

READ PARISH COUNCIL

05/04/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk)

2 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor McKelvey sent 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 1st February 2023** – *approved*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *none*
5. **Public participation** – *none*
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – *none*.
7. **Clerk's Report** –
Crime statistics for the month of February were received from the PCSO as follows;
1 - Burglary (House)
1 - Assault
2 - Anti Social Behaviour
1 – Road Related Offence
The annual accounts will be due for audit soon, the clerk confirmed that previous Geoff Lambert has been used as internal Auditor in previous years and there has been no issue from this. The council were asked if they would like to continue using Geoff Lambert's service.
RESOLVED: The council resolved to continue to use Geoff Lambert as Internal Auditor.
8. **Reports from external meetings** – A meeting regarding the Lengthsman Scheme had been held to announce that the current Lengthsman, Phil Hardman, will be finishing as lengthsman and two new lengthsman will be hired to replace him, called Mark and James. The Clerk for Sabden Parish Council administrates the scheme and records time sheets and the hours worked as well as payments made. The scheme receives £500 from Lancashire County Council towards Footpath maintenance. Queries were made about getting quotations for works, it was explained that if the lengthsman need to take time making quotes this will have to be accounted into their budget and would thus increase the price. Lengthsman are paid £15 per hour and it is considered that this is a rate of good value for the work.
9. **Playground** – Please see matter 11.a).
10. **Allotment Management Committee report** – There are currently 12 people on the waiting list for an allotment. It was noted that a 1 year notice is necessary to be given before an increase in rates and that rates have not been increased in some time. It was noted that the road to the allotments is in need of maintenance and an increase in costs

could fund this.

11. Decision Items

a) Playground equipment

It was discussed that some of the gym equipment on the playground is rarely used such as the exercise bike and rowing machine. Councillors had assessed the items and confirmed that they appear to be bolted to the ground and cemented in with rubber mats placed on top. After reviewing prices online it was brought forward that an item such as a roundabout costs around £6,500 without delivery/fitting. Councillors discussed if a proportion of the money received from Mr Summersgill could go toward playground equipment and the council could seek sponsorship from local businesses.

b) Road Safety Group

The previously drafted letter had been sent and the council is currently awaiting a response.

c) Coronation

Posters advertising the coronation event have been distributed around the village, tickets will be £3 per person or £10 for a family of 4, the event will be open to those outside the villages. Boxes of food have been ordered for the event, each will include a sandwich, sausage roll, a cake and some crisps packaged. Tea and coffee will be provided however attendees are welcome to bring their own drinks of choice. It is believed that the Mayor or deputy Mayor will be attending. Decorations have been purchased and entertainment will be provided on the day and any profit from the event will be given to local charities. Councillors discussed charities which the profit could go to. A grant of £500 is available from Ribble Valley Borough Council to celebrate the coronation.

RESOLVED: It will be suggested that profit will go to The Air Ambulance or Pendle Hospice, this will be discussed with Simonstone Parish Council to gain a consensus.

d) Telephone Kiosk

The clerk had further chased up the Telephone Box disconnection with BT to no avail.

RESOLVED: The clerk will continue to chase the disconnection.

e) Parish Plan Questionnaire

Councillors discussed the drafted questions and the options given, suggestions of improvements we discussed. Councillors discussed ensuring questions were not leading and how much background information to include as this needs to be balanced to ensure the questions are fully understood but not so long that it would prevent people from answering the questionnaire.

RESOLVED: The questions will be revised and improved.

f) Football Pitch

An email had been received from the secretary of Readstone Football Club about practicing on the football field. The field is not currently fit to play on due to water logging. It transpired that they wish to practice 3 nights a week on the field. Currently Read Football Club hire the field from the Parish Council. Councillors discussed viewing the lease

RESOLVED: The Clerk will retrieve and circulate the lease.

g) Tennis Club Defibrillator

No response has been received as yet. It was considered that a proportion of profits from the coronation could be put towards a defibrillator for the Tennis Club.

h) May's meeting and Elections

usually the Parish Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month however

voting for the election takes place on the following Thursday. The clerk has also requested annual leave in May. It was determined that May's meeting should be delayed to allow for the election and also the clerk's leave. It was decided that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held together on 17th May 2023.

RESOLVED: The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held together on 17th May 2023.

i) Councillor Vacancy

The Councillor vacancy will be filled at the election. The Parish Council has places for 8 councillors and 9 people have submitted applications so voting will take place on 4th May 2023.

RESOLVED: The vacancy will be filled at the election.

j) Read Motor Bodies Lease

An email from the Solicitors had been received, the email suggested a 5 year lease with a provision that Read Motor Bodies would pay any outstanding rent owing whereas this would not happen should the lease not be renewed. Councillors discussed that the lease lapsed over a year ago so Read Motor Bodies would be into the second year of the 5 years lease had the solicitor managed to get this renewed on time. It was suggested that it would be irresponsible to turn away the outstanding money and although this is not a preferable situation for the Council. It was suggested that the 5 years should start from the date the lease lapsed leaving about 3 years 9 months remaining now. Councillors discussed that a provision that cars not be parked on local streets and the car park by the playground should in added and that the land should be kept clean and tidy with a 3 month termination clause.

RESOLVED: The clerk will draft the response and send to the solicitor.

12. Correspondence – none

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There was one planning application received since the time of the last minutes as follows;

Planning Application No 3/2023/0201 Castlebank, Straits Lane, Read BB12 7PE

The application is for the erection of a detached annex. Resubmission of 3/2022/0809 and dismissed appeal APP/T2350/D/22/3310831

No Objections

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

03/03/2023	Allotment 12B deposit returned	£50.00
20/03/2023	Clerk's Wage	£346.00
31/03/2023	Lengthsman Scheme	£900.00
31/03/2023	Website hosting	£85.36

b) Income

06/03/2023	Interest	£65.54
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c) Bank reconciliation as at 30 March 2023

Balances			
Community Account	£10,391.92		
Business Saver Account	£9,659.45		

Skipton Building Society Account	£45,000.00		£65,051.37
Add: Receipts			£65,191.71
Less: Payments			£13,056.31
Balance			£117,186.77

15. Items for the next agenda

- Telephone Kiosk
- Double Yellow Lines repainting
- Playground Equipment
- Read Motor Bodies Lease
- Parish Plan
- Coronation
- Road Safety

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 5th April 2023.