Car Park and Road to Allotments

An assessment of repairs needed for the car park and allotment road has been requested and should be available for the next Parish Council Meeting

k) Straits Lane Notice Board

The notice board seems to be suffering some weathering due to rain falling and it being located under the trees. The windows have been cleaned recently and the lengthsman has been asked to varnish the wood once the weather is suitable.

RESOLVED: The Lengthsman will varnish the notice board once the weather is more suitable.

l) Streetsafe

People in our county are being asked to anonymously flag areas where they don't feel safe via a new national online tool called StreetSafe. This has been launched by the Home Office and The National Police Chiefs' Council, the pilot project aims to identify areas that need improving and make the streets safe for everyone, particularly women and girls, and to also identify areas where there are fears surrounding anti-social behaviour and environmental issues. A crime doesn't have to have taken place for you to mark it on StreetSafe's online maps. Information submitted anonymously via Streetsafe will be used by policing in partnership with other agencies to deliver improved wellbeing and safety for communities, especially for women and girls.

12. Correspondence

A letter of thanks has been received from the Royal British Legion following the donation to the Poppy Appeal in made in November in lieu of purchasing a wreath.

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

Planning Application No: 3/2022/0069 Brookside, Old Roman Road, Read BB12 7RX
Application for a proposed single-storey extension to rear to form attached annex and extension of existing parking area.

Planning Committee
No Objections to the above application

Planning Application No: 3/2022/0029 Old Coal Staithe House, Old Coal Staithe, Read BB12 7RT

Application is a proposed single-storey rear extension including new front entrance porch and demolition of existing outbuildings.

Planning Committee
No Objections to the above application

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

11/02/2022	Village Hall Room rent for tree light up	£35.00
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b) Income

07/02/2022	Jubilee grant from RVBC	£500.00
09/02/2022	Simonstone contribution to seniors raffle	£11.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 20th February 2022

Opening Balances 19.02.22			
Community Account	£7,451.00		
Business Saver Account	£9,580.96		£17,301.96
Add: Receipts			£15,034.60
Less: Payments			£10,287.99
Balance			£22,048.57

15. Items for the next agenda

- Telephone Kiosk
- Dementia Singing Group
- Car Park and Allotment Road
- Trees for Community Space
- Litter Bins Review
- Read Motor Bodies

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.