

READ PARISH COUNCIL

11/05/2021

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Tuesday 11th May, 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: Lesley Foster (Clerk)

9 members of the public attended.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Councillor Collinge had submitted a letter of resignation, and so would not be attending the meeting.
- 2. Appointment of Chairman (followed by the Chair's signing of declaration of acceptance of office)** – Councillor Hacking was re-elected as chairman.
- 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman and Council Representatives**

The new representatives are as follows:

Vice-Chair	Cllr Pollard
Signatories and on-line bank payments authorisation	Chair and Vice-Chair
Planning Committee	Cllrs Hanson and Anderson
Communications Group	Cllrs Greenhough and Hacking
Lengthsman Co-ordinator	Cllr Hanson
Allotment Management	Cllr Anderson
Playground Inspection	Cllr Hacking
Footpath Officer	Cllrs Bennett and Anderson
Parish Council Liaison Committee	Cllr Pollard
Business Link	Vacant, to be discussed in future
School link	Cllr Greenhough
Simonstone Parish Council link	Cllr Pollard

4. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations

4.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors *on items on the agenda.* – none

4.2 To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) – none

4.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate – none

5. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 14th April 2021 – the minutes were approved.

6. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – none

7. Public participation:

- A report had been received by Councillor Hacking from the PCSO, who was not able to attend. There had been only one incident worth noting, an incident with a drunk driver. Fortunately no one was injured in this incident.
- One resident asked if the council would write to Ribble Valley Borough Council asking them to repair the potholes in the local pavements, as they are a safety hazard for users of mobility scooters. It was noted that pavements are the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. Councillor Bennett said that he would contact LCC and that the resident should notify him of the location of the potholes.
- A resident representing the Martholme Greenway reported on work done near the viaduct which it had been claimed was done without a planning application. Such a

planning application had apparently not yet been received by the Ribble Valley. Councillor Hanson responded that a planning consultant had been instructed, but that their work had been delayed by the COVID safety measures.

8. Borough Councillor's Report – There was nothing to report, except that the new LCC councillor is interested in the issue reported on at the last meeting, and that that issue is being addressed.

9. Clerk's Report – none

10. Reports from external meetings –

Simonstone Parish Council – no report

11. Playground:

a) **To receive the playground inspection report** – discussed under item 13g).

b) **Repairs and maintenance** – discussed under item 13g).

12. Allotment Management Committee report – There are now 16 people on the waiting list. There are no vacant plots. All deposits have now been paid.

13. Decision Items

a) **Insurance renewal**

The insurance renewal quotes provided were discussed.

RESOLVED: To go with the 3 year fixed quote from Hiscox.

b) **Parish Plan**

The possibility of creating a new Parish Plan was discussed. The Communications group will discuss the idea further.

c) **Website update**

The Clerk reported that the contractor has begun working on the website, and that RVBC has been asked to give the contractor the needed access. The Clerk will write to the contractor to ask for a report on progress and the likely timescale.

d) **Civic Sunday**

The event will be in September and will be called Celebration Sunday. It is planned that the event will be open to visitors and will include refreshments such as cakes and biscuits. As there is no vicar at the moment, it may be decided to omit the typical church service. The event is planned to be from 11am to 3pm.

e) **Christmas party**

The Higher Trapp has been provisionally booked for the joint event with Simonstone. There are 40 tickets available for each village, which will cost £18 each, with £10 paid by the resident and £8 paid by the council. The event will be held midweek. More details will follow. The places for Read residents will be for those aged 70 and up.

f) **Xmas tree light up**

This has been previously held on the first Friday in December. There is a suitable tree available. It was suggested that residents could be invited to the village hall for refreshments, and that Claire Holbrook who has been performing some religious services in the absence of a vicar could be invited to bless the tree.

g) **Playground**

A quote from the lengthsman was received for the items he is able to repair, which was £65 for timber and £95 for labour. He will not be able to repair the climbing net, so this will need a separate quote.

RESOLVED: To ask the lengthsman to perform the work on the playground as indicated in his quote.

h) **Church St Garden**

Councillors Greenhough and Hacking have begun working on the improvements to this area, along with some residents. This includes the fitting of bug hotels, bird feeders, and the purchase of a bird box.

i) Adoption of telephone kiosk

The village hall had previously expressed interest, but it is still uncertain how serious their interest is. It was suggested that a meeting could be arranged with representatives of the village hall to discuss the issue.

j) Read Motor Bodies lease

A response had been received from the solicitors, who confirmed that Read Motor Bodies are not legally entitled to any new lease and that any details may be considered for renegotiation. Therefore it is legally acceptable to consider a shorter lease length. The desired lease length and the use of the land at the back of Read Motor Bodies were discussed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Read Motor Bodies to ask for a meeting between Read Motor Bodies and councillors to discuss the lease.

k) Air pollution monitoring

There had still been no report received. Councillor Bennett offered to ask RVBC about this.

l) Back St lighting

A reply was received from LCC about this. Unfortunately there is no funding available from LCC for new street lighting at the moment. It was suggested the parish council could put up some lighting, but this may require planning permission.

m) Review of all bins by RV

After enquiring about the larger bin which had not yet been installed at Whalley Road, it was discovered that RVBC are conducting a review of all their bins, and will not supply any new bin until after the review is complete. There was discussion of what the review might mean.

n) Litter from cricket matches/pizza van

There had been an issue with litter being left around the playground after cricket matches, especially from the pizza van. Councillor Hacking had emailed the cricket club secretary about this, who had said that the club would check the area at weekends after matches, though they do not appear to have started doing this yet.

o) Al the postman

The council had written a letter in support of retaining the postman in the village, but unfortunately despite this and a number of letters from the public, he has been moved on. Many people in the village will miss him.

p) Car park

Some of the edging stones on the car park had fallen on top of the drain, so Councillor Hacking and her husband had lifted the stones back into place. The general condition of the car park seems acceptable at the moment.

q) Footpath maintenance

There are some areas on Footpath Number 34 near Gooseleach Wood that have become very boggy. It was discussed as to whether a walkway should be installed over that spot. Councillor Pollard agreed to approach the landowner to ask for permission to install a walkway.

r) Councillor vacancy

There are now two councillor vacancies, as a resignation letter from Councillor Collinge was received on the morning of the meeting. There are still a couple of days left for people to apply to fill the first vacancy. The Clerk will prepare the notices for the second vacancy.

s) Enforcement of planning applications

There was discussion of the incident with the lack of planning application mentioned earlier under the public participation section. There was also some discussion of an older planning issue that had allegedly not been implemented. It was decided that

as this was an older issue and responses had been received from RVBC about the issue at the time, no further action would be taken at the moment.

t) Resignation of Clerk

The Clerk had submitted notice of resignation, and will work until the end of July. The council wished the Clerk well in the future.

14. Correspondence – The Clerk had received an email from the cleaner of the bus stops asking if the council still wanted to continue with the 3-monthly bus stop cleans. As no councillor has asked to hold a discussion about this, the Clerk will write back to say that the council does want to continue.

An email had been received regarding an online training course “Effective Meetings”. Councillor Hacking had expressed a wish to attend the course. If any other councillor wishes to attend they should contact the Clerk.

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

Application 3/2021/0344 Automotive tools, Hambledon View, Read BB12 7PD

Proposed extension to create vehicle storage at ground floor level and office accommodation/storage at first floor level. Resubmission of approved application 3/2020/1043.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application.

16. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

15/4/21	Dog sign	£11.68
15/4/21	L Foster salary March 2021	£248.82
15/4/21	RVBC emptying dog bins	£1,621.15
28/4/21	RVBC emptying litter bin at playground	£238.99
04/5/21	L Foster salary April 2021	£248.82

b) Income

7/4/21	Precept	£10,836.00
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c) Bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2021

Opening Balances 01.04.20			
Community Account	£2,776.49		
Business Saver Account	£14,575.13		£17,351.62
Add: Receipts			£16,596.64
Less: Payments			£20,996.74
Balance			£12,952.52

17. Items for the next agenda

- **Parish Plan**
- **Website update**
- **Adoption of telephone kiosk**
- **Celebration Sunday**
- **Christmas party**

- **Xmas tree light up**
- **Read Motor Bodies**
- **Litter bins**

At this point the meeting ended.