

READ PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.00pm. Councillor Marie Hacking presided and there was 1 elector, 5 Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk present.

- 1. Minutes of the previous meeting** – minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 14th April, 2021 were approved.
- 2. Matters arising from the minutes** – None
- 3. Chairman's Report** – the Chairman gave the Chairman's report on the work carried out by the Parish Council during the past 12 months as follows:

"I am pleased to say that we are once again able to meet in person for the Parish Council Meetings here in the Village Hall, which we could not do during the covid restrictions.

Tonight we are having the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on the same evening. The Parish Meeting is for residents to come along and voice any concerns they may have about the village and to discuss any issues with members of the parish Council.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will follow, when the chair and vice chair will be appointed to serve for the next 12 months. All other responsibilities and tasks within the Parish will be allocated to the relevant councillor, and following this, the Parish Council Meeting will continue.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our monthly Parish Council Meetings in the Village Hall, usually held on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7pm, when there is a 15 minute slot to allow members of the public an opportunity for councillors to receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The dates and times of the meetings and agendas are displayed in the two Parish Council Noticeboards on Straits Lane and Jubilee Street as well as on our Parish Council website and Facebook page. We hold ten monthly meetings each year, except in August and December.

We currently have a full complement of counsellors who work very hard throughout the year; our two newest counsellors are Dr. John Barker and Mrs. Sally McKelvey. John is a very active member of the Greenway group and Sally is the trustee for the Village Hall and oversees the running of the cafe. We have a new clerk in April Collinson, who took over from Lesley Foster when Lesley moved out of the area in August 2021. April settled in well and he's making a valuable contribution to the Parish Council,

In 2020 work commenced on the car park and allotment road. Unfortunately, we could not afford to have these areas tarmaced, and although the work improved the road surface, we understood that it would require continued maintenance work in the future. Pot holes have once again started to appear and we are getting quotes to once again repair the road surface. We would ask anyone using the car park or the

allotment road do not exceed the five miles per hour speed limit. We have asked the lengthsman to paint the swing supports in the playground and he has replaced damaged wood on the benches and the Wobble Board. The cargo net is being replaced this year with the ant from Ribble Valley.

The gate has been real between the playground and the football field so children can access this area without having to cross the car park. The playground is inspected weekly in summer and monthly in the winter months to check all the equipment is working and safe to use. Thanks to Councillor Greenhough and a resident, Church Street Gardens now have birdfeeders hedgehog and bird houses as well as more plants and flowers. The Parish Council has purchased a picnic bench for the Platinum Jubilee celebration in June, and hope families will enjoy using this area.

Instead of having the annual civic Sunday celebration we organised together with Simonstone Parish Council an event in the village hall in September. The event proved the great success with the organisations within the two villages been invited to display information and equipment about their organisations to members of the public. Light refreshments were provided an entertainment from the secret singers, the Easi Beats and tastes from the Panto group were enjoyed.

We have the Christmas tree blessing and tree lights which on in December, thank you to Councillor Hanson for donating the tree and helping site in Church Street Gardens with the Lengthsman in windy weather at times. Unfortunate because of Covid the children from Read School could not go into the Village Hall to sing but sang beautifully around the tree. We were able to offer refreshments after in the Village Hall. This year we were able once again to organise the seniors Christmas meal in conjunction with Simonstone Parish Council, we were able to offer eighty meals and games at the Higher Trapp. We asked for a contribution of £10 per person towards the cost of the meal, which everyone was happy to pay. The feedback we received was positive that everyone added joy the afternoon. I'm sure this is something we will repeat again this year.

The Read and Simonstone environment group have done wonderful work with their monthly litter picks. Wouldn't it be great if people either binned or took their rubbish home rather than dumping it for someone else to move. They have also worked hard on the area down by the cricket field wall which is Worthalls road. The dry stone walling has been carried out by councillor Bob Anderson and the planting by the environment group. The flowers and bushes look lovely, so a massive thank you to them. The group are looking to tidy up or the neglected areas within the village.

The village hall is up and running again, and offering many activities. All relevant information is on their website and noticeboard. We are very fortunate to have two cafes in the village. The cafe in the village hall is open on Wednesdays and the community cafe at the con club on Fridays, both opening from 10 to 12. These cafes were missed during lockdown, so it's wonderful to see them open and running again offering a vital service to residents of both villages. A big thank you to all the volunteers at both cafes, who made this possible.

For mums, dads, grandparents and carers there is a Tots and Tea group on Tuesdays from 10 to 12 in the Village Hall. This is a well attended group which was organised by Councillor Sian Greenhough with the helpers Kathleen and myself.



We made attempts to try and refurbish the telephone kiosk, but unfortunately this did not come to fruition, so we have advertised it for sale and have had an offer to buy it, which we have accepted. We know it had sentimental value to some people but it had become an eyesore with broken windows and chipped paint and we felt that this was the best solution.

Traffic speeding through the village is a problem and children's safety is always a concern. So we do ask everybody to park legally with consideration for other road users and pedestrians leaving enough space on the pavement for people to pass and not to block back streets.

Dog fouling remains an issue in the village. Would dog owners please clean up after their dogs so we can keep the villages clean and pleasant as possible for everyone. A fixed penalty notice can be given to anyone found not cleaning up after their dog.

I'm sure there will be events in and around the village for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. Fingers crossed the weather will be sunny for us all to enjoy. Let's see if we can add as much red, white and blue to our gardens, hanging baskets and window boxes. So not only will the flowers be enjoyed by residents, but also by anyone passing through the village.

I would like to finish by thanking all the councillors and clerk for their work throughout last year and this coming year, I know in our role as councillors we will do our best for the residents of Read that hopefully making this a safe clean and pleasant community in which to live and using the precept wisely."

4. Matters raised by residents - None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.11pm.