

**READ PARISH COUNCIL**

**05/07/2023**

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

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

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

1 member of the public attended along with Borough Councillor Peplow.

**1. Apologies for absence** – Councillors A Hanson & R Hanson 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023** – approved with amendment that Councillor McKelvey had attended

**4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** –

*11m) enquiries to get an extra bin – enquiries have been made and we await a response from the Borough council however it is noted that those responsible may be on holiday. Residents had brought forward that they believed this would likely be damaged by children making fires. Often there is litter left on the field, queries were raised that a bin could be placed on the side of the field near the allotments however it was noted that it is unlikely this would be used appropriately.*

**5. Public participation** - none

**6. Borough Councillor's Report** – Borough Councillor Peplow advised he had met with Martholme Greenway volunteers including John Barker as well as a representative of Hyndburn Borough Council which resulted in a supportive motion from Hyndburn Borough Council.

Economic development committee – draft to be reviewed by public for 6 weeks to comment. People are encouraged to take part particularly local businesses. He is asking that parishes receive equal consideration. The meeting discussed charging electric cars at the kerbside especially for terraced houses and looking for solutions that avoid trailing wires. It was suggested that charging via lampposts or next to lampposts could be a solution, a working group was made to discuss this further. A Green councillor will be added to the working group.

Parish Council Liaison Meeting – A traffic and road safety group had been set up and supported by 10 Parishes. Read Parish Council had not previously been informed of this.

Planning & development committee – Although Councillor Peplow is not on this committee he was allowed to speak and raise some important points. An update on the draft local plan was reviewed, this was developed following public consultation in 2022. Councillor Peplow raised the point that this should be evidence based and should include IPCC report on climate change recommendations. Flood planes should be protected from development. Community heating schemes should be considered as well as efficiency schemes. Active travel to be promoted and routes protected. He suggested that the Ribble

Valley should join the Northern Forest; Ribble Valley currently has only 7% tree cover, the national average is 13% funding for tree planting schemes should be made available. Regarding growth, He suggested Ribble Valley consider appointing a biodiversity officer as this will be necessary in the future and there may be a shortage.

Councillor Peplow attended the citizens summit for climate and nature on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The event was a success. Readstone environment group also attended. He hopes Ribble valley Borough Council invite RVCAN in and engage more with groups.

Consult of public spaces protection order renew – dog fouling issues – on website/call for their suggestions and encourage all to participate.

Councillor drop in sessions have been organised for 22nd July & 26th August so that the public can consult with Councillor Peplow on any local issues.

He had raised concerns that there was no green councillor on the planning committee and no green councillor on the on local plan working group and asked to consider including green councillors in the working group.

At the Previous Parish Council meeting an issue with a planning application was discussed. He advised he had looked into this and the application is under appeal and needs to await the result of the inspectorate's decision before it can go to enforcement.

There is a backlog of planning applications and the Council is struggling to retain planning officers. It was discussed that the public sector is struggling with recruitment and retention of staff.

Enter councillor Neary.

**7. Clerk's Report** – none.

**8. Reports from external meetings** –

Parish Council Liaison Meeting – The Council received information that Clitheroe Police station has now opened an enquiry desk. In relation to the Local development committee, there was information about changing gas boilers for villages which are not on main roads. Ribble Valley Borough Council has £26 million of section 106 money, it is believed that a large proportion of this is allocated to Lancashire County Council as it is contributions from planning applications & developments.

A Road safety committee has been organised which Read Parish Council can join to work toward safer roads. Proposed the council joins the group.

**RESOLVED: The council agreed to join the group.**

**9. Playground** – see decision items

**10. Allotment Management Committee report** – 11 people are currently on the waiting list. 1 plot has become available and another may be becoming available. As it is believed that the tenants for one appointment may have moved out of the village and will therefore be out of the catchment area for renting an allotment. Another vacancy is from a tenant who has not made much work on plot now decided to give up the plot.

**RESOLVED: The clerk will write to the tenant who may have moved away and ask they the confirm their current address.**

One plot overlooks the football pitch and the plot next to it has pine trees. Adjoining plot is covered in pine needles. It was suggested a tree surgeon should be contacted to check the health of the trees.

There is a fence which needs maintenance, the lengthsmen will be contacted. Plot 18D is not being used much, the tenant has been chased up to attend to the allotment however there has been no response and the allotment is full of weeds.

A request has been made asking for a gate to be put in, this is for a plot which has been split so is a reasonable request, the request has been passed to the lengthsmen.

An inspection shall take place in September.

The tenancy agreement will be reviewed and reordered to highlight the distance

restrictions (must be resident of Read or Simonstone) and potentially to impose a lower age limit on becoming an allotment holder.

It was suggested that notices similar to the following be posted on approach to the allotments to help prevent dog fouling and trespassing – “Property of Read Parish Council; No public right of way, allotment tenants only, no dog walkers, security cameras in use”

Top gate post – “Read Parish Council private road for allotment tenants for allotment holders and ground maintenance staff only”

It was noted that the carpark is often used when bowling and cricket games are on so additional parking may be of benefit.

#### **11. Decision Items;**

##### **a) Read Motor Bodies Lease**

Notification from the solicitors was received that Read Motor Bodies had sent funds to their solicitors in payment of the funds owing, the matter should be making progress soon. Councillors expressed their disappointment that this has not been completed yet it is hoped that the matter will be resolved by September.

Problems had been raised regarding the carpark with cars speeding on and off. It is believed that the culprits are employees of Read Motor Bodies. Others have witnessed them speeding out and walking back to the shop. Councillors discussed writing to them advising of the complaint against their employees. It was suggested that employees could park at the back of compound as this is barely used, this would leave room for those using facilities such as the playground and bowling club.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact the solicitors to make sure the matter progresses as well as Read Motor Bodies about the inappropriate staff use of the Carpark**

##### **b) Multi Use Games Area**

An assessment of the area has taken place, a quotation will take about 3 weeks, currently costs are still being finalised, the quote should be circulated prior to the next Parish Council meeting in September.

##### **c) Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan questionnaire has been circulated, comments were made regarding various questions;

Question 1 about housing is very specific on housing types, it was suggested that more types are added, an alternative suggestion was to leave a comment box rather than limiting this to specific answers.

**RESOLVED; Councillors agreed a suggestion box.**

Question 3 about traffic it was suggested to clarify that this is the “Parish Council” rather than “the Council” **agreed.**

Question 8. It was suggested to reword the question to avoid bias toward any specific groups. Queries about whether councillor A. Hanson should be commenting on the Martholme Greenway due to pecuniary interest/code of conduct issues. The question of whether the question should be reworded to solely mention the government initiative rather than the greenway specifically, arguments were made that the “old railway” was a more recognised term than cycleway 685 or the Martholme Greenway.

There was a suggestion to split this into two questions whether to support government initiative and whether to support 685/greenway

Question 12. Received comments that the question is quite vague and asked that there could be space for comments. Councillors went on to discuss that the policing model has recently made a change toward community lead policing.

**RESOLVED: the questions will be reviewed and amended.**

**d) Playground Equipment**

Informal discussions had taken place with some residents who use the playground, many feel the playground is quite well equipped. Others suggested a sandpit however there were concerns raised over animals using this as a toilet as well as maintenance costs and issues, this would be better with a cover however this would involve employing someone to ensure this is covered and uncovered as necessary. The Lengthsman has been asked to fix springs on the gates to ensure these close. It was suggested that the dog warden could be asked to visit and keep a regular presence to help discourage dog fouling.

The gate onto the football field is often left open. Suggested that a gate to the cricket club is opened along the concrete path and this is fenced off to make an access to the playing field which is separate to the playground.

It had been suggested to fence off the adult equipment as young children may play near this and as some items move this could cause injury.

“Please shut the gate” on the outside. Suggest fine gravel as is done in Norway. Discussed removing adult equipment and how best to do this as well as what to replace this with.

**RESOLVED: Enquiries will be made regarding the removal and sale/disposal of the adult equipment.**

**e) Clerk Vacancy**

3 applications have been received and interviews will take place on Thursday, current situation will be discussed with applicants.

**f) Code of conduct and declarations of interests**

Declaration of interest forms have been circulated to be filled in and returned to Ribble Valley Borough Council as soon as possible.

**g) Update Website**

Councillors discussed updating councillors information on the website and adding more information about what each councillor’s responsibilities are.

**h) Accounts**

Councillors reviewed the prepared accounts information and signed this off

**RESOLVED: Reviewed and agreed, accounts were signed off to submit for external audit**

**i) Donation from Coronation event**

Money raised at the coronation celebration event was confirmed it will be donated to Pendleside Hospice and Ribble Valley Food Bank. £481 was raised meaning each charity will receive £240.50.

**j) Cost of Coronation event**

The cost of the coronation event was shared between Read and Simonstone Parish Councils

**k) Bench on George Lane**

The bench has been replaced and installed on George Lane. Councillors discussed a plaque could be installed saying “in commemoration of the coronation of King Charles III” or similar

**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed as above**

**l) Noticeboard and Bench on Straits Lane**

The noticeboard has been revarnished as well as the bench by the new lengthsman, Councillors discussed getting some of the other benches redone to this high standard.

**RESOLVED: Other benches locally will be checked and the lengthsman will be asked to sort the other benches.**

**m) Celebration Sunday**

Councillors discussed potential dates for the Celebration Sunday such as moving it further back to October as there has only recently been the coronation event. Previously there has been a cricket club event on the same date. This will be discussed with Simonstone Parish Council in the hopes of having a joint event.

**n) Traffic and Road Safety working Group**

It was proposed to ask to join the traffic an Road Safety group. Councillors discussed that there had been an incident near the garage. A tractor has swerved to avoid a small car and hit a lorry on the other side of the road. It is believed that the driver of the tractor was a 16 year old. Councillors discussed writing to our local MP to raise concerns over young drivers.

**RESOLVED: Councillor Hacking will speak with the PCSO to gain more information.**

**o) Leases for Football and Cricket Club**

These do not seem to have been paid recently, reminders will be sent out.

**p) Grass Cutting on kick about field**

Previously the grass cuttings were pushing on the fence, this has been pushed back from the fence and there have been offers of moving this however there were concerns of where this would be moved to.

**q) Activities for 12-18 year olds**

A member of the public has raised concerns that there are no activities for children of this age group, children have been asked what would be wanted, suggestions for pool, football nets, Bluetooth speakers etc, and a safe space to hang out with kids of a similar age. The problem would be having someone to supervise this, they would need to undergo the relevant checks. The Con-club does offer a junior membership however this would only be for 16-18 year olds. The proposed multi use games area would help resolve some of this. The Village Hall was suggested however many of the evenings are booked by other clubs and the question will be added to the Parish Plan questionnaire. It was suggested if a few groups working together could start a youth club.

**RESOLVED: additional questions will be added to parish plan questionnaire for suggestions.**

**12. Correspondence – none**

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

**Planning application number; 3/2023/0464, 107 Whalley Road, Read, Burnley, BB12 7RP**

Proposed single-storey extension to rear with balcony to first floor and alterations to first floor rear windows.

Read Parish Council planning review: no objections

**Planning application, 3/2023/0334, White Hill Back Lane Read BB12 7QP**

Proposed demolition of the existing 2 storey conservatories and replacement with a 2 storey side extension. Demolition of existing garage and construction of a 2 storey replacement garage with guest suite above, attached to main house.

Read Parish Council planning review: no objections

**a) Payments**

21/06/2023	Clerk's Wage	£296.00
21/06/2023	RSVH – Coronation event	£225.29
21/06/2023	Water Plus	£40.87

**b) Income**

05/06/2023	Interest	£20.14
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**c) Bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

<b>Opening Balances 01.06.23</b>			
Community Account	£20,552.57		
Business Saver Account	£9,659.45		
Skipton Building Society account	£45,000.00		£75,212.02
Add: Receipts			£20.14
Less: Payments			£562.16
Balance			<b>£74,670.00</b>

**14. Items for the next agenda**

- **Vehicle charging points chargers on local car parks**
- **Read Motor Bodies**
- **Tree review – pine trees on allotment & trees on church street gardens**
- **Football and Cricket Leases**
- **Clerk Vacancy**
- **Celebration Sunday**
- **Road Safety/young tractor drivers**
- **Hedgerows along footpaths**

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

The Next Meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.