

READ PARISH COUNCIL

07/09/2022

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Barker, Bennett Greenhough, McKelvey, Pollard.

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

1 member of the public attended.

1. Apologies for absence – Councillor Hanson had sent their apologies for their absence.

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 8th June 2022 – approved

4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – *a memorial tree has been sited on church street gardens, the family which had requested permission for this have expressed their gratitude.*

5. Public participation – *following the circulation of information about a proposed heritage signpost to be installed at Cobcar Nook, a local heritage craftsman, Duncan Armstrong, addressed some concerns;*

The proposed position was the middle of a grass triangle at a junction; it is acknowledged that this could be a vulnerable position. The heritage signposts are supported by the department of transport as these provide variation and local historical interest. A concern had been raised that for the signpost to be historically accurate it should be made of cast iron however it was noted that before cast iron signposts were introduced they would have been made of wood. A cast iron signpost would be more of a hazard and would require crash barriers to prevent incidents. Many signposts are posted as the shortest route however many signposts do not follow this and signpost the most suitable route. Concerns were raised that the signpost could cause people to mistake back lane as a footpath or bridleway, however as these are usually marked in green or blue with a walker symbol or arrow and "Public Footpath" or with a horse and rider symbol and "Public Bridleway" this confusion is unlikely. The intentions in proposing the signpost were to make back lane safer for walkers, cyclists and horse riders by discouraging traffic, there was never any intention to prevent traffic from taking this route.

A resident had brought forward some concerns regarding Read Motor Bodies and the land leased to them. Concerns included that there are often smells of acetone coming from the garage through their extraction equipment which spreads to the playground and along local streets. The leased land is not being maintained by them, soil has been pushed up against a neighbouring fence which will be causing damage to it, brambles and other plants grow over bordering fences and intrude on neighbouring properties. It was confirmed that Read Motor Bodies have only been offered a one year lease in this instance rather than the previous 7 year lease and are being kept under close review. An inspection will take place shortly.

A representative from Read School commented that the footpath between Straits Lane and George Lane is used frequently throughout the day for access to the school, many parents are signposted to park and walk safely along the footpath for drop-off and collection of children. Many children attending the school will have younger siblings who will make the journey in a pram, horses using the lane will discourage parents from using this safe route. Horse riders often do not pick up horse droppings and if this is left along the path when children are using it there will be great difficulty where one or two adults will have to control 30 children to prevent this being stepped in.

6. Borough Councillor's Report – none

7. Clerk's Report – a report was received from the local PCSO whom has recently returned from maternity leave with the monthly crime statistics for the month of June: 01/07/2022-31/07/2022.

Road Related Offence- 2

Assault- 1

Theft-2

Public Order-1

The PCSO has been visiting the local cafes to help maintain a local presence; this also allows members of the public to raise any concerns easily.

8. Reports from external meetings

A meeting was held with some members of Simonstone Parish Council about the Celebration Sunday and Christmas Meal. These matters are listed for discussion under items 11.f) & 11.g).

9. Playground:

a) To receive the playground inspection report – A Playground inspection report has been received from ROSPA, these matters are listed for discussion under item 11.a)

b) Repairs and maintenance – A Playground inspection report has been received from ROSPA, these matters are listed for discussion under item 11.a)

10. Allotment Management Committee report – There are currently 14 people on the waiting list for an allotment and no current vacancies. It was reported that a window had been broken and this was reported to the police. An allotment committee meeting is to be arranged around the beginning of October, rent is due on 1st November. It was noted that if rent is to be increased, a one year notice period should be given. Some tenants details held may need updating, this can be done at the same time as rent collections.

11. Decision Items

a) Playground ROSPA report

The Cargo net has been noted and a replacement net is already on order but is not due to be delivered until October. The children's swings have been raised since the last report however the new report advises that the infant swings should be raised, councillors noted that this seemed illogical as those young enough to be in the infant swings wouldn't be dragging their feet on the floor in any event. The report recommends that the recently installed bird spikes on top of the swings are to be removed, it seems highly unlikely that children would reach the spikes and even if they did this is unlikely to cause injury. Before the installation of the bird spikes the swings could not be used due to the amount of bird droppings on the seats. The report comments on the exercise bike that the pedals move without resistance however this is the design of the equipment. The path from the gate is worn and there is no grass however this is not really something that can be rectified as other

surfaces come with their own hazards (stones will be kicked about or flags may become a tripping hazard). The gates are often left open and it is on occasion used as a shortcut to the field/allotments. The litter bin was discussed and councillors feel this needs emptying more frequently or using a secondary bin.

RESOLVED – the cargo net will be installed once this arrives. The ROSPA report is accepted however recommendations will not be auctioned at this time. Notices will be ordered to attach to both gates asking that these are kept closed.

b) Boundary Hedge on Allotment Road

The hedge by the playground has been cut recently but the boundary hedge has not been cut. A Resident advised that the last time the hedge was cut by the council was some time ago and this seemed to have caused thorns and branch pieces to be sprayed into the gardens. Unfortunately we are not informed when the hedge is going to be cut. It appears that if the hedge is already well maintained it will not be cut further. If the Parish Council are to continue to cut the hedge it will have to be done by a machine for practicality reasons. It was discussed that residents are allowed to maintain the hedge themselves and even to have a small entrance way so long as the hedge is not removed.

c) Car park and Allotment Road

The Village Hall has had work done on a community space installing a mesh on the ground, it was considered whether a similar ground would be suitable for the car park and/or allotment road.

RESOLVED: A quote will be sought to see if this would be viable for the area.

d) Read Motor Bodies Lease

Read Motor Bodies have recently made payment toward the lease, the lease will be for one year and will run from the date signed. An inspection will be made soon.

e) Telephone Kiosk

BT have been asked to disconnect the power supply to the Telephone Kiosk. This can take up to 16 weeks.

f) Celebration Sunday

Various organisations will be holding stalls in the village hall showing what is on offer throughout the two villages. The children from both Read and Simonstone Schools have created artwork of the Village hall and the deputy Mayor of the Ribble Valley will choose a winner on the day to be framed. Posters are being placed around the village. Refreshments will be served at no cost however donations to Pendleside hospice will be welcomed. The event is to say thankyou to all the voluntary organisations in the villages and show off what is available.

g) Christmas Meal

The cost of the Christmas meal has gone up, last year it cost £18 per person and this year a quote of £27 per person has been received. This has been bartered down to £24 per person. Last year the cost was split with the Parish Council paying £8 and each person paying £10. It is proposed to split this evenly with each person paying £12 and the Parish Council subsidising the remaining £12.

RESOLVED: The meal will be two courses and there will be games and entertainment on the day. There will be 80 places available between the two Parishes to be split evenly. The event is aimed at senior residents to help combat loneliness and raise community spirit.

h) Remaining Jubilee Grant money

There is £44.17 remaining of the £500 grant, this is because VAT can be claimed back. Suggestions of a bird bath or bird feeder were made to be added to Church Street Gardens.

RESOLVED: *Birdbaths/feeders will be looked into for the remaining funds.*

i) Cobcar Nook proposed fingerpost

it was felt that following objections from local residents the signpost should not be placed at Cobcar Nook. It was suggested that the fingerpost could be placed on the island at the junction of Turner Fold and Straits Lane, residents local to the area will be consulted.

RESOLVED: *Subject to the residents being content with the proposed signpost, it will be placed at the junction of Turner Fold and Straits Lane.*

j) Footpath between Straits Lane and George Lane

The footpath has a notice confirming no cycles and no bikes. A resident has been in touch to say that several people have been seen riding bikes along this stretch. It had been suggested that the path could be widened to make it more accessible and to allow horse riders and cyclists however, the path goes past a school and is frequently used by children as access to and from school as well as during school hours to access the playing field and forest school area. Concerns were raised about having horses and young children in close proximity as well as concerns surrounding horse droppings. It was commented that the path is merely a shortcut and does not lead anywhere which is not accessible by other routes although it was noted that historically this was a highway. It was noted that it may be more appropriate to make the footpath into a cycleway but not a bridleway. It was proposed that this is raised in the parish plan questionnaire to gauge public opinion.

RESOLVED: *The item will be added to the Parish Plan Questionnaire, the clerk will make investigations as to whether the path could be made into a foot and cycleway only with no bridleway.*

k) Lengthsman's job list

Unfortunately the Lengthsman co-ordinator was unable to attend and so an update could not be provided. It was considered whether the lengthsman had previously managed a footpath when it had become overgrown as well as a milestone on a grass verge along Whalley Road which was becoming overgrown, further jobs are in need of attention from the allotments.

l) Footpath Drainage work near Gooseleach Wood

Previously the footpath has become very waterlogged in winter, the land has recently undergone some work to improve drainage.

m) SAAA sector Led auditor appointment regime

The Council were presented with the option to opt out of the central procurement regime managed by SAAA. It was confirmed that previously the council has opted in to the scheme and had an external Auditor appointed for them, this does not effect the council's ability to choose an internal Auditor, only the choice of external auditor.

RESOLVED: *As no problems have been encounter under the scheme previously and to prevent unnecessary complications and paperwork the council decided to remain opted in to the scheme.*

12. Correspondence

A request to install two troughs in a field near the allotments and run water to them had been received. The council saw no problem with this so long as the road is made up to an acceptable standard and all costs are covered by the individual making the request.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There were two planning application received since the time of the last minutes;

Planning Application No. 3/2022/0687- 26 Singleton Avenue, Read, BB12 7PJ

Proposed two-storey extension to the side, front porch and single storey extension to

the rear.

Planning Committee

Neighbour raised concerns that this could block light to their entrance.

Planning committee - This is unlikely to be classified as a reason to reject the application

Planning Application No. 3/2022/0732-

Whinsfield, Whins Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7QU

Proposed single storey rear extension and associated alterations to the house and garage to include a bedroom and ensuite within loft space.

Planning committee – no objections to this application

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

01/07/2022	Audit Gratuity	£70.00
01/07/2022	Environment group signs	£33.67
14/07/2022	Bus Stop Cleaning	£40.00
15/07/2022	Clerk's Wage (July)	£261.00
15/07/2022	Water Plus	£5.90
22/07/2022	Water Plus	£59.67
22/07/2022	ROSPA Play Safety	£117.60
22/07/2022	Clerk's Wage (August)	£266.25

b) Income

01/07/2022	Allotment Bond Payment 20C	£50.00
08/07/2022	Allotment Bond Payment 20A	£50.00
08/07/2022	Allotment Bond Payment 20B	£50.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 31 August 2022

Opening Balances 01.09.22			
Community Account	£12,779.04		
Business Saver Account	£9,581.92		£22,360.96
Add: Receipts			£15,185.56
Less: Payments			£5,707.84
Balance			£31,838.68

15. Items for the next agenda

- Telephone Kiosk
- Parish Plan
- Litter bin by the Conservative Club
- Celebration Sunday review
- Christmas Tree Light up
- Christmas Meal
- Newsletter
- Safety of streets leading to Whalley Road
- Car park & Road
- Read Motor bodies

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 5th October 2022.