

READ PARISH COUNCIL

06/07/2022

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

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

1 member of the public attended.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Councillor Bennett 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*
For complete clarity councillors Barker & Pollard declared an interest in the Martholme Greenway.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 8th June 2022** – *the minutes were approved with one amendment, Councillor Hanson had sent their apologies for their absence from the meeting.*
- 4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *an update was provided regarding item; 08/06/2022 11.d) – It has been proposed to place a memorial tree in Church Street Gardens, the tree shall be a flowering cherry tree, councillors Pollard and Greenhough will confirm the details. It was discussed that if many similar requests are received then a limit would have to be placed to prevent the area becoming overcrowded, other memorial options could be considered such as benches.*
- 5. Public participation** – *A local resident raised concerns about a signpost in need of maintenance. The signpost was made by Cyril Law to prevent damage to an existing older signpost. Grass has grown long in the area and the sign itself needs cleaning and painting. Councillors discussed that maintenance may have been performed previously by the lengthsman.*
RESOLVED - a request will be made to the lengthsman to perform maintenance.
A representative from Read Primary School brought that the children will be creating art of the Village Hall when they return in September, these will be displayed in the village hall.
- 6. Borough Councillor's Report** – *none*
- 7. Clerk's Report** – a report was received from the local PCSO whom has recently returned from maternity leave with the monthly crime statistics for the month of June: 01/06/2022-31/06/2022.

Road Related Offence- 0
Criminal Damage Excluding Vehicles- 1
Vehicle Crime- 0
Assault- 3
Anti-Social Behaviour- 1
Drugs- 0
Theft-5

8. Reports from external meetings

Parish Council Liaison meeting – Support is being offered to local voluntary groups from the Council for Voluntary Services, funding, training and newsletters are being offered.

Rural Taskforce – there have been a lot of thefts within the Ribble Valley connected with organised crime. CCTV has been suggested and grants are available, this would help log vehicles and number plate recognition software can also be used. Some systems are between £1000-£1300.

120 Ukrainians are now in the Ribble Valley.

Ribble Valley Climate Action Network are looking to increase contacts with environmental groups and to help people access cycling and walking as well as helping people with grants. This group meet in the trinity hub in Clitheroe.

SpIDs – the Ribble Valley are looking to purchase 3 Speed Indicator Devices to be loaned out to smaller councils within the area.

9. Playground:

- a) To receive the playground inspection report – see item 11.a)**
- b) Repairs and maintenance – see item 11.a)**

10. Allotment Management Committee report – the large vacant lot has been divided up into 3 and all three have been let to new tenants. The waiting list now stands at 16. It was noted that the hedge at the back of one of the allotments has been removed, it seems as though it is the householder that has removed the hedge. It also seems as though the householder has moved some garden rubble into a ditch which runs along the back of the property. This ditch allows drainage of the football field and should not be blocked.

RESOLVED – the clerk will write to the householder asking that the area is secured with a replacement hedge and that the drainage ditch is not obstructed

11. Decision Items

a) Playground

The swings which required lifting have been raised by the lengthsman and woodchip has been placed under the picnic bench and other benches to reduce and trip hazards, the bin has also been moved the correct distance away from the bench. Bird spikes have been placed along the top bar of the swings to prevent soiling of the seats. Signs have been added to ensure clarity that no dogs are allowed in the playground area as well as a sign regarding litter. A revised quote has been attained for the cargo net.

RESOLVED – the cargo net will be ordered.

b) Car Park & Allotment Road

The community space by the Village Hall is currently awaiting installation of a matting base, councillors are awaiting to review the success of this to see if it could be a viable option for the car park and allotment road. Councillor Anderson has offered some spare tarmac for temporary repairs.

c) Traffic and Pollution

Figures for the level of pollution along Whalley Road have been received from Ribble Valley Borough Council as follows;
September'21- 25.6 ug/m³

October'21- 29.0 ug/m³
November'21- 28.9 ug/m³
December'21- 30.0 ug/m³
January'22- 35.6 ug/m³
February'22- 23.0 ug/m³
March'22- 19.5 ug/m³
April'22 -20.6 ug/m³

It was explained that with the exception of January, the readings are lower than those identified in Ribble Valley's Air Quality Management Area, located at the bottom of Whalley Road, Clitheroe (near Holmes Mill). It was noted that the air quality standards regulations allow an average of 40ug/m³ and that on no more than 18 occasions in a year should the level exceed 200 ug/m³. In conclusion the level of pollution is not of concern. It was discussed that the area is fairly open so pollutants can more easily be dispersed.

d) Parish Plan

Councillors discussed how best to review the Parish Plan, the previous Parish Plan will be reviewed by councillors along with what an analysis of what the Parish Council has authority over and what can be achieved as well as what has been achieved since the last Parish Plan. The previous Parish Plan is available on the Read Parish Council website in the 'About' section.

e) Building construction and Planning Permission

It had been noted that within the village some planning permission plans were not being followed. It was suggested that amended planning permission has been applied for however the planning officers do not always have time to update the information online. Amended plans are noted online however these appear to be the same as the original plans. The lack of these amendments being online can make it difficult for residents to review the information. The level of amendments was discussed how smaller amendments may not make a substantial difference to the plans.

f) Grit bin on St. Johns Close

A grit bin had been moved from its place on St. Johns Close by a resident.

RESOLVED: This has been reported and will be put back on St. Johns Close.

g) Footpaths

i) Footpath between Straits Lane and Whalley Road

It was noted that the area is becoming overgrown with weeds making the area difficult to pass. It was suggested the lengthsman may have previously maintained the area. A discussion of how this has previously been controlled and the use of weed killers on public areas and their safety in relation to dogs, other pets and the environment.

RESOLVED : The lengthsman will be asked if this area has been maintained previously with a view to providing maintenance.

ii) Footpath between Straits Lane and Church Close (the church footpath)

A resident raised concerns that people have been riding bikes along the church path, the path is not a bridleway. It had been suggested that, although the path does go narrow towards Straits Lane, it could be widened and made into a bridle way. The fence bordering the path runs along the school playing field and appears to be in need of repair, it was suggested that the fence could be moved by a couple of feet to widen the path enough for horses. Concerns were raised that the path is often used by school children and that horses and their droppings could pose a risk to children. It was suggested this could be asked in the Parish Plan questionnaire to gauge the opinion of residents on the matter.

h) Footpath around Gooseleach Wood

The Footpath had been noted to be boggy in areas previously, now the area is dryer the drainage work will be taking place. Some wood has been placed in the field which appears to have been placed by walkers, the landowners thought these may be a hazard, they also raised concerns about a wooden walkway further down the field. It was discussed that most footpaths do come with hazards. The landowners advised they had previously offered to meet with council representatives to discuss drainage plans and issues however this had not come to fruition, it was noted that previously the landowners had offered to meet however they did have the drainage work in hand and the tenant would be handling this so there would be no need to meet.

RESOLVED: The clerk will write to the landowners apologising that a meeting had not come to fruition and confirming that the parish council has not added any wood/branches to the area.

i) Telephone Kiosk

Electricity North West have provided a quote for disconnecting the Telephone box from the Mains Electricity Supply of £1318.28. It was noted that of the Kiosk is not sold the Parish Council will have to pay the disconnection charges at some point.

RESOLVED: An offer to sell the Telephone Kiosk for the reduced price of £1 the same as the Parish Council Paid will be made.

j) Planter in Place of the Telephone Kiosk

A Planter in place of the telephone Kiosk had been suggested however this will be placed on hold pending the above item being fully resolved.

k) Celebration Sunday & Christmas Meal

Arrangements are being made for the Celebration Sunday to take place on 25th September in conjunction with Simonstone Parish Council. Previously people had wanted to pay for refreshments etc at the event, it was suggested that donations could be made to a local Hospice.

The Higher Trapp has been provisionally booked for Thursday 1st December for the seniors Christmas meal, this has been booked for 80 people split evenly between Read and Simonstone, there will be games and entertainment along with the meal. The menu and prices will be confirmed once available.

l) Read Motor Bodies

A letter has been sent to the business as they have begun using the space which the storage container occupied, it has been requested that that cars are parked on the leased land behind the garage rather than on the street as previously discussed.

m) Geoff Lambert Audit Gratuity

Gratuity of £100 has been offered to Geoff Lambert as gratuity for performing the internal Audit, this has been turned down as he felt it was too much, his usual gratuity of £60 has been paid.

n) Environment Group Plaques

Two plaques to celebrate the achievements of the environment group had been ordered however four have been received. Two of the plaques have been installed on the cricket club field wall with permission from the cricket club, the other two plaques have been given to the environment group to use for any future projects.

o) Dry Stone Walling Course

There will be a dry stone walling course taking place by the greenway, this will be a two day course and prices are believed to be very reasonable. The teacher has over 30 years experience and is a qualified instructor. The course is likely to take place in September and places will be limited.

p) Football field drainage

The Football team sponsor has made arrangements to spike the football field and apply sand to help improve drainage. The sand will be stored on the car park for a short time.

q) Review hours of clerk

The clerk currently works 5.5 hours per week for Read Parish Council, these hours do not appear to have been reviewed in quite some time, it was noted that over time technologies and procedures will have changed resulting in more and less work. Reassurances were made that should the clerk feel the workload is growing then the hours can be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

12. Correspondence

A Slow Down Save Lives pack has been received which includes a couple of hi-vis vests, some signage reminding motorists to slow down and some wheelie bin stickers to be distributed, if any residents would like a wheelie bin sticker these can be requested from the clerk.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There were no planning application received since the time of the last minutes

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

06/06/2022	Read & Simonstone Village Hall (Apr 22 - Mar 23)	£200.00
06/06/2022	Insurance renewal	£555.68
13/06/2022	Bond repayment	£50.00
13/06/2022	Jubilee bench plaque	£25.00
15/06/2022	Playground – No dogs & litter signs	£21.57
15/06/2022	Read & Simonstone Village Hall (Jan 22 - Mar 22)	£60.00
23/06/2022	Playground – bird spikes	£29.75
23/06/2022	A Collinson Salary (June)	£261.00

b) Income

06/06/2022	Interest (on saver account)	£0.72
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c) Bank reconciliation as at 30 June 2022

Opening Balances 01.06.22			
Community Account	£13,473.13		
Business Saver Account	£9,581.92		£23,055.05
Add: Receipts			£15,035.56
Less: Payments			£4,854.06
Balance			£33,236.55

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Playground/ROSPA report**
- **Celebration Sunday & Christmas Party**
- **Car park & Road**
- **Read Motor bodies**

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.



The Next Meeting will take place on 7th September 2022.