

READ PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish meeting was held digitally on Zoom on Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7.00pm. Councillor Marie Hacking presided and there were 4 electors, 5 Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk present.

- 1. Minutes of the previous meeting** – minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April, 2019 were approved.

- 2. Matters arising from the minutes** –

Nothing had been done about the footpath in a poor state of repair.

The situation is still the same regarding the waste bin.

Improvement work has been undertaken on the car park and cars are not permitted to park there overnight.

It was decided that the stile would be reinstated, but this has not been done yet due to the gin festival and COVID. It is on the lengthsman's list of future tasks.

A donation was made to Little Green Bus.

The Martholme Greenway is in the Parish Plan.

- 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:

"Unfortunately because of Covid we were unable to have the Annual Parish Meeting last year in April 2020 and this year we are holding it by zoom, hopefully next year we will be back in the V.H meeting once again face to face.

I would like to start by thanking each and every Parish Councillor for their work during 2020, it has been for us all a very challenging and difficult year. I would like to give a special thanks to Bob Anderson for taking on the role of Allotment Manager; I know Bob does above and beyond what he needs to do. Thanks also to Lesley Foster our Clerk for all her hard work. Sadly we accept the resignation of Councillor Debbie Ridge, who has been on the PC for 4 years, and wish her all the best for the future, I know her working hours and responsibility have increased over the last year, and feels she cannot give the level of commitment she would like to the PC. I hope who ever takes her place will be as conscientious and committed as Debbie.

As lock down started in March 2020, work commenced on the car park and allotment road, we have put restrictions on the use of the car park with no overnight or commercial vehicles using the area. We request anyone using the car park and road not to exceed 5 mph. The car park is intended solely for the use of residents and visitors to village amenities and sports organisations.

The biggest problems within the village are Dog Fouling and litter as well as inconsiderate/illegal parking. Please do not block back streets or block pavements. And we ask that parents/carers park safely around school when dropping off and picking up children. Unfortunately there has been evidence of drug use in and around the village, with nitrous oxide containers and syringes found. If anyone sees any evidence of drug use please report it to the police.

We were unable to have our Seniors Xmas party in December, so instead we delivered 143 gift bags of chocolates and biscuits to residents 70 years and over in the Village. These gifts were appreciated and we received letters and messages of thanks.

This year we are organising along with Simonstone PC a joint Xmas party.

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As soon as restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so, I am sure the VH café on Wednesday mornings and the Con Club on Friday morning will resume, both of these venues were well supported and enjoyed by Villages from not only Read and Simonstone but surrounding areas. The cafes helped to bring together the community in a friendly and welcoming environment. I know both these cafes have been missed during lock down.

The Environment Group have done excellent work, litter picking and helping to improve some of our grot spots with clearing and planting bulbs and flowers a big thank you to them as well as all the other work they have undertaken.

The Greenway group continue their work of improving and making new pathways, repairing bridges etc, so we can enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

Church St gardens is a work in progress; a sign has been put up to discourage dog owners from letting their dogs foul the area. A resident is going to work with Cll Sian Greenhough to improve the area, to make it a more usable, pleasant and safe area for people to enjoy.

No decision has been made at present as to what to do with the decommissioned telephone kiosk on Fort St, but hopefully it can be refurbished and put to good use.

The playground will undergo some improvement, with painting and repair work this year; we know it was missed by children during the initial lockdown when we could not allow it to be used, I know it is much loved area and will be enjoyed especially over the summer months. Please look after the area by putting litter in the bin provided.

Many residents will be pleased when football, cricket, tennis and bowls can once again be played, bringing life and enjoyment back into the village.

Please help us to keep Read a family friendly, clean and pleasant place to live.

Keep safe and well."

4. Matters raised by residents:

Councillor Hacking presented a comment on behalf of a resident who was not able to attend the meeting regarding the bin on Straits Lane, which has been particularly full since Readstone United JFC started playing. She has spoken with one of the residents involved with the football club, who has agreed to provide an extra bin that will be out on match days only.

Councillor Hacking presented a comment on behalf of a different absent resident regarding the bus service, which no longer comes down Straits Lane on its way from Sabden. It is difficult to carry shopping bags to and from the current bus stops for those who don't have their own transport. The council could consider writing to ask for the service to be resumed.

Another councillor had heard comments from several residents about bins being left in back streets and about cars parking so that they were blocking back roads. At some times the back streets had been completely blocked, such as after the bin lorry had been and the bins had been left in the middle of the road. Jubilee Street had been particularly bad.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm.