

READ PARISH COUNCIL

10/03/2021

A meeting of the Parish Council was held digitally on Zoom on **Wednesday 10th March, 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Bennett, Greenhough, Hanson, Pollard

In attendance: Lesley Foster (Clerk)

4 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillors Collinge and Ridge.
2. **Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
 - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.** – *Councillors Pollard and Greenhough declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Martholme Greenway Group. Councillor Hanson declared an interest as a landowner in item 11o).*
 - 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 10th February 2021** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *No matters arose.*
5. **Public participation:**
 - The PCSO for the area reported on recent crimes in the area. There had been some COVID breaches, and a stone theft. Hondas are currently being targeted for theft of the catalytic converters. In the broader Ribble Valley, two sheds and two houses had been broken into in broad daylight by people targetting jewellery. The police have a suspect but are still gathering evidence. The police are keeping an eye on the situation regarding silver cylinders recently spotted on the church car park.
 - A representative of the Village Hall stated that the Village Hall is showing an interest in putting the telephone box at the village hall in the case that it is not being maintained and used in another way. He also commented that the Village Hall is gradually reopening in line with current COVID guidance.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – Councillor Bennett reported that there was nothing to report.
7. **Clerk's Report** – none
8. **Reports from external meetings** –
Simonstone Parish Council – The new Simonstone Parish Council website is now up and running and is having the information added to it. SPC are interested in organising the joint Christmas party with Read Parish Council, and potentially also organising something for Civic Sunday.
9. **Playground:**
 - a) **To receive the playground inspection report** – This was discussed below under item 11b).
 - b) **Repairs and maintenance** – This was discussed below under item 11b).
10. **Allotment Management Committee report** – The three vacant plots have now been let. There are now no vacant plots and a waiting list of twelve people. Regarding fencing,

29 fence posts that fall under the council's responsibility need replacing. There has been a complaint from a tenant about a fence between their allotment and a farmer's field, which is the farmer's responsibility to maintain. The fence does not look to be currently falling down. The Clerk will write to the farmer about the issue. Regarding the other fencing, Councillor Anderson will speak to the lengthsman.

11. Decision Items

a) Car park maintenance

Councillor Hacking had spoken with John Lofthouse who has taken a look at the car park and says that no current maintenance is necessary, and that he will look again in the summer at no cost to the council.

b) Playground

The different quotes were discussed. It was noted that a new dog sign has been put up outside the playground. Some of the outstanding jobs on the playground may be able to be done without involving specialist contractors, though some of them will need specialist contractors.

The rope is wearing on the children's climbing equipment and will need replacing by a specialist.

The lengthsman and a local tradesman both may be able to do some of the jobs at a cheaper cost. These people can look at the outstanding jobs first before any work from a specialist company is ordered.

c) Champion's Grant

Councillor Hacking had sent in three applications to this grant, for the playground, telephone kiosk, and for Church St Gardens. The applications have been received, but due to the high volume of applications for the grant, there is no funding left for the current financial year, so the applications will be considered after 1st April.

d) Overgrown hedges

A reminder letter was sent to one resident who had not cut their hedges yet. The disabled resident previously mentioned has now cut theirs. There has not yet been a response from the resident who was sent a letter.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Lancashire County Council enquiring about the uncut hedges and will send a copy of the letter to the resident involved.

e) Church St Gardens

Councillor Greenhough has been working with a resident of Church St Gardens on a plan to improve the gardens. The dog fouling sign is now up and Councillors Pollard and Anderson were thanked for helping to install it. The Christmas tree from last year is still there. Councillor Hanson said that he would take it away. The horse chestnut tree in the area is getting large and may need some branches removing at some point. This could potentially be done at the same time as any other trees that need work. Read Parish Council may be willing to provide funding for some of the improvement work in the gardens if specific items with pricings are provided. The area may need to be power washed at some stage.

f) Read Motor Bodies lease

Discussion of the lease length time took place.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to the solicitor's for advice on the possibility of changing the lease length.

g) Adoption of phone kiosk

Councillor Hacking had received an email from a resident on behalf of several other residents who would prefer the phone kiosk to stay in its present location and not be moved to the hall. There was a discussion of the different possibilities for the phone

kiosk. It was noted that it may be physically difficult to move the phone kiosk. The issue will be discussed further at a future meeting.

h) Website update

There was discussion of the three quotes provided by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: To go with the quote from BP Tyrer.

i) Payments for Zoom meetings

The Clerk had previously been refunded £10 per meeting for two Zoom meetings held in 2020. All Zoom meetings have been held using the Clerk's Zoom account.

RESOLVED: To refund the Clerk £60 (£10 per meeting) for six Parish Council Zoom meetings.

j) Request to store storage containers by cricket field wall

There was discussion of the issue. Several councillors had viewed the proposed area.

There was also discussion of whether it would be acceptable for some storage containers to be stored behind Read Motor Bodies on land Read Motor Bodies lets from Read Parish Council.

RESOLVED: The storage containers can be stored by the cricket field wall and on the land behind Read Motor Bodies, provided that it is agreed that Read Parish Council are not liable for any damage.

k) Finger post on Cobcar Nook

Duncan Armstrong may be interested in making a new fingerpost at Cobcar Nook for £150. There was discussion of the issue.

RESOLVED: To ask Duncan Armstrong to create a new fingerpost for Cobcar Nook.

l) Bin for football club

An old dustbin had been placed near the allotments and apparently used by the Football Club, which was not the one bought for the club by the council. The bin had been left there and then filled with inappropriate things by members of the public. It has been emptied and removed. All bins used by the Football Club need to be removed between matches. The purchased bin is stored in the Con Club between matches.

m) Civic Sunday

There was discussion of the date and the purpose of Civic Sunday. COVID restrictions may still be in place in June, so if an event is to be held it may be better to hold it later in the year. Councillor Pollard said he would find out Simonstone Parish Council's views on the event.

n) Street lighting on the back alley at Jubilee Street

A resident had contacted the council to say that the back alley at Jubilee street was very dark and needed street lighting. Councillors Hacking and Greenhough had both visited the street and found that it was quite dark.

There was discussion of whether it would be funded by LCC or whether the cost would fall on the parish.

RESOLVED: To write to LCC Highways to ask to consider this area for new street lighting if funding is available.

o) DMMO application by Martholme Greenway

There was discussion of whether to put information provided by Martholme Greenway on the council website. It was considered that if information is displayed it may be better to display information from all parties involved. The decision on whether to display information will be postponed until the planned new website is functioning.

12. Correspondence – The Clerk took the meeting through the correspondence that had been received.

A reply was received from RVBC regarding why they did not respond to our previous correspondence with them, which the Clerk read out to the meeting. RVBC apologised and explained their current planning policy and the difficulties in changing it.

The council received correspondence from Martholme Greenway regarding the DMMO application, which they had circulated to all councillors.

Allotment tenancy agreement forms had been received from the allotment holders taking up the vacant allotments.

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

Application 3/2021/0112 2 St Johns Close, Read BB12 7RL

Proposed two bedroom dwelling.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

The planning committee objected to the application on the grounds of highway safety due to the location of the proposed driveway on to the highway.

The Clerk will forward future planning applications to the whole council to view, though the planning committee and decision structure for this will remain the same at the present time.

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

22/02/21	LF Salary January 2021	£248.82
22/02/21	LALC membership 2021/22	£259.97
2/03/21	LF Salary February 2021	£248.82
02/03/21	Interim contribution to Lengthsman scheme	£350.00

b) Income

15/2/21	Allotment deposit	£50.00
1/3/21	Allotment rent and deposit	£68.00
1/3/21	Allotment rent and deposit	£74.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2021

Opening Balances 01.04.20			
Community Account	£2,776.49		
Business Saver Account	£14,575.13		£17,351.62
Add: Receipts			£16,186.40
Less: Payments			£19,716.71
Balance			£13,821.31

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Planning applications**
- **Bin on Whalley Road**
- **Church St Gardens**
- **Adoption of telephone kiosk**

- **Read Motor Bodies lease**
- **Overgrown foliage**
- **Playground**
- **Readstone Environmental Group**
- **Christmas party**
- **Air pollution monitoring**

The meeting ended at 8:52 pm.