

READ PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm. Councillor Marie Hacking presided and there was 1 elector, 6 Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk present.

- 1. Minutes of the previous meeting** – minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 11th May, 2022 were approved.
- 2. Matters arising from the minutes** – None
- 3. Chairman's Report** – the Chairman gave the Chairman's report on the work carried out by the Parish Council during the past 12 months as follows:

"I would like to start by saying welcome to our two new Parish Councillors – Alex Hanson & Steve Neary who were elected to the Council on 4th May 2023.

I am sure I speak for all the councillors who wish to say thank you to outgoing councillors, Richard Bennett and John Barker for all their work whilst being on the parish council.

I am pleased to say that we have several have held several joint events with Simonstone parish council. The celebration Sunday held in September, the Christmas party in December at the Higher Trapp and the coronation indoor street party held in the Village Hall two weeks ago. The events have been well attended, and we have received positive feedback.

The yearly newsletter was delivered in November to every house in the village informing residents of upcoming events and things of interest and concern within the village.

Thank you to Councillor Hanson for once again donating a Christmas tree for Church Street Gardens, and for the children of Read school for singing carols in the village hall after the tree switch on. It was a lovely evening and refreshments were enjoyed by all who attended.

It is just over 10 years since our last parish plan and we are working towards an updated questionnaire asking residents about many aspects of changes or improvements they would like to see within the village. Often completed questionnaire have a low return rate. So we will look to arrange for more venues for people to return their completed forms.

We now have a working group with Simonstone parish council and we first met in February to form a Road Safety Group. Looking at all aspects of road safety, the volume the speed of traffic, illegal or inconsiderate parking of cars, near junctions. You will have seen the banner on the cricket field wall and bin stickers asking people to "slow down and save lives". We will continue to campaign local government to make the village as safe as possible.



Traffic pollution is being monitored monthly on Whalley Road by Ribble Valley Borough Council the readings are included in our July's meetings minutes, and we are assured they are all within safety parameters.

We now have two new floor standing litter bins to replace the small post held bins, one outside the con-club and one across the road by the bus shelter. These bins were requested approximately three years ago, but due to COVID and a review of all bins by the Ribble Valley, they arrived a couple of months ago and had been well used since then.

The grit bin on St. John's Close has also been replaced. This was initially requested in July, when the original one went missing, and its replacement arrived in March of this year. Apologies for the state of the telephone kiosk. Our hope was to renovate it, but unfortunately this has not materialised. We are waiting for the electric supply to be disconnected, so that it can be removed. We were told it would take 16 weeks and that was 9 months ago and we are still waiting. Our clerk April is in regular contact, but no date has been given for the disconnection.

So we do try and get problems sorted as soon as possible. But as you can see, it is not always quick or easy.

Some improvements were made to the playground, a new cargo net to the climbing frame that cost over 1000 pound, but we did thankfully receive the grant towards that work from the Ribble Valley, two benches were repaired and the Wobble Board was replaced and the gate put back between the playground and the playing field. The supports for the swings were painted and wood chip put under the picnic bench. Many of the repairs made around the village are carried out by the lengthsman, we are hoping to continue improving the playground this year.

The car park and allotment road are again showing signs of wear. We are looking at different road surface options. Unfortunately to tarmac the area would cost many 1000s of pounds. We do ask allotment tenants and people using the car park to drive slowly and carefully. There continues to be a waiting list for the allotments and thanks to Councillor Anderson for all his hard work as allotment manager.

Unfortunately, dog fouling and litter continue to be a problem within the village. Anyone found not cleaning up after their dog will be reported which could result in a fine. We also we ask people to deposit litter in the litter bins or take it home.

Both cafes continue to run weekly in the village hall on Wednesday and at the con club on Fridays. Both operate from 10 till 12. These cafes often host for 40 or more people and are an ideal opportunity for friends to get together or to make new friends. We hope that anyone living alone will come along. Both cafes are run by counsellors and volunteers.

The Tots & tea group is well attended weekly event at the village hall. This is run by Councillor Greenhough and myself with help from Jean Taylor and Pat Firth, who made the refreshment. The group is Tuesdays from 10 till 12. The group has just received a lottery grant to improve the outside space for the children to use and outdoor equipment, though it probably be next year before that's up and running.

We're very fortunate to be one of several organisations and charities to be left a sum of money from a gentleman called Mr. Summersgill's estate, he did not live in the

village but has kindly included us in his will, the money will be spent to improve facilities within the village.

The environment group continue with monthly litter picks and have adopted some areas in the village making some grot spots a delight with flowers and bushes. Thank you to them and the Councillors that take part in the monthly litter picks. Thank you to everyone who voted on the fourth of May I hope you all remembered to take your photo ID I'm sure that all our Councillors over the coming year will be visible, helpful and approachable to all residents within the village and I thank them and April our clerk for their continued work and support.

Agendas for the meetings are displayed in the to notice boards, members of the public are welcome to come along. And time is allocated at each meeting for residents to speak.

4. Matters raised by residents –

A resident raised concerns of speeding on George Lane, although this is a 20 zone, drivers do not seem to be sticking to this. They suggested an extra sign on a lamp post near Church Close may help.

Reassurances were made that the Road Safety Group us working hard to raise and tackle local issues like this and are working to lobby government to meet in the village and discuss the issues. It was noted that if the speeding is being done by the same people/vehicles all the time it may be worth making a note of the vehicle registration and informing the Police/PCSO who may be able to follow this up.

Mention was given that the police run "Operation snap" which is is predominantly for dashcam footage, however footage of any road traffic incident, a collision, speeding or someone being an inconsiderate road user, could be uploaded and submitted to them for review and could even lead to a prosecution.

Another issue was raised about blocked drains and that these do not seem to be cleaned on any sort of schedule.

Councillors noted that issues such as blocked drains can be reported to Lancashire County Council via their website or the I Love Clean Streets app. It was noted that if Lancashire County Council are not aware of a problem they are unlikely to come out an fix it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.