

### **READ PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Read Parish Council meeting was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm.**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr Peplow, 3 members of the public

Chair Marie Hacking welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs R Hanson, Pollard
- 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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024.** *Resolved to approve the minutes.*
- 4. Matters arising from the above minutes.** *None*
- 5. Public participation**

Representatives from Readstone FC and Read United attended to discuss the potential change in tenancy from Read United to Readstone FC. This would enable Readstone to apply for grants to undertake a range of groundworks to improve the pitches for the community as well as the club. The tenancy would ideally be for 10 years as the grant process runs over a 6-year period from the initial application and investigation work. Both Chairs agreed to meet with Councillor Hacking before the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the potential options available and the Council agreed to include this issue on the agenda for the next meeting in February.
- 6. Borough Councillor's Report**

Councillor Peplow brought us up to speed on the Govt. white paper regarding devolution from Central Govt. through the amalgamation of certain councils and the potential implementation of a Mayoral model. He advised that currently there is no clear plan or direction of travel, but he will keep us informed.

Hardship Fund – is available for residents via RVBC
- 7. Clerk's Report**
  - (A) Budget  
Precept budget submission agreed – same as 24/25
  - (B) Contract for managing web site  
Cllr McKelvey agreed to contact Easiweb to discuss updating the website and the creation of Councillors email addresses (Simonstone have used them, and they come recommended).  
Cllr McKelvey to contact Barry Tyrer to arrange a meeting to discuss the website hosting and the domain name ownership for RPC. Cllr A Hanson to attend the meeting as well.
- 8. Reports from external meetings**

Parish Liaison Meeting – Cllr Greenhough attended.

  - Promotion of lunch clubs for OAPs and vulnerable adults

- Government white paper (See Borough Councillors report.
- Money available for Christmas lunches for OAP's, Cllr Greenhough to see if we can claim this retrospectively or if we can be informed next year in advance.

#### **9. Allotment Management Committee Report**

Cllr Anderson raised the issue of allotment rents – these have not been raised in line with inflation in over 5 years and we need to address this before we issue the invoices for next year in October as our costs are rising yearly.

Agreed to put this on next months agenda as a decision item.

#### **10. Decision Items**

(A) Update re Clerk – Cllr Hacking to contact RVBC to issue a termination notice to the existing Clerk and to arrange to advertise the role.

(B) Allotment Rents – see point 9

(C) Accounts – Cllr R Hanson has worked with Geoff Lambert (our internal verifier) to get the accounts for 23/24 completed and he is confident that they are a true and fair reflection and is happy to sign them off.

However, there is a fine to pay due to late submission – over 6 months late. Decision made to submit without external verification as this would cost a further £300 and Geoff is happy that they are in order.

Cllr R Hanson to continue working with Geoff to get 24/25 a/c up to date.

(D) Bank Account – Council agreed to open Unity bank account and then arrange to transfer funds from Barclays over to the new account. Cllr Hacking in communication with Barclays to remove previous Clerk from the current mandate.

(E) Christmas Lights Switch on – feedback and possible donation – excellent event but a small turnout, needs more thought next year, especially with the school as a change in dates by them meant very few children attended. Agreed a £40 donation to Dementia UK – Cllr Hacking to arrange.

(F) Christmas meal – feedback - Excellent

(G) Telephone kiosk – update – Finally removed, agreed to put the possibility of a planter in its place on next month's agenda

(H) Rural Prosperity Fund – Missed the deadline

(I) Celebration Sunday – Agreed to move to September

(J) SpIDS – Cllr A Hanson to gather info for next meeting regarding costs etc

(K) XL Wireless update – Possibility of attaching solar lights to 1 or more of the poles once they are in-situ to light up the back streets. To be added to the next agenda

(L) Read Motor Bodies annual rent payment – Cllr McKelvey to forward on last years rental amount to Cllr R Hanson.

#### **11. Correspondence**

Police Report - See attached report

#### **12. Planning Applications & Decisions**

None to be discussed but a late submission was forwarded to Councillors for feedback, agree everyone would feed back to Cllrs R Hanson and Anderson who will submit a response to RVBC.

#### **13. Finance & Accounts**

a) Payment of accounts

Clerk Salary – Cllr McKelvey to contact RVBC regarding salary and contract – to determine the end date for salary payment.

Environment Group £51.40 – Cheque issued in error so destroyed

Jane Connelly £50 return allotment deposit.

David Scott £65.00

- b) Receipts none
- c) Barclays Current Account Balance £18022.37 ??
- d) Skipton BS £17358.06 ??
- e) Barclays Business £9849 ??

**14. Items for the next agenda**

Allotment rents  
SpIDS  
XL Wireless update  
Update re: Clerk  
Celebration Sunday  
Website