

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council Meeting – Minutes

Date:	14 November 2024		
Place:	St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone		
Present:	Councillors: D. Peat (Chair), S. Finn, J. Hampson, R. McKelvey, G. Norse, C. Pollard, A. Duckworth and M. Vaughton.		
In attendance:	Clerk to the Council (Mike Hill) and several members of the public.		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	20:30

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were accepted from Borough Cllrs. Peplow and McCrum.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Several members of the public were present at the meeting:

- a. Two participants wished to discuss Agenda Item 12 (School Field Footpath) which the Chair brought forward for discussion.
- b. Dr Barker presented a festive crib which he had made for the Council and explained it had multiple uses and not just for displaying a Christmas nativity.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Thanked Dr Barker for providing the Council with such an excellent amenity.
 - b. Agree to make a payment of £100 towards the costs incurred by Dr Barker.
 - c. Agree (in way of thanks) to make a £100 donation to an organisation proposed by Dr Barker.
 - d. Agree that the structure should be powder coated.
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5. FINANCE REPORT.

The Clerk submitted a report seeking approval for the accounts to date, Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments and the Schedule of Payments.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Approve the accounts to date.
- Approve the Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments as set out in the Report and Table b below.
- Approve Schedule of Payments as set out in the Table a below:

Table A**Schedule of Payments to be considered for approval.**

#	Ref.	Payee	Description	Gross £	Vat £	Net £	Due Date	Ref.
1	S01950166	Festive Lights	String and Cluster lights, brackets and cables	1,834.16	305.69	1,528.47	Paid	Amenity Exp.
2		Lenghtsman Scheme	Contribution to 2024/25	700.00	0.00	700.00	Due	Amenity Exp.
3	3940	Barrie Tyrer	Termination of siminstone.org.uk	135.20	0.00	135.20	Paid	Admin. Exp.
4	PCJ07	Royal British Legion	Wreaths x 2	100.00	20.00	80.00	Paid	Sundry Exp.
5	5968337	Holyart	Nativity Set	124.45	20.74	103.71	Paid	Amenity Exp.
Totals:				2,893.81	346.43	2547.38		

Note: Approval is not usually sought for people of organisations where the Parish Council has a contractual relationship or has already been agreed by Council.

Summary of Receipts and Payments**Table B**

	£
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2024:	9,286.46
Add total receipts to date:	9,513
Less total payments to date:	(8,247)
Balance:	10,552.61

Unity Trust Bank Balance as at 11/11/24: **£ 10,552.61**

*If these two figures
are different an
explanation is
required.*

The Switch from Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank took place on 16 August 2024.
 Amount transferred = £15,086.93
 Switch Authorised by:
 - David Peat
 - Clifton Pollard
 - Stephen Finn

6. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Clerk submitted a report asking members to review the Council's budget for 2025-26 as a precursor to agreeing the 2025-26 Council precept.

Members were reminded that parish councils irrespective of their size, have a statutory duty to prepare an annual budget and that it is not lawful to set a precept unless a budget has been prepared and approved. Members were also reminded that the Council's precept had not been increased for some considerable time.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Note the contents of the Report and Appendix 1 to the Report.
- b. Approve the budget and the services the Council intends to deliver in 2025-26 as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report
- c. Agree to set a precept of £9,000 for 2025-26, based on the service and expenditure agreed in b. above.
- d. Agree to set a General Reserve for 2025/26 of no more than £8,000.

7. BANKING CONSIDERATIONS.

The Clerk submitted a report asking members to consider transferring funds from the current Barclays Business Premium Account to a Unity Trust savings account.

Members were reminded that they have two main deposit accounts, one is held with Unity Trust Bank, which is used on a day-to-day basis to receive, transfer and pay money out. The other account is held with Barclays Bank and is used for the Council's General Reserves. The Barclays account currently has funds of £9,065, is relatively dormant and accrues little interest.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Agree to transfer funds from the current Barclays Business Premium Account to a Unity Trust Savings Account.
- b. Authorise the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

8. BYPASS BID.

The Clerk submitted a Report requesting members to consider a document which was attached as Appendix 1 of the Report.

The document, (Appendix 1), was an Addendum to the '*Proposed Bypass Road for Read and Simonstone*' and considered the impact of the UK's Government housing Growth on traffic in the Ribble Valley, and as a consequence, the impact of additional traffic volumes on the A671 Whalley Road, through the villages of Read and Simonstone.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note Appendix 1 to the Report.

9. VE DAY 2025 – PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

The Clerk submitted a Report requesting members to consider the activities the Parish Council may want to undertake for VE Day 2025. Members were reminded that VE Day in 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Agree to consider possible events at future Council meetings.
- b. Approve a budget of £500 for Remembrance events.

10. PROW – ACCESS TO A FOOTPATH ON WHINS LANE, SIMONSTONE

The Clerk submitted a Report asking members to consider installing a gateway on the footpath to the north of the property on Whins Lane, Simonstone.

The Report noted that the Council had tried to contact who it considers to be the landowner with no success.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Agree to write to who it considers to be the landowner, seeking permission for the Parish Council to restore access to the footpath by installing a gateway at no cost to themselves.
- b. Agree, that if the landowner is unable to permit the gateway installation, the Council will arrange to restore unhindered access to the footpath.

11. FESTIVE PREPARATIONS

Cllr. Vaughton updated members on the preparations for Christmas.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the update and thanked all those involved in the festive preparations.

12. SCHOOL FIELD 'FOOTPATH'

The Clerk submitted a Report asking members to consider an issue that had been raised by a parishioner (see also Agenda Item 4 - Public Participation).

The Report noted that the Parish Council had recently received an email from a parishioner requesting members consider installing a pathway down the field behind the school. The parishioner noted that there were numerous benefits, in installing such a path.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Agree to discuss the matter at future Council meetings.

13. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM RECENT MEETINGS.

The Clerk presented a report updating members on actions from recent meetings.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

14. PLANNING REPORT.

The clerk submitted a report on the relevant planning applications that had been submitted since the last Council meeting. Members were reminded that weekly planning applications and decided lists of planning applications are available to view on the RVBC website by using the link below:

https://www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk/weekly_lists

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

15. COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Parish Councillor Duckworth and Borough Councillor Peplow submitted reports for consideration by the Council.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Thanked Cllr. Duckworth and Cllr. Peplow for their informative reports.

16. NEWSLETTER.

Councillor Hampson updated members on the latest version the Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Request Cllr. Hampson to prepare a Spring version of the Parish Newsletter.

17. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

No further matters were considered.

Future Meetings:

- 2025 – 9 January, 6 February and 6 March.

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