

READ PARISH COUNCIL

07/06/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Greenhough, A. Hanson, R. Hanson, McKelvey, Neary & Pollard.

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

3 members of the public attended along with Borough Councillor Peplow.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor McKelvey sent apologies 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 17th May 2023** – *approved*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – none
5. **Public participation** – A resident of Whalley Road spoke regarding issues with the Planning department. The issue had been raised with the council previously where the neighbouring property had erected fencing when planning permission had specified for glass balustrade as the fencing is blocking the light to the property. The fencing in question had not been removed and so further enquiries had been made to the planning department to no avail. It was explained that the matter has made no progress in the last 12 months. The council agreed to write to the planning enforcements team asking why there has been such a delay in handling the case and to express the urgency of the situation. A copy will be provided to the resident and to Councillor Peplow along with information from when the issue was previously raised for context.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – Councillor Peplow spoke having been recently elected on 5th May 2023. It was confirmed that he had been elected alongside Borough Councillor Gaye McCrumb and extended thanks for the support received in the election. It was reported that the election had seen some big changes to the Borough Council with surprising results. He commented that he entered the election with the hopes to be elected and to work hard for everyone in the Borough. The changes have meant the council has needed some time to restructure and read adjust to the change in the roles within the council. The changes now mean that the Conservative council leader is now in a minority position. Councillor Induction has been taking place however email and other technical details are yet to be set up, this should be happening very soon. In relation to committees, this is assigned to councillors. Borough Councillor Gaye McCrumb has been allocated to Council Audit, Policy & Finance committees. Councillor Peplow confirmed he has been allocated Licensing, Economic Development, Community Services and Parish Council Liaison Committees, there is some scope to share duties within this. He advised that there is a Parish Council Liaison meeting on 22nd June 2023. Regarding the issues with the planning department, he has had a meeting with the head of the legal department to discuss the issues surrounding the planning department.

The planning department is having some difficulty with staffing & retention so some work has been outsourced due to this.

Some input to the Local Plan will be made in particular to protect the Greenway route from future development. Planning enforcement seem to straddle two teams, with legal working to do a lot due to resource issues.

He spoke regarding the Martholme Greenway which he commented is an important issue for the local community which has a lot of planning issues attached which will need to be reviewed carefully. He advised that he will seek to speak against the retrospective planning permission application from Bridge Heywood Caravan Park.

During his election campaign road safety was the main issue and this is a priority for this term. He confirmed that maintenance is not the issue and that improvements are needed to improve safety. He advised that there has been some crossing improvement and tactile paving installed in Clitheroe recently which has provided great improvement, this was funded from a capital fund rather than from Lancashire County Council. He went on to discuss that his priority is making roads safe and usable for all and that the updates to the highway code now give a hierarchy of road users putting pedestrians at the top along with cyclists and horse riders. He emphasised that users of non-motorised vehicles need to feel safe on the roads in order to use the roads in this way. He noted concerns of speeding at off peak times. Regarding cycleway 685 he hopes to overcome problems and find some resolution by working with land owners to alleviate concerns and gain their consent.

7. Clerk's Report – none

8. Reports from external meetings – none

9. Playground – please see matter 11.b)

10. Allotment Management Committee report – There are currently 11 people on the waiting list, one person has dropped out of wait list and one has been offered an allotment however they are currently on holiday. Concerns were raised that two allotment holders may have moved out of the area but have kept relatives in the house and are continuing to keep the allotments. Attempts are being made to contact them. The allotments should be fairly busy following the dry weather however they seem to be fairly quiet and several seem to be barely used. There are still issues with dogs. Dog walkers seem to be going down there as well as allowing dogs to run on the football pitch. There is a notice which says the area is restricted access, it was considered that a sign with stronger wording may be needed.

11. Decision Items

a) Summersgill Legacy

£45000 has been received however the final figure yet to be confirmed, the council had previously received advice that there had been an over-payment made due to an error reading the will. It was hoped that the selling of other assets would mean that no money would have to be paid back however we would not know until the matter was fully resolved by the solicitors. Councillors moved on to discuss how to divide the funds into projects while the final figure is still being decided.

b) Playground Equipment

Playground equipment to replace some of the adult gym equipment was discussed. A roundabout would cost around £6000, alternatively £1000-£2000 could be spent to get smaller items such as a pirate ship. Queries were raised over whether the old equipment could be sold. It was suggested that a more durable path could be installed in the playground using the money, the gradient and width of this will need to be considered. Councillors also discussed a potential kick-about area.

c) Read Motor Bodies Lease

d) Telephone Kiosk

The clerk has been continuing to chase up the Telephone Kiosk disconnection but no date for this has been set.

RESOLVED: the clerk will continue to chase this up with BT.

e) Parish Plan

The Parish plan team have been unable to meet to review the questionnaire recently. A meeting will be scheduled to review the questionnaire.

f) Coronation Cost & Donations

The cost of the Coronation celebration was confirmed as £212.84 for each Parish Council. A young boy had played piano throughout most of the event and the Easibeats had also performed for free. It was suggested that a donation of £25 be given to each as a thanks for their contribution to the event to be shared between both Read and Simonstone Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to pay extra an £25 toward the groups that performed.

g) Upcoming Clerk Vacancy

The clerk had confirmed she intends to hand her notice in and will be starting to look for a full time job to start from September. It was considered that the council should start advertising to fill the role to ensure there is adequate handover and training time.

h) Bench

It had been brought to the Councils attention that the bench on George Lane is needing replacing. The Council considered several different options but agreed that the Marmax bench designed with arms may be better for those who might need extra support when getting back up from a bench. The proposed bench is made of recycled materials and would be quite weather resistant, the cost is £329 and a plaque could also be added.

RESOLVED: Confirmation of the price plus carriage will be confirmed and circulated.

i) Multi Use Games Area

Plans have been retrieved for the previous enquiries made and a firm has been contacted to make an assessment, it was suggested the site could be used for netball, football, basketball as well as cricket. There may be optional lighting. It was noted that there is a light slope on site however this is unlikely to be an issue. Details will come back in approximately 3 weeks. This will be discussed at the next meeting. It was noted that the carpark and road would need to be brought up to standard to match facilities as its use would likely increase. It was suggested that an area between court and allotments could be used for parking. Councillors discussed that spending more on the carpark to ensure the surface lasts may be a good option. Kerbs could be placed on the carpark to stop people cutting the corner and lower speeds. The greater cost may become an issue. Funding could be sought under the health agenda. The facility would be for mixed use for both girls and boys.

j) Plastic Free Initiative

Plastic free initiative information has been circulated to councillors. The environment group has now made a request for a grant for litter pickers to lend out to local schools for the children to use as well as a home energy kit to measure how much

energy individual appliances use, they have requested £150 from each Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed a donation of £150 Richard, Bob, Sian & Clifton have agreed to sign up to the Plastic free Initiative.

k) Future Information for Residents when voting for Councillors

It was noted that during the recent election leaflets had been put out giving some information and some leaflets had been distributed through some of neighbouring Simonstone. Comments had been received that many residents did not know who to vote for as they didn't know the candidates. It was discussed that in the future it may be beneficial to produce a leaflet with all councillors and a small amount of information about them and what they do so that residents know what they do, any new candidates could also be included in the leaflet. This could also be put in the noticeboards and website. It was noted that this information as well as pictures of councillors could also be added to the website now.

l) Football Pitch/Grass Cuttings

An additional football club has asked to rent the football field. The two groups have agreed the arrangements the cost is to be shared between the two groups. The grass cuttings have been placed in the top corner for some time now. These are beginning to push on the fence and it is beginning to lean over. There is space in the corner however this is used up by a roller. This could potentially be removed as it is possible that it is not used. It was suggested that a barrier could be put in front of the fence to protect the fence.

m) Sign & Security for football and allotment areas

It was considered whether a camera could be installed to catch any dog fouling and trespassing however cameras would need an internet connection to work. More expensive ones are able to communicate further or via a sim card connection. A wildlife camera may be fit for purpose as this would detect movement and record when set off these can be found for around £140. The dog warden has been asked to patrol the area and notices about dog fouling have been received to be put up. Many dogs have been seen on the football pitch. There is a notice on both gates however both gates always open.

There has been a recent spate of fly tipping. Three trips to the tip have been made to dispose of rubbish. It was noted that if a camera was installed it may catch this. It was considered whether the terms of allotment holders should be updated to include a clause against fly-tipping where it would cause them to forfeit the allotment and allotment bond held.

It was noted that there have been children on the Football field during cricket club matches/events. Broken bottles, beer cans & litter have been found on the field, it was considered whether bins could be put on the football field, this would be a considerable cost. A bin could be placed near the gate to the Football Pitch it was considered that this would likely be filled very quickly as the playground bin is. Whenever this happens the Borough Council is contacted but the bin does not get emptied any sooner than the regular schedule.

RESOLVED: Enquiries will be made into getting an extra bin. Allotment Terms will be updated and sent out with the invoices. New signage for gates will also be looked into.

12. Correspondence – none

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There were no planning

application received since the time of the last minute.

a) Payments

25/05/2023	Clerk's Wage	£320.50
25/05/2023	Bus Stop Cleaning	£40.00

b) Income

02/05/2022	Allotment deposit 7A	£50.00
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c) Bank reconciliation as at 31st May 2023

Opening Balances 01.04.23			
Community Account	£20,863.07		
Business Saver Account	£9,659.45		
Skipton Building Society account	£45,000.00		£75,522.52
Add: Receipts			£50.00
Less: Payments			£360.50
Balance			£75,212.02

14. Items for the next agenda

- Read Motor Bodies Lease
- Multi Use Games Area
- Bench
- Parish Plan
- Playground equipment

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 5th July 2023.