

**READ PARISH COUNCIL**

**01/02/2023**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

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

**In attendance:** April Collinson (Clerk)

7 members of the public attended.

- 1. Apologies for absence – none**
- 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 4th January 2023 – approved**
- 4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – Councillor Pollard raised that it had been suggested a before and after image could be published on the Parish Council website in relation to the retrospective planning application discussed at the last meeting, councillors discussed that this is not usual procedure with other planning applications, the clerk was asked to seek advice in this regard.**
- 5. Public participation –** Resident of Whalley Road brought forward concerns about a neighbouring property regarding planning issues. Previously a planning application had been made for a fence around a garage roof, this had been refused as it would block the light to the neighbouring property. Subsequently planning was granted for a glass balustrade as this would not block the light. The glass balustrade has not been erected and a fence has been put up as in the original rejected planning application, this happened in May 2022. The Parish Council were advised that this had been reported to Ribble Valley Borough Council for the breach of planning. The planning department responded to advise that the property was under new ownership and the new owner was not aware of the planning condition. The new resident was given the benefit of the doubt however the fencing has not been removed, regular contact has been made by the resident with the planning department in an attempt to action enforcement. A recent planning application has been made for the unauthorised fencing along with misleading documentation. *Councillors discussed the matter and confirmed the concerns would be put forward to Ribble Valley Borough Council with support of the Parish Council.*

Residents of Tension Avenue raised that they have been experiencing issues with cars being parked opposite their driveway, it was explained that this makes exiting the driveway extremely difficult, they have tried talking to those who park here however are met with the response that it is not illegal to park there. They went on to explain that on occasion people parking in this manner has caused issues with larger vehicles such as bin wagons being unable to collect refuse. Councillors discussed the issue and agreed that the PCSO's contact information could be provided to the residents so that she could be contacted about the issues.

Representatives from Read Primary School attended to discuss the issues of parking near the school. They explained the measures currently implemented to reduce parking issues on Greenacres including directing parents to other places to park such as the Church car park and on Straits Lane as well as encouraging walking and sending newsletters and text reminders about parking on corners, blocking drives, parking over dropped kerbs and parking on the kerb. The children on the School Council have also written to their local MP and Lancashire County Council to raise awareness of the issues. It was highlighted that Greenacres is currently an amber gritting route whereas Straits Lane is a red route although both are used by parents and carers to take children to and from school. The school does try their best to educate parents however this has to be done every year as new children join.

**6. Borough Councillor's Report** – none.

**7. Clerk's Report** – The following local crime statistics had been received from the PCSO for December 2022;

3 x Burglary

1 x Criminal Damage

1 x Public Order

2 x Road Related Offences

The PCSO had commented that the burglaries are all shed/garages, the method of entry is different to those seen a few months ago so it is believed that it is a different perpetrator. Residents are urged to consider their homes and outbuilding security and what measures such as lighting, CCTV or alarms are in place or could be installed.

Councillors noted that there has recently been a spate of dead sheep being dumped in several locations and a report of a hosepipe filled with nails being placed across roads in order to cause tyre damage.

**8. Reports from external meetings** – none.

**9. Playground:**

**a) To receive the playground inspection report** – the playground was inspected and appeared in good condition. During winter months the playground is inspected less regularly as it is expected to receive less use.

**b) Repairs and maintenance** – All equipment appears functional however it was discussed that some equipment could be replaced.

**10. Allotment Management Committee report** – There are currently 10 people on the waiting list for an allotment. All outstanding rents have been paid bar one where the tenant had elected to give up the allotment. It is planned that rent deadlines will be much stricter in the future.

**11. Decision Items**

**a) Tennis Club Defibrillator**

It has previously been suggested that a defibrillator should be placed near the Tennis Club as there is a busy footpath near there. It was discussed that although the Parish Council would happily donate towards the project the Tennis Club would be best to take the lead as it is believed that Sports Clubs will often be able to get grants towards defibrillators.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to the Tennis Club regarding defibrillator plans.**

**b) Coronation**

It is planned that a joint event will be held between Read and Simonstone Parish

Councils on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> a work group will organise the event. Councillors discussed if a commemorative item of some type should be purchased for the village.

**c) Road Safety Committee**

The Road Safety Committee will be meeting on either 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the issues within the villages, it was suggested that parking around local schools could also be discussed.

**d) Obstruction of pavements**

an issue had previously been raised around the advertising boards placed outside the local estate agents, Councillor Hacking had spoken with the business owner about the issue who had highlighted parking issues in the village but agreed to re-arrange the signs.

**e) Grit Bin on St John's Close**

Lancashire County Council had been contacted to follow up on the grit bin, no date has been given for the work to be completed but assurance has been given that it is on the work list.

**f) Cargo Net Grant**

A grant had been applied for towards the cost of replacing the cargo net on the playground equipment, £650 has been received towards the cost of this from Ribble Valley Borough Council.

**g) Parking around Read School**

Councillors discussed what the representatives from the school had brought forward as well as how Read school is privileged to have 3 entrances whereas many schools have only one entrance. Previously the school had tried to implement a one way system however this was refused by the Highways Department.

**RESOLVED: Enquiries will be made regarding upgrading the gritting route status of Greenacres from Amber to Red. Information will be fed into the Road Safety work Group.**

**h) Parish Plan**

Councillors discussed adding further information to the draft Parish Plan questionnaire to give more context to residents for example how much is funded towards various items.

**RESOLVED: Councillors will review the questions and bring forward suggestions as necessary**

**i) Building Society Account**

It was agreed that legacy funds from the late Mr Joseph Summersgill will be placed into a higher interest account while it is decided how these funds will be used.

Councillors Hacking and McKelvey will be signatories on the account.

**j) Telephone Kiosk**

The Telephone Kiosk is still awaiting disconnection from the mains electrical supply.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will continue to chase this up**

**k) Active Travel Plan**

Funding is available to improve cycle-ways and footpaths especially where these pathways could be used for everyday travel and commuting, it was suggested that this plan could be used to connect cycleway 685 connecting the Great Harwood Greenway to Padiham Greenway.

**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to read through the Active Travel Plan and discuss matters in full at the next meeting.**

**l) Resignation of Councillor Richard Bennett**

Councillors agreed that has been an asset to the Parish Council during his time as a Parish Councillor however due to his commitments with the Borough Council he has recently been unable to attend as many Parish Council meetings as he would

like and so felt it best to offer his resignation.

**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to send a letter of thanks to Councillor Bennett for his service and invite him to any future meetings he wishes. Should he wish to attend as a borough councillor he would be welcomed.**

**m) Read Motor Bodies**

The Solicitor had received a counter offer asking for a five year lease with a condition that the tenant keep the property clean and tidy, councillors discussed that the tenant does not currently keep the property clean and tidy. The use of the land was discussed and that only 2-3 cars are parked on the land and several are parked around local streets.

**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that a one year lease would be all they would offer and would plan to terminate following this. In the amount of time the lease has taken to arrange the tenant has gained an additional year which the council has received no payment for, this will also be raised with the Solicitor.**

**n) "Pete Rimmer" Plaque**

The Stork Hotel is being closed and refurbished, Ian Moore and Nicola G. have enquired about a commemorative plaque for Pete Rimmer which is currently above the bar in the Stork, there is no family the plaque could go to and so it was suggested that the plaque could be moved to the Village Green either on a bench or to mark a tree to be planted. Councillors suggested the Plaque could also be moved to the Con-club.

**RESOLVED: There were no objections to the plaque being placed on a tree or a bench, the suggestion of placing it in the con-club will be also be fed-back.**

**12. Correspondence - none**

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

**Planning Application No 3/2023/0058 at 5 Whalley Road Read BB12 7PB**

The application is for Retention of unauthorised 1500mm timber fence to provide privacy and security to rear garage roof.

The above planning application was discussed earlier in the meeting (see 5. Public Participation for details)

**14. Finance & Accounts:**

**a) Payments**

13/01/2023	WaterPlus	£138.02
24/01/2023	Donation to Read School	£100.00
25/01/2023	Clerks wage	£346.00

**b) Income**

30/12/2022	Allotment 3B	£18.00
05/01/2023	Allotment 9B	£36.00
09/01/2023	RVBC(£650 playground grant & £200 xmas grant)	£850.00
23/01/2023	Allotment and deposit 18C	£68.00
23/01/2023	Allotment 5D	£30.00
27/01/2023	Allotment 1A	£18.00
27/01/2023	Allotment 3A	£18.00

**c) Bank reconciliation as at 28 January 2023**

<b>Balances</b>			
Community Account	£13,011.45		
Business Saver Account	£54,593.91		£67,605.36
Add: Receipts			£64,958.17
Less: Payments			£10,269.00
Balance			<b>£122,294.53</b>

**15. Items for the next agenda**

- **Active Travel Plan**
- **Double Yellow Lines repainting**
- **Tennis Club Defibrillator**
- **Read Motor Bodies Lease**
- **Road Safety**
- **Parish Plan**
- **Coronation**

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.