

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

17/11/2022

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read and Simonstone Village Hall, East View, Read, BB12 7** on **Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7.00p.m.**

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

In attendance: April Collinson (Clerk), County Councillor Ged Mirfin

10 members of the public attended, 8 from Simonstone and 2 from neighbouring Read.

1. **Apologies for absence** – none.
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 & Meloy declared a non pecuniary interest in the Village Hall after recently becoming a trustee.
3. **To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 13th October 2022** – *the minutes were read and agreed with minor amendments.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – none.
5. **Public participation**
 - a) **Road safety discussion with County Councillor Dr. Ged Mirfin.**

Following the ongoing issues of road safety in Simonstone and neighbouring Read County Councillor Mirfin had been invited to attend to discuss matters. Councillor Mirfin explained that roads and highways is the third highest spend item following Social care and children & Families. Councillor Mirfin explained that due to inflation the cost of maintaining roads and improving safety is increasing and under pressure to do more with less funding.

The County council is changing how Roads and Highways operate to become a more data driven, a large resource team has been dedicated to this. Previously speed limit changes and traffic calming measures were introduced based on the number of fatalities, serious injuries and accidents as well as near misses. County Council is now looking to respond and work in partnership with Parish Councils, Town Councils and Resident Action Groups to recognise where dangerous roads are however this may take some time. There needs to be sufficient data to demonstrate that speeding is taking place and that a road is dangerous, it is likely that it would take Parish Councils and other groups about 2 years in order to gather enough data to demonstrate this to the County Council. The data needs to be cover different seasons, weather conditions, school holidays as well as term time to demonstrate a true need for change to ensure data is not skewed or effected by specific events.

County Council has passed the responsibility of data collection down to Parish Councils. Parish Councils are advised to use Speed Performance Indicator Devices (SPIDS) and resident reporting. Residents should advise incidents of speeding and near misses to the police and Parish Council. A Working Group needs to be set up within the Parish Council to decide how data should be collected, presented and what measures should be put in place. Councillor Mirfin advised that the amount of traffic on the road is increasing and is likely to continue to increase. The number of cars per household in the Ribble Valley has increased

from 1.78 to 2.13. In some areas the amount of cars per household is 2.32.

A budget needs to be set for this project to rent SPIDS which can record the speed of vehicles. Currently the Parish Council owns a SPID however this only indicates the speed to the drivers and does not record any data. Cost to rent a SPID for one week is in the region of £120.

Councillor Pollard raised points that in the last 20 years 3,500 homes have been built in the Ribble Valley equating to around 9,500 additional cars, a further 4,000 homes are predicted to be built in the Ribble Valley in the future. Many residents will be commuting and using the motorway network. Queries about the previous plans for a bypass in 1994/1995 which had previously been passed by the Ribble Valley Borough Council and were within the top three places in Lancashire to have a bypass, several other local areas have been granted a bypass since then. Councillor Pollard made the point that SPIDs and traffic calming measures are short term solutions and that the local traffic issues will only get worse whereas a bypass would be a more permanent solution. It was asked whether County Councillor Mirfin would lobby for a bypass for Read and Simonstone. It was noted that traffic and speeding issues are a recurrent issue in Simonstone Parish Council meetings. The County Council does not count this as data.

Councillor Hampson explained that over recent weeks VMS data has been gathered with the assistance of PCSOs the amount of time the VMS was placed has been extended recently due to several traffic accidents impacting traffic flow. Data for this placement has not been received yet. A previous placement in April/May highlighted the volume of traffic, the number of vehicles travelling in one direction was counted as 92,275 over 15 days. Speed of the vehicles varied however about 2000 were travelling at 35pms and over.

It was suggested that residents should collect photos and images of traffic problems (such as vehicle ignoring weight restrictions on roads) and report these to the police.

Members of the public commented expanding on the volume of traffic and how difficult this can make travelling in the village as well as the need for a crossing in Simonstone. One resident commented how on several occasions they have gone to cross at the crossing only for traffic to continue to pass through the crossing [on Whalley Road in Read].

In summary a working group needs to be set up with a budget to log data and traffic issues, councillors need to consider whether resurrecting the bypass plans from several years ago. Action needs to be taken to ensure safety in the short term as well as long term It was suggested this group could work collaboratively with Read Parish Council as several issues are consistent across both Paris Councils and several troublesome roads pass through both parishes.

RESOLVED: *A working group will be set up to make a plan on how to tackle road safety issues locally, members of Read Parish Council will be asked to join.*

6. Borough Councillor's Report – A new homes warming scheme has launched across Lancashire, information is available on the Council website.

7. Clerk's Report

The Crime statistics for October and November are as follows;

13/10/22 Road traffic collision - A wagon collides with a stationery vehicle near to the butchers, Whalley Road.

23/10/22 Road traffic collision – Car and motorcycle near to Texaco with motorcyclist sustaining injuries, car driver to be deal with for drive without due care and other road traffic offences.

30/10/22 Public safety – Concern for driver driving erratically near to Stork Hotel, patrol attended but couldn't locate vehicle.

7/11/22 Road traffic collision – HGV and car School Lane non injury details exchanged.

9/11/22 Road related offence – Vehicle stopped no insurance Whalley Road.

14/11/22 Road traffic collision - Single vehicle into a wall Whalley Road, enquiries ongoing with the driver.

14/11/22 Road traffic collision – Single vehicle into a lamppost Whalley Road driver will be dealt with for drive without due care.

8. Parish Plan work Group to report

Questions were discussed and an additional question about grit bins and their placement was agreed to be added as well as a comments box in the question about footpaths.

9. Reports from external meetings

Martholme Greenway – Additional dry stone walling courses are to be run from Martholme Greenway. Previous courses saw a good uptake and a variety of participants.

Village Hall – it was reported that the planning permission for the community space has been applied for. Several projects are currently under way including a Christmas craft fair, a mobile library which is hoped to become a regular feature and the installation of a new light & sound system.

10. Facebook and Website Report

An enquiry about hedges blocking the view of higher vehicle when exiting junctions on to Whalley Road had been brought forward.

RESOLVED: *Councillors agreed for the clerk to write to the addresses in question.*

11. Boundary Commission

Councillors discussed the revised boundary commission plans and the changes which had been made from the first draft. Councillors agreed that Simonsone Parish Council makes the following points;

- 1) Recognises the importance of equality of parliamentary constituency sizes
- 2) Acknowledges the efforts of the Boundary Commission in hearing our previous concerns
- 3) Is concerned at the nature and extent of the proposed inclusion of Simonstone along with the whole of Clitheroe and parts of Whalley and the north of the Ribble Valley within a proposed Clitheroe and Pendle Constituency.
- 4) Acknowledges the disadvantages of the proposal and thus would prefer to remain within a Parliamentary Constituency encompassing the whole of Ribble Valley
- 5) But on balance accepts this latest proposal.”

RESOLVED: *The above points will be submitted to Boundary Commission England*

12. Decision Items

a) Christmas Tree Arrangements

The Christmas tree switch on will take place on Monday 5th December at 6pm. Santa has been booked to attend and hear children’s Christmas wishes following the switch on.

b) Seniors Xmas meal

The seniors Christmas meal will take place on Thursday 1st December from 12noon at the Higher Trapp. The event will be for residents aged 70 and over and partners, tickets will be £12 per person and 40 tickets are available for each Parish. The event has a cost of £24 per person and the Parish Council is subsidising £12 per person. A raffle and entertainment will also take place.

c) Precept for 2023/2024

Councillors discussed the precept for the next financial year, it was agreed this would be set to £8,400, with no increase on the previous year.

d) Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors discussed the Citizens advice Bureau in Clitheroe and that it is struggling financially. In previous years the Parish Council has made a donation of £150 to the service, it was decided that a donation of £150 be made at the end of January 2023 provided the service is still running.

e) Little Green Bus

The Little Green Bus service runs for those who cannot use regular public transport, the service arranges shopping trips and days out and is used by local residents, in

previous years a donation of £150 has been made to help maintain the service. Councillors agreed to make the same donation again.

RESOLVED: *A donation of £150 will be made to the Little Green Bus service.*

12. Correspondence

Reponses had been received following enquiries made about the footpaths near Law farm and Time Technology Park. The residents near Law Farm have asked that the footpath not be opened up to public use. Regarding the Path near Time Technology Park the Public Rights of Way team at Lancashire County Council had stated that as the footpath is not a recorded public right of way, they would not be any to take any action. The parish council would have to fill in an application for a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) to get the historical path included as a recorded public right of way. These applications require a great deal of evidence that they have been used for a long number of years by local residents, they do take a long time to go through and some do get rejected.

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

3/2022/0804, Bridleway Whins Lane Simonstone BB12 7QT

Front extension to incorporate porch canopy and entrance with gallery above along with living room and bedroom addition. Side bungalow extension and rear single storey extensions with link to existing garage. The below concerns were received and addressed;

1. The building will not be in keeping with its surroundings.
 - A precedent has been set by other houses in the area being rebuilt and redeveloped
2. The scale of expansion would cause the property to double in size and take up almost the entire frontage of the plot.
 - A precedent has been set by other houses in the area being rebuilt and redeveloped
3. The balconies would overlook the surrounding properties.
 - There is no provision for right to privacy. The Balconies have also been changed to Juliette balconies.
4. The area has a history of flooding and the increased footprint of the property would reduce natural drainage, potentially worsening the problem.
 - There is no history of flooding at this location, flooding takes place further up where the culvert runs.
5. The current driveway has access to a septic tank which serves several properties, this would be replaced by the extension and there is no clear indication how access is to be gained.
 - Since January 2022 the provision for septic tanks has changed, foul water and rain water can no longer run into the same septic tank. The tank services 5 properties. Councillors asked if the other properties had their systems updated. Councillors were assured by the architect of the project that surface water does not run into the tank from any of the five properties.
 - There was previously a large rockery over the top of the septic tank. A strange smell had been detected near this and it was discovered that all of the vets to the tank were blocked and the tank itself was damaged with the walls collapsing inward. The walls have been fixed and easily accessible manholes have been installed.
6. Work has already started prior to consent however the planning application states that this is not the case.
 - When the planning application was submitted no work had started however there had been issues of gas leaks due to the gas supply piped being only about 3 inches under the surface of the garden.
7. The planning application states there will be no removal of trees and bushes however it is believed that these may have been removed already.

- Some shrubbery had to be removed to allow the mains gas supply to be made safe.
- Some shrubs had to be removed due to the roots interfering with the septic tank work.

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments out

17.10.2022	101478	Clerks Wage AC (September)	£228.74
17.10.2022	101479	Poppy Wreaths (reimbursed to clerk)	£85.00
20.10.2022	101475	Higher Trapp deposit – seniors Xmas party	£50.00
20.10.2022	101480	Celebration Sunday consumables	£19.98
28.10.2022	101482	RSVH (16 June 2022)	£20.00
28.10.2022	101483	RSVH (Celebration Sunday)	£45.00
28.10.2022	101472	Ingham & Yorke – playing field & Bus shelter	£50.00
01.11.2022	101477	Audit fee – PKF Littlejohn	£240.00

b) Unpresented cheques

101471	Sabden Parish Council – Lengthsman scheme	£800.00
101473	D M Payroll Services	£60.00
101476	Burnley Hire Centre*	£36.00*
101481	Simonstone St. Peter's C of E School (Celebration Sunday Art Prize)	£50.00

*indicates included in accounts reconciliation for previous financial year

c) Income

10.10.2022	RVBC – Concurrent Functions Grant	£424.00
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d) Bank reconciliation

Balances 02.11.22			
Community Account	£12,150.32		
Business Saver Account	£9,623.35		£21,773.67
Add: Receipts			£8,858.80
Less: Payments			£7,102.13
Less: Unpresented cheques			£946.00
Balance			£22,584.34

e) Payments to be made

Clerk Wage (October)	£ 228.74
Newsletter Printing	£ 95.00
Little Green Bus	£ 150.00
Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau (in January)	£ 150.00

15. Items for the next agenda

The Next Meeting will take place on 12th January 2023.
The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.