

03/04/2025

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: Geoff Lambert, Clerk A Haines, Cllr Malcolm Peplow

No members of the public attended.

Chair Marie Hacking welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1) Apologies for absence – None**
- 2) Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
 - 1.1. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda. – None**
 - 1.2. To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) – None**
 - 1.3. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate – None**
- 3) To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 7th February 2024 - Approved**
- 4) Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – Biodiversity grant for REG/nominating REG for a Green Award (Radio Lancashire). Cllr A Hanson will look into this.**
- 5. Public participation - None**
- 6. Borough Councillor's Report – Full report attached.**

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE MEETING OF READ PARISH COUNCIL ON 2ND MARCH 2025

Overview:

- Cllr S Atkinson has defected
- Ribble Valley Shared Prosperity Fund (RV SPF): expression of interest deadline 30/5/2025. Criteria, pot sizes, organisations that can apply and projects that can be applied for are all included in report, but highlights include:
 - Priority may be given to parishes that haven't previously received funds.
 - Organisations that can apply include parish councils, community groups, charities, etc.
 - Examples of projects that could bid for include community energy schemes, sustainable kitchens, capital grants for community gardens and green spaces, improving accessibility, creation and improvement of footpaths and cycleways, equipment for community groups, EV charging points, drainage of recreational grounds and facilities, etc.
 - Cllr Peplow would encourage the parish council to discuss with wider parish community as there is scope to package items together for a larger

community bid. If multiple organisations from an area are bidding, it may be that only one bid gets funding.

- Advised to approach RV council (Hassan Ditta) for detailed advice on scope for funding e.g. what to bid for/best approach/how things work. Cllr A Hanson will contact Hassan to see if this is an appropriate bid/way of going for a bid.
- It is possible to match fund, however, this cannot be done retrospectively.
- Need to have project plans in place by the time the grant submission is approved as time scales mean projects will be tight to deliver for deadline of 31 Mar 2026
- Cllr Greenhough has investigated and concludes parish council not eligible to apply for Voluntary Organisation Grant.

Councillor Malcolm Peplow
2nd March 2025

7. Clerk's Report – Introduction to Anna Haines (readparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com)

8. Reports from external meetings - None

9. Allotment Management Committee report –

- a) Rolling repairs are still ongoing on the lane. Skips will be available between 17th – 21st April (Easter weekend) at the bottom of the lane and halfway up to allow all allotment owners to discard their rubbish. The top gate will be shut at this time to prevent fly-tipping.
- b) Allotment inspection at the end of April to assess whether tenants have taken advantage of the skips. If not, this will be addressed.
- c) A notice has been sent to plot 1A to vacate following failure to improve allotment since notice given on 28th October, failing three checks. Tenant not in attendance tonight. Notice given to vacate by 08/04/2025.
- d) Proposal to increase allotment refundable bond to £100 for all tenants, with immediate effect for new tenants and by October's renewal date for existing tenants.
- e) Vacant plots (2A, 8A). To remain vacant until after Easter weekend.
- f) 11A: ongoing waterlogging issues. Cllr Anderson has investigated: plot has been a pond for a long time, causes: potential broken land drain/runoff from neighbouring plot. Proposed. Gift to REG with no charge to see if they are able to resolve issue and utilise.
- g) Branches around allotments – Cllr R Hanson will remove and chip branches. Cllr Hacking has requested chippings be utilised on new playground.
- h) Bamboo canes – Cllr Neary to cut and sell, potentially to allotment tenants.
- i) Responsibility for fencing – other than alongside lane, fencing is the responsibility of allotment tenants.

10. Decision Items;

1. Football licence update:

- i. The allotment car park should not be used by Readstone FC, to use the top car park only.
- ii. Licence increases. From £250 to £500/year, subject to annual increases alongside inflation. Proposed: Cllr Neary, seconded: Cllr Pollard. Cllrs Hacking, McKelvey and Neary to draft licence changes.

2. New clerk: already introduced.

3. Unity Bank/Barclays/finance update: Barclays account closed, money transferred from Skipton and now all in Unity. Very simple system. Will transfer £40,000 to savings account. £913 in current account. Accounts handover to clerk after year end accounts finalised.

4. SPiDS – no update.

5. Back street lighting: A resident has given permission to put lights up on her wall. Cllr Anderson has researched solar lighting options (£7180 for 2 lights) however issues remain around installing columns in back street/lack of options for fixing to existing posts/walls. Resolved. Parish council to approach residents and offer to provide funding to residents for security lights fitted and wired in to their properties. Residents would fund the running cost of the LED lighting. Proposed: Cllr R Hanson, seconded: Cllr Greenhough. **Aside:** Better security cameras are required at entrance to car park (garage), in order to obtain number plates. Also need to get an update from the cricket club about installing a camera. Fibre people have offered to put poles up, and Cllr Neary will chase this up.

6. Fort Street Garages: to approach Ribble Valley Council to address taking over the ownership of the land lease of Fort Street Garages (garages themselves are owned by residents). Potential valuable asset to parish council, lease states garages should be used for the storage of motor vehicles, which isn't often the case and Ribble Valley aren't enforcing. Resolved. Clerk to make contact with Ribble Valley to enquire about taking over lease.

7. Mirrors for side streets onto Whalley Road: LCC won't endorse mirrors as they are difficult to judge speeds. Could purchase anyway (£300-£500 each), but uncertainty remains on location/fixings. Resolved. Await further responses to Cllr Greenhalgh's enquiries.

8. Planter to replace phone box: Cost of black planter is £395. Resolved. Clerk to apply for 50% of the costs (£500 to include the cost of plants, compost materials and a plaque) from RV in bloom. The council will seek planting advice from Gayle.

9. Potential locations for additional housing: to be put on next agenda.

10. Playground equipment (bike, rower, swing seats): Quote from Sutcliffe Play for a roundabout, a basketball net and post, an interactive play panel, the removal of some of the gym equipment that is old/damaged/not working and the replacement of equipment including swings, plus matting for the playground: £11,000 in total. Resolved. Accept quote now, applying for a grant

bid will further delay playground upgrade. Proposed: Cllr Neary, seconded: Cllr R Hanson.

11. **Community allotment:** already addressed,
12. **Readstone FC pitch lease:** already addressed.
13. **Devil's elbow road surface condition:** road surface is dangerous. Damaging vehicles. Ged Mirfin has said it will be moved up priority list, however no plans to address as yet. Resolved. Cllr Neary to draft a letter reemphasising that this needs prioritising, clerk to review and send.

11. Correspondence – Police have reported the following incidents in March:

1. ASB x 4 – 2 x neighbour dispute, 2 x sus male.
2. Road-related offence x 4 – 1 x speeding, 1 x no MOT, 1 x drink driver, 1 x S59 warning.
3. RTC x 1 – non serious
4. Theft of motor vehicle x 1 Ford Transit stolen at 20:30 27/3 from near to Fuzzy Duck.

12. Planning applications and decisions:

- a. George Lane – appears in-keeping.
- b. Holker Farm - conversion of barn to property, will require full planning application.

13. Finance and accounts: Cllrs Hacking and Pollard to request payments up until February 2025 for current account (Feb statement required). Cllr Hacking to contact Graeme to check if payments have come through.

1. Payments:

28/2/25	Service Charge	1.55
13/3/25	G A Lambert	100.00
13/3/25	Sabden PC (Lengthsman Scheme)	4799.80
13/3/25	RS Village Hall (hire of rooms)	266.75
31/3/25	RS Village Hall (VE Day)	140.00
31/3/25	Affordable Skips	432.00

2. Receipts:

6/3/25	S Neary (Plots 9B/13A)	60.00
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3. Bank Accounts:

Unity Current:	913.89
Unity Savings:	40000.00
Total	£40913.89

14. Items for the next agenda

1. Additional housing
2. Grant – expression of interest, what to include in bid.
3. Football licence to be finalised
4. Playground equipment

Please send items for next agenda to clerk 10 days before next meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 7th May 2025 at 7pm at the Village Hall.