

# READ PARISH COUNCIL.

## Chairmans Report –2025

This year as previous years, I would like to start by thanking all the Councillors for their continued hard work. All the time and effort put in is voluntary, it's not just a case of attending monthly meetings, a lot more work goes on behind the scenes.

I have had the honour of being Chair for several years, but feel it is now time to let someone else take over as Chairperson, but I will continue working as a Councillor for Read, and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years.

We say goodbye to Graham Meloy our previous Clerk, and wish him well, and welcome Dr Anna Haines as our new Clerk, I know Anna will be a great asset to the PC.

We were very fortunate to receive a legacy from Mr Joe Summersgill, although not a resident of Read, he very kindly included Read PC in his will along with other organisations and charities. After a great deal of thought as to how best to use the money, we decided to resurface the car park and allotment roads. Unfortunately, we had never been in a financial position to resurface the road and had over several years spent money patching the potholes. We felt this was a good long-term investment and we will be naming it the Summersgill Car Park in his memory.

Over the last couple of years we have looked at improving the playground, so this year, we intend to remove 3 items of adult equipment and replace it with a round-a-bout, new seats for the swings, an interactive piece of equipment and a basketball stand, we are also looking to improve the path into the playground, to make it more accessible for prams and wheelchairs. Read and Simonstone Environment group, known as REG, installed a board with litter pickers and sacks, to encourage children to pick up litter and put it in the bin, I think this has been successful, as there does not seem to be just as much litter in the playground.

Read and Simonstone Environment Group – REG must get a thank you for all their continued work, they are a small group of dedicated people, but they make a massive impact with their litter picking and planting around the villages.

Traffic and parking are an ever-increasing problem within the village. We held a public meeting to look at a one-way system going up East View and along Greenacres and down Fort St, to make it safer and keep the traffic flowing in and around the school entrance. The majority of people who attended were not in favour of this proposal. It really needs parents/carers to park responsibly to avoid endangering children entering or leaving school. We would ask that children walk to school when ever possible to ease the traffic congestion at school times.

The telephone kiosk has at last been removed, our intention when we were offered it by BT was that someone may want to refurbish it. Many of the old kiosks have been converted into areas for books, plants, art etc, but we had no takers and the kiosk was becoming more and more unsightly. Fortunately, someone came forward and offered to buy it for their own

personal use, so it was removed, in its place we are going to put a planter.

I would like to thank Cllr Steve Neary for taking over from Cllr Bob Anderson as Allotment Manager, not an easy job at times. Several years ago we asked that allotment holders paid a £50 bond, which was refundable when giving up their allotment as long as the allotment was left in good condition. It costs the PC upwards of £100 for a skip to clear allotments that are not left in a good condition, so we have revised the bond and ask that any new allotment holders pay £100 and all others allotment holders, that have already paid £50 pay an additional £50 with their annual rent in November, so that everyone will have paid £100, again that will be refunded on giving up their allotment, as long as it is left in a good state, ready for a new tenant to take over. It is not the job of the Allotment Manager to clear up allotments that have been left in a disgusting state. Other expenses incurred in maintaining the allotments is the water bill, and continued maintenance of fencing and tree pruning when needed. I believe our annual rents for the allotments is very reasonable and we have a waiting list of residents from Read and Simonstone.

Read United Football Club has sadly called it a day. They have leased the playing field from the PC for many years, thanks must go to John Bond and Karen Fairclough for their dedicated work they have done for the football club over the years. We welcome Readstone Football Club who will leasing the football field for training and matches, we wish the club success, would be great if one of the girls or boys play for England one day, I would settle for them playing for Burnley!

We continue to join with SPC for our Christmas meal at the Higher Trapp and 80 residents from both Read and Simonstone attended the event. Both café's continue weekly at the, Wednesdays at the VH and Friday at the Con Club both run from 10 am until 12 noon., the numbers are increasing and they offer a great opportunity to socialise, especially for people living alone and during the long winter months. We are holding a VE Day celebration with both Councils and VH trustees in the VH on the 8<sup>th</sup> May where a small commemorative medal will be given to everyone who attends.

The Tots and Teas group that meets term time in the VH on Tuesday mornings is run by Cllr Sian Greenhough. So as a Village I believe we try to cater for every age group from 0 to 90+.

The VH continues to be a valuable community asset and is used for many events throughout the week. The next venture is the building of new toilets and disabled access. The car park is now being used, which will be invaluable for events. The VH is an old building, with lots of character, but like most old building requires constant maintenance and improvements.

Our local PCSO Katie Ferguson, often pops into the cafés to chat to residents about any concerns they may have, Katie also sends a monthly crime report to the PC. Her email address is [Katie.Ferguson@lancashire.police.uk](mailto:Katie.Ferguson@lancashire.police.uk)

If there are any matters, you wish to bring to our notice please email our clerk – [readparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:readparishclerk@gmail.com)

The agenda for the meetings are displayed in the notice boards on Jubilee St and Straits Lane and are held the first Wednesday in each month except for Aug and Dec.

As a Council we will continue to work hard for Residents of Read.

