

**READ PARISH COUNCIL**

**06/04/2022**

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

**Present:** Chairman: Councillor Hacking  
Councillors: Anderson, Barker, Hanson, McKelvey.

**In attendance:** April Collinson (Clerk)

2 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor Bennett, Councillor Pollard and Councillor Greenhough apologised for their 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 March 2022 – the minutes were approved.**
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – none**
5. **Public participation – none**
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 regarding the unfinished road.
7. **Clerk's Report** – a report was received from the local PCSO with the monthly crime statistics for the month of March: 01/03/2022-31/03/2022.

Drugs-1  
Vehicle crime- 0  
Criminal damage excluding vehicles-0  
Public order- 0  
ASB- 1  
Assault-0  
Theft-3  
Theft or UTMV-1  
Burglary-1  
Road Related Offence-1

Further details were given about some logs of note;

03/03-Burglary- School Lane- Electric Bike stolen from property, No CCTV, online messages put out but no leads/ positive lines of enquiry.

03/03-Burglary- Greenacres- shed broken into and power tools taken- no CCTV, patrols attended, did an area search and online appeal, no positive lines of enquiry came back.

08/03-Theft- Greenacres- van broken into overnight, various tools stolen.

13/03 Suspicious Circumstances- Allotments- suspicious male in the drivers seat of a car acting odd, informant suspects drug use, patrols made aware. No Vehicle Registration Mark was given to us.

29/03- Suspicious Circumstances- Whinns Lane- suspicious van lifting the drain cover off the drain in the road, cover was not taken but informant found this odd so reported this to the police.

#### **8. Reports from external meetings – none**

#### **9. Playground:**

**a) To receive the playground inspection report** – As the weather improves the inspections will become more regular. Nothing to report at this time save that there is a small amount of litter in the area.

**b) Repairs and maintenance** – Ribble Valley Borough Council have offered a grant of £650 towards the repairs of playground equipment estimated to cost £1300, work must be completed by 31/01/2023 and the contribution must be acknowledged in any media coverage. The necessary parts can now be ordered and work can be scheduled.

**10. Allotment Management Committee report** –There are 17 people on the waiting list and no available allotments. A notice has been placed to inform Allotment users of the proposed locking of gates. It was noted that others who need access to the area such as for grass cutting would also need a key. This will be discussed at the next Allotment management committee meeting. An inspection of the allotments shall take place in May. Some fencing is still awaiting repair and some has now been repaired it is proposed that meeting with the lengthsman should be scheduled to clarify the remaining work to be done.

#### **11. Decision Items**

##### **a) Telephone Kiosk**

Two people have expressed an interest in purchasing the Telephone Kiosk and have been invited to attend this meeting to discuss at length. An offer has been received of £1000 from Phil Braithwaite of Craftsman Restoration Ltd who confirmed that his company would be able to handle the removal and remediation work as they have experience with repairing bridges from Lancashire County Council and so have all the correct insurances and qualifications. Councillor Hanson confirmed he was aware of this company and their work. Mr Braithwaite did attend the meeting and confirmed that he intends to restore the iconic telephone box. The other interested party did not attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED: The council voted to sell the Telephone Kiosk to Mr Braithwaite.**

##### **b) Dementia Singing Group**

The singing group is awaiting some Bluetooth equipment before it can begin, once this arrives the group will be organised.

##### **c) Car Park and Allotment Road**

A quote has been requested from John Lofthouse to re-lay the existing material, on site he confirmed this would be about one man/days work and would cost in the region of £1500. Enquiries were made at machine hire businesses to gage an idea of the cost of equipment which would be in the region of £500-£600. A quote has been requested from Dave Ferguson who viewed the car park on 02/04/2022 and said he will be in contact with a quote. It was discussed that the current material will need recurring maintenance and that as soon as there are puddles and standing water on the surface it will degrade more quickly. It was noted that if the council was

to come into a large sum of money, the site could be tarmaced which would last considerably longer than the current surface.

**RESOLVED: Quotes will be circulated once they are received to be discussed at the next meeting**

**d) Trees for the Community Space**

The soil for the planted areas in the community space was scheduled to be delivered however has not yet arrived.

**e) Litter Bin Review**

Contact has been made with Adrian Harper regarding the Litter Bin Review which has been ongoing since July 2020, the team working on the review seem to be considering finance options.

**f) Overgrown bushes on Whalley Road**

Some bushes are becoming overgrown on Whalley Road and are protruding over the wall into the pavement area. This has been an issue before however it was attended to when contact was made with the resident. Other areas in the village where greenery was beginning to obstruct walkways were also discussed.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to the address in question about the issue.**

**g) Jubilee Picnic Bench for Church Street Gardens**

The Picnic Bench is now in place and can be used by residents.

**h) Automotive Tools Storage Container**

Contact was made with Peter Maddock from Automotive Tools & Supplies, he confirmed they have actively started to look for a buyer for the container, and have been removing more products from within. He advised the council that as yet they do not have a definite date however do wish to see the container removed as soon as possible. Congratulations were offered to Bob Anderson for doing a great job of dry stone walling. Once the container is removed, they intend to get a contractor in to clean up the base and put a firm tarmac base down and confirmed their wish has always been to leave the site in better condition than when they found it. The council considered the matter which has been ongoing for some time and whether this should be resolved in the next month.

**RESOLVED: Councillor Hacking will make contact with Peter Maddock to request the storage container is moved as soon as possible, preferably within the next month.**

**i) Locks for gates near the Allotments**

This matter has been discussed earlier in the meeting at part 10. (please see above)

**RESOLVED: The matter of locking the gates and access will be discussed at the next Allotment Management Committee Meeting.**

**j) Simonstone Parish Council Clerk Appointment**

A new Clerk has been appointed for Simonstone Parish Council. April Collinson is currently taking up the position alongside the current Clerk Roger Hirst with the intention to take over fully for Roger's retirement.

**k) Read Motor Bodies**

The Solicitors seem to be taking their time in preparing the lease for Read Motor Bodies. Issues have been ongoing with the site. The area has been partially tidied however this has not continued any further and cars are still being parked on the surrounding roads and the car park. It was considered whether Read Motor Bodies are motivated to tidy and use the area effectively as they may not see how desirable the land would be for example to residents who wish to park off road, interest has also been expressed from other local businesses as parking for customers. It appears the business has outgrown the premises. The land has not been cleared and promises of getting rid of iron gates and clearing the area so the car park and streets are not used for parking cars etc are not kept. Although a 1

year lease may not be profitable it may be more motivation to maintain the area.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to the solicitors detailing the issues and reasoning for the 1 year lease and explaining that if there is no improvement in the state the area is kept in the lease will not be renewed again.**

## 12. Correspondence

An update has been received from the solicitors managing the estate of Mr Summersgill. The letter confirms they have been in contact with the neighbour about the boundary dispute and have gathered quotes for moving the wall to resolve the dispute.

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

### **Planning Application No: 3/2022/0260 - 7 Tennyson Avenue, Read, BB12 7RN**

Proposed increase in the size of the detached single garage approved under planning application 3/2021/0256.

Planning Committee

No Objections to the above application

## 14. Finance & Accounts:

### a) Payments

25/02/2022	A Collinson Salary February 2022	£261.00
25/02/2022	WaterPlus	£337.94
28/02/2022	ARK Plastics – Picnic bench	£522.00
21/03/2022	Revive – Bus Stop cleaning	£40.00
21/03/2022	WaterPlus	£57.87
21/03/2022	A Collinson Salary March 2022	£261.00

### b) Income

07/03/2022	Interest	£0.24
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### c) Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2022

<b>Opening Balances 01.04.22</b>			
Community Account	£5,971.19		
Business Saver Account	£9,581.20		£15,552.39
Add: Receipts			£15,034.84
Less: Payments			£11,767.80
Balance			<b>£18,819.43</b>

## 15. Items for the next agenda

**The Next Meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council. This will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

- **Street Lighting on Back Street**
- **Bins being left in the road**
- **Trees for Community Space**
- **Councillors Attendance**

**The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.**