

Simonstone Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

held at 7.00 pm on 12th May, 2022 in St Peters Church School Hall

Minutes

Attendances :- Cllrs. David Peat, Robert McKelvey, Clifton Pollard, Elisa Hargreaves, John Barker, Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Finn, Graham Meloy, the Parish Clerk and 4 Members of the Public.

Appologies; None

Chairmans Report;

Last years Annual Parish Meeting was held by Zoom due to the Covid Regulations which remained until after the July meeting. Nevertheless the Parish Council met on 9 other occasions after July face to face using the Village Hall, The Higher Trapp and St Peters Church. Patterns emerged in the year; we met and discussed the Boundary Commission proposals in July and February; both meetings opposed the changes. We reviewed our systems, behaviours and standards by adopting a revised Code of Conduct, looking at Web and Facebook controls and management, Risk to and Safety of Councillors and Handling Intimidation. Speed and Road Safety on the A671, Whins Lane/Trapp Lane were discussed several times however landowner and Lancashire County Council reluctance have limited progress for now. A cluster of Environmental Issues were discussed and reviewed. We began to review air pollution, using Ribble Valley Borough Council equipment, on the A671. We welcomed the Read and Simonstone Environment Group to a presentation and sought their plans for the future. They are helping seeding and works on Simonstone Lane. We also formally raised resident safety fears on Back Lane with the Police. We continue to support by publicity or finances a range of local bodies including, Citizens Advice and Little Green Bus used by Residents generally. We have not assisted Martholme Greenway nor the Hall this year particularly as other sources were available. We did help the School as their fundraising had collapsed with Covid and were pleased to fund benches for the Peaceful Garden. We also assisted the Tennis Club to facilitate developments. Together with Read Parish Council, a post-Covid celebration social was held in September; it was a showcase for local voluntary bodies and was well attended, including a visit by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Ribble Valley. The Platinum Jubilee will occur in June 2022 and we plan to provide benches and appropriate tree shelters (the latter donated by local business) on the Fountains Estate. The Parish supported Remembrance Day Commemoration in November; it was good to see so many residents of all ages present. A different Christmas Celebration took place in December to reflect declining numbers and availability of assistance, we joined Read Parish Council in a joint event at the Higher Trapp. Five days later we joined the School in the Christmas Tree lighting. We have started to plan a revised Parish Plan, but this will be a major feature of 2022/23. We have contributed to the Borough Local Plan 2023 raising concerns at traffic levels and that we believe that Housing development should be restricted in this area. As in previous years, the Parish Council has been fortunate to have able and willing Parish Councillors who have

cooperated and given their time and skills. Ms Norse resigned as a Parish Councillor in August and Ms Hampson was Coopted in October.
In January 2022 ,Mr IR Hirst Parish Clerk announced his intended retirement at this meeting in his 25th Year. We hosted a Celebratory event in April; we are pleased to welcome Miss April Louise Collinson as our new Parish Clerk.
Fellow Councillors and Residents, I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2021/22. David Peat OBE Chairman Simonstone Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting concluded at 7.10pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.