

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7.10p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Pollard, 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

Cllr Anderson

2. Appointment of Chairperson

Cllr R Hanson (proposed: Cllr Hacking, seconded: Cllr McKelvey). Cllr McKelvey will represent the Parish on Cllr R Hanson's behalf at parish events held during the day.

3. Appointment of Vice Chair and Councillors

Vice-Chair	Cllr McKelvey (proposed (p): Cllr Hacking, seconded (s): Cllr A Hanson)
Signatories/online bank authorisation	Cllrs Pollard & Hacking (p: Cllr R Hanson, s: Cllr A Hanson)
Planning Committee	Cllrs R Hanson & Anderson (p: Cllr A Hanson, s: Neary)
Lengthsman Co-Ordinator	Cllrs R Hanson & Neary (p: Cllr McKelvey, s: Cllr Hacking)
Allotment Management	Cllr Neary (p: Cllr A Hanson, s: Cllr Hacking)
Playground Inspection	Cllrs McKelvey & Hacking (p: Cllr Pollard, s: Cllr Neary)
Footpath Officer	Cllrs Pollard & A Hanson (p: Cllr Neary, s: Cllr Greenhough)
Parish Council Liaison Committee	Cllrs Greenhough & Hacking (p: Cllr McKelvey, s: Cllr Pollard)
Simonstone Parish Council Link	Cllr Pollard (p: Cllr A Hanson, s: Cllr Hacking)

Positions removed from council: Communications group, Business link and School link

4. 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

5. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 7th February 2024

Approved (proposed Cllr A Hanson, seconded Cllr McKelvey)

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

None

7. Public participation

No public in attendance

8. Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Peplow gave an overview, full report attached.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE MEETING OF READ PARISH COUNCIL ON 7TH MAY 2025

Overview:

- Reform UK took control of Lancashire County Council in this year's local elections, Ged Mirfin re-elected as Reform UK County Councillor for Ribble Valley. Reform's view on local reform of council areas is unclear at present. Regarding possible devolution: LCC leaders sent out a joint letter to government in March to set out possible solutions in Lancashire, and show engagement. There have been no firm preferred solutions. The final proposals will go to government in November. Reform may have a referendum on this, and there may also be a referendum within Ribble Valley itself.
- Cllr Peplow will support Read Parish with the Ribble Valley Settlement Review request for information in regards to housing. Stressed importance of completing ASAP.
- Ribble Valley Shared Prosperity Fund (RV SPF): further information available from 14th May onwards. Cllr A Hanson has spoken to Hassan from RVBC. Details of what will be permitted in bid will be clarified following RVBC AGM on 13/05/2025. Potential similarities with RV Rural Prosperity Fund. RV SPF total pot: £1.6 million. Cllr Peplow will share a previous application form for the RV SPF with Cllr A Hanson.
- Ribble Valley newsletter relaunch, to be delivered over coming weeks. A copy has been sent to the parish clerk, and contains information on grants (e.g. for on-street EV parking, which residents could apply for in future).
- Concern over lack of affordable homes in Ribble Valley: the council are still delivering a lot of affordable homes, available for purchase or rent (2 bed bungalows, smaller houses and terraces @ 30 % discount). Applicants need to sign up to see council's criteria. Clerk to post RV news link on website and send out alongside minutes.

Councillor Malcolm Peplow
2nd March 2025

9. Clerk's Report

9.1. Ribble Valley Settlement Review: Read Parish.

Changes to be made: Allotments south of Tennyson Avenue are now the Village Hall Car Park. Area of allotments south of Beaufort Close needs redefining, extending west to field boundary and south along whole length to greenway. Clerk to send updated boundary plans to RVBC.

9.2. PCC Summer Community Fund - provides access to small grants of between £1-3K, to deliver short term diversionary activity projects in local areas during the summer holiday period. Applications open 2/5/25 (<https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/community-fund/>) and close 26/5/25. Ideas for Read Village include hosting introductory youth club events at Con Club (opening in afternoons for table tennis, pool, etc) and Read Village Hall, with potential to run more frequent youth clubs in future. Clerk to forward details to Cllr Neary, as well as Read Village Hall, Read Cricket Club and Readstone Football Club.

9.3. RVBC assistance with tree planting: LCC Treescapes fund have offered assistance with tree planting at potential sites in the village in autumn/winter (projects include orchards/woodlands/microwoods/single urban trees/hedgerows). No locations for this in parish, however clerk to pass on information to Read St John's village school.

9.4. Clerk courses: clerk has identified useful courses to attend for new clerk training. Will sign up for and attend 'whistlestop tour for new councillors and clerks', 'new clerks' finance' and

'understanding precepts' training events organised by LALC (proposed Cllr A Hanson, seconded Cllr Hacking).

- 9.5. Query regarding Read Mill fire from Tony Graves – ex-resident moved to Australia is carrying out research for his children on his early life in the UK. He wants to know when the old mill opposite his family's haberdashery shop was burnt down and the circumstances surrounding this. Clerk to forward correspondence to local historians and recommend posting on Read and Simonstone Facebook Page.
- 9.6. Dog waste dispensers – The parish council discontinued refilling the dispensers as people were taking all the bags and it was costing too much.
- 9.7. Fraud safeguarding and cybercrime: correspondence received from Lancashire Constabulary to introduce Roger Hussey, the dedicated Fraud Safeguarding Officer from the Fraud Team, and The Cyber Crime Unit. Both teams deliver community talks and workshops to raise awareness of these issues and improve safety. Clerk to invite teams to lead talks/workshops at coffee mornings at the Village Hall and the Con Club cafes.
- 9.8. Hiscox Insurance policy renewal: £654.28 quote for this year. Amendments to be made: address on policy, inform of playground facility. Cllrs to check statement of fact and look for any amendments to be made. Clerk to discuss antivirus options for laptop with B Tyrer, as cybercrime issues no longer covered on policy. Clerk to back up and store data as this is stipulated in policy.
- 9.9. Consumer alerts – clerk regularly receives these from LCC, giving current details of cold call alerts and scams. Clerk to post these on website, Facebook Page and Village noticeboards.
Clerk also to speak to B Tyrer about setting up parish council email addresses for councillors. Once done, a list of current councillors and their council email addresses can be put on the village noticeboards.

10. Reports from external meetings:

10.1. Parish Council Liaison Committee report (missed off agenda, Cllr Greenhough report circulated).

Overview: Matt Townsend (LCC's Director of highways/ Transport) discussed work to Local Transport plan, with yearly video survey of every road and a yearly safety plan. Spoke of importance of the community flagging up any safety concerns, the asset management plan (roads, bridges, sign posts etc) focussing on prolonging the life of these assets, the importance of the Active Travel Plan to reduce traffic and the need for sustainable bus services. Parish Councillors were informed about the £500 VE day grant and how to update the Ribble Valley Borough Council's Community directory with community information. There was also an update on the devolution situation.

- 10.2. **Police report:** This month there have been 3 x ASB all related to ongoing disputes, 1 x Public Order related to ongoing disputes, 2 x Road related offence 1 x road rage and 1 x drug drive with vehicle recovered no ins., 3 x RTC 1 x minor inj and 2 x damage only, 1 x theft of chickens.
Traffic have also done a couple of ops on Whalley Road and have issued a number of tickets for excessive speeds and other offences.

11. **Playground report** – waiting on Sutcliffe Play to give start date for work to commence. Cllr A Hanson has contacted Hassan Ditta who is not 100 % sure whether we can put in a bid for playground and playing field drainage if work has already started.

12. Allotment Management Committee report –

- Plot 1A cleared, disgusting and unhygienic, required an extra skip and five people to clear. Three sheds needed destroying. Cllr Neary looking to contact RSPCA as tenant should not be allowed to keep animals. Not available yet.
- Plot 2B ready to let
- Plot 12A – Tenant has sadly passed away. Not letting out just yet.
- Tenants very responsive to skips provided over Easter weekend. Regular inspections are necessary going forward.
- Sheep are getting through fencing between bottom allotment field and Hill Speak's fields. Uncertainty over who is responsible for fencing. Clerk to write to Hill Speak (High Set Farm, Whalley Road) to ask about possibility of looking at fencing between his land and the allotments.
- £100 increase in allotment bond – Cllr Neary will draft a letter for new tenants for approval.
- Plot 3 A and B: Fenceline behind shed tapers so that access cannot be gained to back of shed. Tenant willing to carry out repair work from neighbouring plot, unlikely neighbouring tenant will have an issue.
- Selling of allotment produce queried as to whether it goes against legislation set out in Allotment Act. Not likely to be a problem if just selling surplus.
- Notice/signage required to inform playing field users not to use allotment parking spaces. This needs enforcing by Readstone, who have done so far.

13. Decision Items;

- A. **Football licence to be finalised:** Everyone has agreed there are no issues with the final licence. No objections to storage container, but it is up to Readstone to get planning permission for this.
- B. **RV SPF expression of interest deadline and details of bid:** Malcolm will send us this to fill in and send off.
- C. **Unity Bank/Barclays/finance update:** Application sent out for clerk to take over finances. All remaining Barclays funds now in UNITY. Clerk to arrange finance handover meeting with Cllr R Hanson once correspondence received to set up log in from UNITY. £1000 received from P Braithwaite for old telephone box.
- D. **Back Street/Fort Street lighting:** Cllr Anderson has looked into solar powered lights – good technology, would work if council got permission from homeowners to attach to houses/walls. Can also get smaller lights if preferred. Carried forward to next meeting for more details from Cllr Anderson.
- E. **Fort Street Garages decision on request to purchase land:** Katherine Collinge (RVBC) has informed parish council that the land in question is owned by the RV Council, who licence out 27 individual plots of land to be used as garage plots. The garages belong to the licence holders. In the first instance an approach to purchase the land would need to be made to the parish council in writing. This would then be passed to the Management Team and possibly Committee for a decision. Should the Council be prepared to sell the land there would be District Valuer's costs of which the parish council would be responsible for in determining a value for the land. Cllr Pollard proposed clerk to approach council to purchase land according to the terms in the correspondence (seconded Cllr R Hanson). Potential discussed to use garage plots as parking spaces should tenants not follow terms of licence.
- F. **Mirrors for side streets onto Whalley Road:** Cllr Greenhough has received correspondence from highways agency, stating that the introduction of mirrors requires permission from agency, and that they don't consider the use of mirrors as a substitute for

good driving practice, and cannot justify their introduction at this time. May need to look at carrying out traffic survey.

- G. Planter to replace phone box: RV In Bloom grant applied for (£500). Cllr Pollard will order planter and topsoil from Greengates. Money from VE Day to purchase a plaque once planter arrives.
- H. Potential locations for additional housing: There are only 2 practical places for additional housing in Read (Hammond Ground and Mary's field. The parish council feel a great deal of objection to both locations, however Hammond Ground would be the least objected option (proposed Cllr Pollard, seconded Cllr Neary).
- I. Devil's elbow road surface condition: Clerk to write to re-elected councillor Ged Mirfin to remind him we have written to him in the past following complaints from residents about the terrible state of the road surface, and to ask him if this could now be reassessed.

14. Correspondence – None

15. Planning applications and decisions:

- a. High House Farm – no need to comment.
- b. High Meadow, church close – no objections.

16. Finance and accounts:

A. Payments:

08/04/2025	READ AND SIMONSTON	£60.50
08/04/2025	RVBC	£1,300.22
29/04/2025	Water Plus	£85.23
29/04/2025	Affordable Skips	£120.00
29/04/2025	RVBC	£1,934.41
29/04/2025	RVBC	£296.40
29/04/2025	LANCASHIRE ASSOCIA	£281.30
30/04/2025	Service Charge	£6.00

B. Receipts:

Date	Item	Amount
	precept	
	VE Day grant	£500

C. Bank Accounts:

Unity Current:	£1,647.83
Unity Savings:	£50,060.48
Total	£51,708.31

17. Items for the next agenda:

- 17.1. Installing EV charge points on Village Hall car park
- 17.2. Garage land purchase on Fort Street - correspondence
- 17.3. Car park sign for allotment tenants
- 17.4. Back Street/Fort Street lights
- 17.5. Devil's Elbow road surface – response from Ged Mirfin
- 17.6. Updating of Facebook page/social media
- 17.7. Councillors bespoke email addresses
- 17.8. Plaque for planter and flowers
- 17.9. Annual governance and accountability return minuted.

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

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 4th June 2025 at 7pm at the Village Hall.