

## SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

09/02/2023

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Saint Peter's School Hall, School Lane, Simonstone, BB12 7HR on Thursday 9th February 2023 at 7.00p.m.**

**Present:** Chairman: Councillor Peat  
Councillors: Barker, Finn, Hampson, Hargreaves, McKelvey, Pollard.

**In attendance:** April Collinson (Clerk)

1 member of the public attended.

**1. Apologies for absence** – no apologies for absence were received

**2. Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**

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

**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.

*By way of full disclosure Councillors Barker, Hargreaves and Pollard declared non-pecuniary interest in the Martholme Greenway and Councillors Finn and McKelvey declared a non pecuniary interest in the Village Hall.*

**3. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023** – Councillor Hampson contested item 12.01.2023.9a) the report received from the Martholme Greenway Group as the report stated that there was “a large public response”, she wished to clarify what was perceived as “large”. Councillors considered amending however the minutes however it was considered that this was an accurate reflection of the report received from the Martholme Greenway Group. Councillors voted on this and members of the Martholme Greenway Group abstained from the vote. Two Councillors voted to keep the minute, one Councillor voted to amend.

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

**5. Public participation** - none

**6. Borough Councillor's Report** – Councillor Peat reported that deceased sheep have been being dumped in lay-bys locally, this is not only a hazard to the public but is putting increased cost on the Borough Council who have to remove the sheep safely.

In order to vote at the next election ID will be required, if a person does not have any ID they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Information of this is available from The Electoral Commission.

The Borough Council is looking to help tackle homelessness through temporary accommodation.

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III there is likely to be a grant available to Parish Councils from the Borough Council however the amount has not yet been confirmed.

Councillor Hampson reported on the Parish Council Liaison Meeting information about the need for ID to vote in the election was discussed and it was confirmed that packs with leaflets and posters would be distributed to raise awareness. Out of date passports will be accepted and further awareness of the Voter Authority Certificate was brought forward. The Debate not Hate campaign was discussed which encourages people to talk about disagreements respectfully rather than arguing.

The cost of defibrillator pad replacements was discussed and it was hoped that some help could be attained from the Borough Council.

A campaign of "20 is Plenty" was discussed, the aim of this campaign is to increase road safety through lowering speed rates to 20mph where appropriate.

### **7. Clerk's Report**

The Crime statistics for January are as follows;

3 Burglary

1 Criminal Damage

1 Public Order

2 Road Related Offences

The new laptop computer will be available for the clerk to pick up tomorrow.

### **8. Reports from external meetings**

*Martholme Greenway* – Work has been done to help clear thorns and paths, the group has been working with Railway Paths to gain access to various sections of proposed pathway. It was reported that objections to some tree felling had been received and the Greenway group had directed the public to send their opinions to the Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning Department. It is intended that a ramp will be installed near some steps to help improve accessibility to the path near Fort Vale. Grants are being applied for to assist with this work as well as further dry stone walling taking place.

*Village Hall* – The Village hall will be having pantomime performances in February as well as cinema screenings in the evenings. 2 plays have been booked to show and tickets can be purchased on Ticket Source.

### **9. Facebook and Website Report**

This Parish Council Meeting was advertised on the Facebook.

It was noted that the website domain is not paid for directly and that payment for this has not been requested for a while, the clerk will chase this up.

The meeting dates on the website also are in need of updating - the clerk will check this and update as well as confirming the hall is available for bookings.

### **10. Decision Items**

#### **a) Coronation**

It was discussed that some grant money is likely to be available for coronation celebrations, this is likely to be at least £250 but it currently unconfirmed.

There will be a large screen put up in the grounds of Clitheroe Castle for people to watch the coronation on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was suggested that on the Sunday there is a street party/big lunch event and that the Monday is a Volunteers day. Councillors discussed that a lunch could be held in the village hall and that volunteer organisations could be advertised to show what is available and to encourage people to try new things.

**RESOLVED:** *enquiries will be made to ensure the event does not clash with other organisations plans so that this can be discussed at the next meeting.*

#### **b) Road Safety**

the Road safety work group is planning to meet on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to discuss matters and bring proposals.

#### **c) Safety Rail by School Lane and Whalley Road**

Following enquiries made about a safety rail at the junction a letter was received advising that a safety rail would not be installed as requested. Members of the public are encouraged to report dangerous driving with any footage via "OP SNAP" councillors discussed that the response was not very constructive since road safety and related issues are constantly on the agenda. The letter references VMS data from March 2022 and July 2022 however we do not seem to have been provided with this data.

#### **d) Active Travel Plan (Cycling)**

The department of Transport has published its “Active Travel Plan” where it aims to improve the network for everyday journeys, remove obstacles and shield cyclists from traffic. Councillor Pollard suggested that this funding could be used to help connect Lancashire Cycleway 685 connecting Rose Grove to Great Harwood. It was suggested that specific requests need to be brought to the Parish Council from the Greenway Group specifying what is needed to be done so that the Parish Council can consider this.

#### **e) Ribble Valley Borough Council Survey**

This item was brought forward as it was hoped the questionnaire may be useful in modelling the Parish Plan Questionnaire, councillors discussed this and found the questions to be fairly general and not really relevant on a local level.

#### **f) Bank Statement and invoices Access**

Councillor Hampson asked whether going forward invoices and bank statements could be stored in an online folder that councillors could access to view. Councillors discussed that the accounts are audited both internally and externally once a year and systems are in place to prevent any issues. All payments are made by cheque which has to be signed by two signatories, the cheque books are kept by the clerk to ensure safety. The safety aspect of having the files stored online was also a concern for some councillors. Councillors agreed that going forward the payments recorded in minutes and agendas would be split to show VAT as well as a broad analysis of the precept and payments being available.

### **11. Correspondence**

A note of thanks was received from the Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Parish Council for the donation made however the CAB will be closing at the end of March 2023.

Sport England and National Lottery are giving larger grants for Physical Activity funding. The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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

#### **Application 3/2023/0097 at 9 Woodfields Whins Lane Simonstone BB12 7SB**

The application is for Proposed two storey southwest side extension to provide double garage and bedroom with dormer over. Re-roofing of existing house to replace concrete tiles with natural slate. Siting of a single storey timber framed garden outbuilding and associated external works.

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that it does not seem inappropriate or out of character.

### **14. Finance & Accounts:**

#### **a) Payments out**

|            |        |   | Net     | VAT    | Total   |
|------------|--------|---|---------|--------|---------|
| 06.01.2023 | 101489 | Little Green Bus Donation                       | £150.00 | £0.00  | £150.00 |
| 09.01.2023 | 101473 | D M Payroll Services (April 22 to September 22) | £60.00  | £0.00  | £60.00  |
| 09.01.2023 | 101488 | D M Payroll Services(October 22 to March 23)    | £60.00  | £0.00  | £60.00  |
| 12.01.2023 | 101490 | Higher Trapp seniors Xmas                       | £308.33 | £61.67 | £370.00 |

|            |        |   |        |       |        |
|------------|--------|---|--------|-------|--------|
|            |        | meal  |        |       |        |
| 24.01.2023 | 101493 | Seniors Xmas meal raffle<br>50% share prizes  | £9.24  | £1.85 | £11.09 |
| 24.01.2023 | 101492 | Framing Celebration Sunday<br>Art competition | £55.00 | £0.00 | £55.00 |

#### b) Unpresented cheques

| Cheque no. | reason                               | Net     | VAT    | Total   |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| 101494     | Clerks Wage (January 2023)           | £228.74 | £0.00  | £228.74 |
| 101495     | Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau | £150.00 | £0.00  | £150.00 |
| 101491     | Xmas Tree (Dove Skye Nursery)        | £310.00 | £62.00 | £372.00 |

#### c) Income

|            |  |         |
|------------|--|---------|
| 16.01.2023 | Ribble Valley Borough Council Xmas lunch grant | £200.00 |
|------------|--|---------|

#### d) Bank reconciliation

| <b>Balances 01.02.23</b>  |           |  |                   |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| Community Account         | £9,977.01 |  |                   |
| Business Saver Account    | £9,628.64 |  | £19,605.65        |
| Add: Receipts             |           |  | £9,058.80         |
| Less: Payments            |           |  | £9,439.44         |
| Less: Unpresented cheques |           |  | £750.74           |
| Balance                   |           |  | <b>£18,474.27</b> |

#### e) Payments to be made

|                               | Net     | VAT     | Total   |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Clerks Wage (February 2023)   | £228.74 | £0.00   | £228.74 |
| Use IT Computers – new laptop | £640.12 | £128.03 | £768.15 |

#### 15. Items for the next agenda

- Coronation
- Road Safety

**The Next Meeting will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.**