

A meeting of Read Parish Council was held at Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

Present      Chair: Councillor Hacking  
                 Councillors: Greenhough, McKelvey, Andreson, A Hanson, R Hanson, Neary, Pollard

In attendance: 1 member of the public who has applied for the position of Clerk

1. Apologies for absence - **None**
2. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations
  - 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors *on items on the agenda*. **NA**
  - 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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. **Approved**
4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda **None**
5. Public participation: **None**  
**To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.**
6. Borough Councillor's Report  
**Full report attached**  
**Overview – Devolution resulting in the reorganisation of Local Authorities is coming**  
**Lancs CC looking at several options for reorganisation**  
**RVBC – not interested but recognises that the changes are coming**  
**Possibility of a referendum but queries as to how relevant this would be as push coming from Central Government**  
**Possibility of RPC to approach RVBC regarding the management/ownership of certain assets including the Fort Street garages in the event of a reorganisation**  
**Timescale – the suggestion is that the new unitary authority will be up and running by 2028**  
**RVBC are accelerating their 5yr capital investment plan, aiming to deliver it in 2 years – full details in the attached report**
- 7) Clerk's Report/Correspondence **N/A**
- 8) Reports from external meetings **N/A**
- 9) Allotment Management Committee Report  
**Date for skip, scrap metal, rolling program of repairs**  
**Rolling programme of works has commenced with the replacement of some of the damaged fences**  
**2 Bonds have been refunded**  
**Cllr Neary proposed 2 skips for Easter weekend (both to be put at the bottom of the allotments away from the gate to prevent other people disposing of their rubbish). Seconded by Cllr A Hanson**  
**Currently there are 2 vacant plots**  
**Cllr R Hanson to send Cllr Neary the breakdown of the allotment costs to share with the allotment holders in a letter to explain the future increases in rent and in the bond for each allotment as costs have risen, especially when plots are left in very poor condition. Significant usage of the lengthsman, mainly on allotments, resulting in £4800 in costs.**
- 10) Decision Items
  - (A) Football lease update **Read FC is disbanding, Readstone FC have expressed an interest in taking over the lease however they would like it rewording so that they can apply for the FA funding for pitch improvements. They will get the draft drawn up and will present it at the next meeting**
  - (B) Clerk Vacancy **4 Applicants, interviews being held on 6<sup>th</sup> March (Cllr Hacking, McKelvy and Neary to interview)**
  - (C) Unity Bank/Barclays/finance update – **Barclays accounts closed and switched over to Unity which has been up and running for a few weeks now, online payments now being made. Cllr R Hanson suggested that the Skipton Savings account be closed, and the money to be put into**

the Unity savings account to improve efficiency and ease of movement for any future large projects. Cllr McKelvey seconded the motion

(D) SpIDS Deferred to next meeting

(E) Back Street lighting – Cllr Neary has approached a local resident on Fort Street who has given permission for a solar light to be attached to her gable end. Councillor Andreson to investigate the cost of lights

(F) Car Park camera – Deferred to next meeting as the council is waiting for The pole to be erected first

(G) Mirrors for side streets onto Whalley Road – Deferred to next meeting at Cllr Greenhough is waiting for a response to her request for information and guidance from Lancs CC

(H) Planter to replace phone box – Cllr Pollard has a range of pricing for the planter and will speak with Borough Cllr Peplow regarding the possibility of a grant to cover some or all of the cost

(I) Internal Auditor payment – Payment agreed

(J) VE Day donation to RSVH – Cllr Hacking proposed a donation to the VE day celebrations of £140, Cllr A Hanson seconded it

(K) Playground equipment (bike, rower, swing seats) – Cllr Greenhough to gather information and prices for the next meeting together with Cllr McKelvey. Cllr Pollard to communicate with Borough Cllr Peplow regarding the possibility of any grant funding towards this through the Healthy Partnership scheme or any other sources of available funding

(L) Community allotment – Plot 11A – Cllr Anderson to investigate the issue of flooding, if this can be resolved then there is a possibility of leasing this to REG as a community allotment, to be discussed at the next meeting

(M) Biodiversity Grant for REG – No objection from the Council for REG to apply for this funding directly

(N) Devil's Elbow road surface condition Cllr McKelvey to write a letter from the Council to County Councillor Mirfin regarding the huge number of complaints regarding the state of the roads

Cllr Neary has also put in a complaint vis the LoveOurStreets app.

(O) Future house building – location Councillors to look at Read and identify potential areas for housing that would cause the least impact and report back at the next meeting

## 11. Correspondence

Police Report - Report attached

## 12. Planning Applications & Decisions

None

## 13. Finance & Accounts

### a) Payment of invoices:

Allotment deposit refunds:	
Mather	£50.00
Stephenson	£50.00
Stamps Petty Cash	£6.80
David Scott bus shelter	£35.00
Water plus	£44.09
Screwfix	£3.00
LALC membership	£279.21
RSVH	£266.75
Helen Booth carol singers donation)	£40.00
PKF	£852.00
HMRC	£243.80
Jason Shaw	£57.60
Transferred to Unity Bank for account opening credit.	£1000.00

b) Receipts

Read Motor Bodies	£573.59
-------------------	---------

Bank Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025:

Barclays Current:	16506.81
Barclays Deposit:	9812.31
Skipton BS:	17358.06
Unity:	1000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£44677.18</b>

14. Items for the next agenda

Fort Street Garage  
Lights on Fort Street  
Potential locations for additional housing  
SpIDS  
Community Allotment  
Readstone FC pitch lease  
Playground equipment