

# READ PARISH COUNCIL

01/02/01

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at St John's Church, off George Lane, Read BB12 7RL Read on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017 at 7pm.**

**Present:** Chairman: Councillor G Rostron  
Councillors: Bennett, Collinson, Gandy, Snape  
**In attendance:** Shirley Bridge (Clerk)

7 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collinge, Crosland and Hanson.
2. **Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
  - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda** – none received.
  - 2.2 **To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests** – none received.
  - 2.3 **To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate**
3. **To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting (held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016)** – the minutes were approved.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda** - there were no matters arising.
5. **Public participation:**

Mr Anthony Seaford, Chairman of Simonstone Tennis Club addressed the Parish Council and outlined the development plans for the Tennis Club. The development plans include updating and renovating the existing facilities to create a community leisure and fitness club for residents of both Simonstone and Read. A significant amount of external funding will be required to update the facilities - approximately £153,000 is required. This will include connecting an electricity supply to the site and rebuilding of the existing clubhouse. The club are hopeful that funding can be obtained from Sport England and also Ribble Valley Borough Council and plan to complete this project in early 2018. They also plan to enhance the existing tennis courts.

Two residents expressed concerns regarding the revised planning application submitted for Hammond Ground. The Parish Council submitted their response to this second application on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January and made a strong objection to this application and mentioned their concerns regarding the results of the OAN Housing Survey undertaken by the Trustees of Hammond Ground.

## 6. **Borough Councillor's Report.**

Borough Councillor Richard Bennett reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hammond Ground planning application. This new application is very similar to the 1<sup>st</sup> application which was rejected by Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning Committee. The developers have submitted numerical statistics from their recent OAN Housing Survey but have given their results as percentages and have not revealed the number of respondents. Councillor Bennett will be meeting with RVBC Officers and will again be lobbying at the Planning Committee meeting regarding this application.

## 7. **Clerk's Report** - none

## 8. **Reports from external meetings:**

- PACT meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – the most recent PACT meeting reported some stone theft around the village and also that poachers had been reported near Law Farm, Simonstone.

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## 9. Playground:

**a) To receive the playground inspection report** – all equipment checked and in good working order.

**b) Repairs and maintenance** – none required

## 10. Allotment Chairman's report:

- Avian Flu – a letter has been drafted regarding this matter and will be sent to all allotment holders along with the DEFRA guidelines concerning Avian Flu.
- Allotment 13c – has now been re-let to a new tenant.

## 11. Decision Items

**a) Review of Senior Citizens' Party**- this event was enjoyed by all the residents who attended. The entertainment provided was excellent.

**RESOLVED: To discuss future arrangements at the next meeting of the Communications Group.**

**b) Review of Christmas Tree Event** - all agreed that this event was very well attended and was a good event. Coin collections on the night raised £60 and this was split equally between the School Choir Fund and also St Johns Church, Read.

**RESOLVED: To discuss future arrangements at the next meeting of the Communications Group.**

**c) Parish Plan – Questionnaire results** – although some results from the survey have been processed the comments and suggestions still need to collated. This item to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**d) Cricket Club – update** – no further information at this time.

**e) Defibrillator – update** - no further information at this time.

**f) Draft - Freedom of Information Act – Publication Scheme** – a draft Publication Scheme had been formulated by the Clerk and circulated to all Parish Councillors.

**RESOLVED: To adopt this Publication Scheme as part of the governance documents of Read Parish Council.**

**g) Future arrangements for External Audit** – Councillors discussed the information provided regarding the recent procurement process and the awarding of contracts to external auditors for Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED: To note the report and approve the appointment of PKF Littlejohn LLP as external auditors for Read Parish from 1 April 2017.**

**h) Parish Champion Grant approval** – a recent grant application to Lancashire County Council, Parish Champion funding has been successful and £200 has been awarded to help with the purchase of the new noticeboard for Jubilee Street.

**i) Review of Lengthsman Scheme to 31st December 2016** – Councillors reviewed the report regarding the time allocations and expenditure through the Lengthsman Scheme.

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**RESOLVED:** To approve the report and agree that further hours will be allocated for planned work.

**j) Best Kept Village invite** – Parish Councillors discussed the invite received from The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2017.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed not to enter the competition this year.

## 12. Correspondence

- *State of Rural Services report* – circulated to all Councillors
- *Lancashire County Council proposed budget options* – circulated to all Councillors.
- *Payphone consultation* – circulated – it was noted that RVBC have elected to campaign to retain the payphone in the village.
- *Service for Dog Owners* – circulated – this to be an agenda item at the next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

## 13. Highways Matters

Parish Councillors noted the Highways Report

## 14. Planning Applications & Decisions/Enforcements

### **Planning Application No: 3/2016/1174**

Proposal: Application for retention of unauthorised demolition of front garden wall, creation of new access and dropped kerb.

Location: 47 Whalley Road, Read BB12 7PN

Response required by: 10th January 2017

5th January 2017

#### **RESPONSE**

The Parish Council have no objection to this application.

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### **Planning Application No: 3/2016/1192**

Proposal: Outline residential development for 50 units including reserved matters for access.

Location: Hammond Ground, Whalley Road, Read BB12 7QN

Response required by: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

#### **RESPONSE**

The parish council objects to this development on the following grounds:

1. The location is outside the settlement boundary and in an open countryside location. Hammond Ground is part of Read Park, an ancient and historic landscape. There are stunning trees set within this designated landscape which would be spoiled by being surrounded by modern housing. Many people enjoy the green vista of Hammond Ground from public highways around Read and also from as far away as Great Harwood and Altham.
2. The adopted core strategy, based on objectively assessed housing need, identifies the overall minimum housing target for Read and Simonstone of 45 dwellings over the plan period 2008-2028. As of December 2015 19 dwellings remain to be provided in Read and Simonstone over the plan period. The current proposal would contribute up to 50 dwellings, which along with the

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planned development at Worthalls Farm of 15 dwellings would greatly exceed the objectively assessed need and the principle of sustainable development in housing numbers terms is therefore considered not to be in accordance with the adopted Core Strategy. Approval of the application for Hammond Ground could mean we get more than double the number of houses deemed appropriate for Read and Simonstone less than half way through the plan period.

3. A key part of this application is a claim that much of the housing will be for elderly people yet we have no doctors, opticians or dentists in the village and our bus service has recently been reduced. The Core Strategy concentrated development on settlements with better infrastructure. It cannot meet any suggested need that elderly residents find themselves living on a sloping site outside the village boundary with inadequate services.

### **OAN Housing Survey undertaken by Trustees of Hammond Ground**

Having reviewed the results of this survey the parish council have noted that the results of the survey are quoted as % figures and we are unable to ascertain how many respondents there were. We therefore feel that this survey is meaningless without this context.

## **15. Finance & Accounts:**

### **a) Payment of accounts**

18/11/16	Parish Noticeboard Company Limited	£750.00
18/1/16	Nu-Age Print + Copy	£150.00
22/11/16	OPUS Audio Ltd	£60.00
22/11/16	Petty Cash	£40.00
23/11/16	Nu-Age Print + Copy	£18.00
28/11/16	L Wlodarczyk	£100.00
2/12/16	Bertwistles Bakery	£75.00
2/12/16	United Utilities	£102.39
2/12/16	G Rostron	£46.00
5/12/16	L Varo	£192.00
19/12/16	Printing and General Admin expenses	£236.85
19/12/16	S Bridge – Salary Oct-Dec	£571.93
3/1/17	D Malley	£29.00
3/1/17	HMRC PAYE Oct-Dec	£143.00
3/1/17	SLCC membership	£67.00
3/1/17	Noticeboards On-line	£1,063.20
23/1/17	Read School Choir	£30.00
23/1/17	PCC Read St John's + St Peter's Simonstone	£30.00

### **b) Income**

5/12/16	Christmas Tree cash collection	£60.40
22/12/16	Allotment Rent	£20.00
6/1/17	Allotment rents	£665.00

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### c) Bank reconciliation as at 30th December 2016

Opening Balances 01.04.16		
Community Account	£5,296.14	
Business Saver Account	£2,521.23	£7,817.37
Add: Receipts		£14,564.18
Less: Payments		£14,804.74
Balance		£7,576.81

### 16. Items for the next agenda

- Communications Group
- Parish Plan
- Cricket Club
- Defibrillator
- Service for Dog Owners

\*The meeting ended at 8.15pm