

A meeting of the Read Parish Council meeting was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Greenhough, McKelvey, A Hanson & Neary

In attendance: Cllr Peplow, 2 members of the public

Chair Marie Hacking welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R Hanson and Cllr Pollard

2. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors *on items on the agenda*. N/A

2.2 To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). N/A

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. N/A

3. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2025.

Approved

4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda

Lunch grants are not able to be claimed in arrears so note made to ensure the council get the form in to apply for funding in advance of next year's lunch – Cllr Greenhough

To prevent missing other grants and/or funding opportunities the council will include a monthly check of the of the Lancashire County Council 4 Community website pages as this is where all the available funding opportunities are advertised.

5. Public participation:

ReadStone and Read United approached the council with the following proposal – that the licence to use the football pitch in the village be transferred from Read United to ReadStone with a 10-year licence attached and the ability for ReadStone to sublet the pitch back to Read United (but no other organisation or individual). This would enable ReadStone to apply for an FA grant to improve the ground. Cllr Hacking proposed the change in principle and Cllr Neary seconded it.

Council agreed that ReadStone can make the draft amends to the licence required for the FA grant process, then the council will review and forward to Pallisters for review.

6. Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Peplow gave an overview, report attached.

Jubilee fund has been ringfenced, but no guidance yet as to what we can apply to use it for – more information to follow as it becomes available.

No direct information regarding the issue of devolution despite considerable discussion and debate at council meetings, although it looks like we will not be affected until 2027 at the earliest.

Planning refusals were discussed – all info in attached report

7) Clerk's Report/Correspondence

Police report – 2 x assault and 1 in relation to an argument over an animal, 1 x ASB regarding a dispute over a vehicle, 1 x damage to a vehicle. Lancs Constabulary are looking for volunteers to join their Independent Advisory Group all info is available on their website.

HMRC bill for previous Clerks wages needs payment – passed to Cllr R Hanson

LALC annual subs invoice received – passed to Cllr R Hanson

VH invoices for room hire and hall hire received – passed to Cllr R Hanson

8) Reports from external meetings

Cllr Greenhough reported from the parish liaison committee meeting

Lots of speculation around the issue of devolution.

Signposting regarding grants (see point 4)

9) Allotment Management Committee Report

Damage caused by snow and subsequent storm, proposed and agreed to book a large skip date tbc – Cllr Neary to action.

4 vacant plots, several on the waiting list, just waiting to sign off ok to return bonds and re-let the plots.

Cllr Neary to send Cllr Hanson names and bank details so bonds can be returned.

Request for a grit bin made.

Rent increase –rent increase for 2026 to be discussed and agreed at September council meeting, then communicated in October to all allotment holders.

General maintenance of fencing – agreed to draw up a plan of rolling repairs to fences etc that at RPC's responsibility. Cllr Neary to discuss with Cllr R Hanson who can then liaise with the Lengthsman.

Cllr Neary to contact Cllr R Hanson regarding a scrap metal merchant to remove the scrap metal etc from various plots at the allotment.

10) Decision Items

(A) Football lease update

See point 5.

(B) Clerk Vacancy

Advert is now live on RVBC website.

(C) Allotment Rent Increase

See point 9.

(D) Contract for managing web site & Cllrs email addresses

Cllr McKelvey working on the website, full responsibility for this and social media updates will sit with the new Clerk.

Council decision made – no individual email addresses to be created.

Notice boards to be updated with Councillors name and email address only.

(E) Unity Bank/Barclays

Cllr R Hanson has opened the Unity Bank A/c and once it is operational he will request that the signatories transfer the money from the Barclays account. This will then be shut and an action activated that will ensure any payments made to the Barclays account after it has been closed will automatically be redirected to the Unity account. The council had expressed an interest in keeping the Barclays account open, but Cllr R Hanson has said this is not possible and is unnecessary.

(F) Telephone kiosk – update

Cllr Pollard is looking in to sourcing a plastic planter to replace the telephone box which has now been removed and the area tarmacked.

(G) SpIDS

Cllr A Hanson has emailed Cllr Hampson at Simonstone PC to obtain information regarding costs, upkeep etc which will be fed back at the next meeting.

(H) XL Wireless update

Still in progress, no poles have been erected in the village yet, and it has been confirmed that they will be using ducting wherever possible rather than poles.

(I) Storm damage

A couple of signs have been damaged around the village in the recent storm, Cllr Andreson will report this on the LoveCleanStreets website for LCC.

(J) Back Street lighting

Cllr Neary to approach the residents who have previously offered their gable ends to be used as sights for the back street solar lighting.

(K) Car Park camera

Discussed under point H – as XL Wireless have offered to donate a pole but we don't have a date for this yet.

(L) Proposal for garage area for school traffic

Proposal to use the garage area as an extended drop off zone for the school traffic, there is potentially 2 ways out at the top to keep traffic flowing at peak times. Cllr Anderson to continue investigating the possibility.

(M) Mirrors for side streets onto Whalley Road

Cllr Greenhough to research the possibility of mirrors at strategic pints on Whalley Road to aid motorists turning out of the side streets when there are parked cars blocking their view.

11) Correspondence

Police Report
See point 7

12) Planning Applications & Decisions

None

13) Finance & Accounts

a) Payment of invoices
b) Receipts
Cllr R Hanson absent

14. Items for the next agenda

SpiDS
Street mirrors
Unity Bank
Clerk vacancy applications
Football lease
Streetlights (back streets)
Allotments – date for skip, scrap metal, rolling program of repairs
Planter to replace phone box
Finance update