

**Simonstone Parish Council
The Minutes of the
Annual Parish Meeting to be held
on 10th May 2018.
in the Old School, School Lane,
Simonstone at 7.00pm**

1. Apologies none

2. The Chairman's Report

SIMONSTONE PARISH ANNUAL REPORT 2017/8.

2017/8 has been a year of steady progress and the completion and start of fresh directions.

We began the year with a Parish Walk lead by Brian Jeffries to see the ruins of a water wheel driven mill and the site of early modern industry.

In June we had our first shared Civic Sunday, organized by Read Parish Council, preached by the Vicar Reverend Robert Fielding and attended by the Mayor of Ribble Valley Councillor Richard Bennett. A buffet was served in Read Cricket Club.

Throughout the year Councillors John Barker, Elisa Hargreaves and Graham Meloy have worked with others and organized and prepared the path from Simonstone Lane to the Parish Boundary at Gooseleach Wood. This opened in Autumn and is a real achievement and asset for the community.

We anticipate that the work on the Simonstone Lane to A6068 will start soon. We continue to support this scheme.

Also in summer we heard from Reverend Michele Jarman of the anticipated closure of Read URC and a wish for the community to have first refusal for a combined Village Hall. Two of our Councillors, Hodbod and Norse plus a modest grant were volunteered to help the scheme. Subsequently Roger Hirst the Clerk also joined the scheme as an adviser. Progress has been mixed but we remain hopeful for a good outcome and remain committed to help as a Parish towards this important scheme.

We did not neglect Culture, courtesy of Spot On Theatre Company, who with County, Borough and Arts Council Grants who underwrite performances, we have had a one woman show "Here Comes Trouble" by Keira Martin followed in March with a one man show "Kindness" by Sam Brady. Both had reasonable attendances (40/50) and we learned a lot about our audiences' preferences.

On Remembrance Day the Parish Council laid two wreaths at the Village war memorials.

In late November we erected the village Christmas Tree; Reverend Robert Fielding lead the service; despite the inclement weather some 200 children, parents Parishioners, Guides, Brownies, Padiham Rotary and Father Christmas were present.

In early December the Senior Citizens Party took place; Mrs Prosser catered, the Secret Singers sang and Parish Councillors and friends served food and beverages. Around 55 guests enjoyed the event .

Throughout the year, Scouts and Councillor Hodbod have planted more spring bulbs, the Village Garden Contest was judged (thanks to Mrs Marion Kelly), we supported Councillor Meloy who was heavily involved in the combined Village Fete on the Green in June. In December, pupils from St Peters School planted red, white and blue hyacinth bulbs in the shape of an RAF Roundel around the Commemorative Oak Tree in the Village Garden ;these are just showing through.

So I hope you will agree that 2017/8 has been a good year for the Parish. I am very thankful for the hard work and enthusiasm of all Councillors their spouses /partners, our Clerk Roger Hirst Councillor Lesley Graves and our volunteers Janice Hirst, Jeremy, Nicholas and Daniel.

There was a Road safety meeting with the Lancashire County Council Cabinet member for highways who visited a meeting of Parish Council to discuss the highway safety issues particularly speed of traffic on School Lane as it is approaching the School on the Lane and on A671. There was a request for a highway crossing near the filling station and at the junction of Simonstone Lane these matters had been raised by the PTA , School, Police and Parish Council, as they had been raised with LCC, after a number of car crashes. Unfortunately there was no result from the discussions but the Parish Council had purchased additional plates for the SPID and installed them at 5 additional sites throughout the village. One in particular was installed at the corner of School and Clough Lane which appears to have the desired effect when in place, A permanent Spid had been requested without result . Throughout the year, we doubled usage of the SPID so that is on a site every week of the year in the village. Unfortunately, nothing came of our meeting with the County.

I present this Chairman's Report to Simonstone Parish Council for 2017/8.

3. Approval of the minutes

It was resolved to approve the above minutes

Chairman's signature