

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Read School, Straits Lane on Wednesday, 30 January 2008 at 7.15pm

1. **Present:** Mrs. D. Collinson (Chairman), Mrs. J. Forster, Mr. B. Jeffery, Mr. C. Law, Mr. A. Mashiter, Mr. G. Nichols and Mr. C. Pollard
Apologies for absence were received from Mr. D. Waterhouse
Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Hill
2. Councillor Nichols and Councillor Jeffery declared an interest in Agenda Item 6c
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
4. **District Councillors' Report:**
 - a) Brian Cooke, LCC, has confirmed that the notice of necessary traffic signs will be advertised concerning the resiting of the 30mph speed restrictions on Straits Lane, Whins Lane and Dudley Hill.
 - b) LCC has been requested to resurface the Stork path between the Simonstone elbow and Whalley Road.
 - c) Councillor Waddington reported that he had been approached by a Westfield Avenue resident concerned about the potholes and general disrepair of the area. RVBC advised that as the road is unadopted it must be maintained at the householders' expense.
5. **Recreation Ground Fence:**
Mr. Abbott has agreed to replace the missing fence adjacent to the Motor Body Centre and No. 8 Waverley Close. The house owner had no objections to the tree being removed to allow the fence line to follow the boundary.
6. **Victoria Lodge Hedges:**
The Parish Council has been unable to contact the residents whose shrubs are causing severe obstruction to pedestrians on Whalley Road. A further letter to be sent requesting action within 14 days and advising that the matter will be passed to the County Council for attention if no improvement has been made.
7. **Nowell Grove/Straits Lane Parking:**
A petition, signed by Nowell Grove residents, was received concerning problems of insufficient parking for Read School staff. Residents pointed out difficulties entering and exiting Nowell Grove compounded by problems caused by buses and double parking on Straits Lane. A copy of the letter has been sent to Read School and Rev. Sowerbutts. Parking is a general problem in the village and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the School Governors supporting points made in the petition and requesting that the school investigates alternative parking accommodation e.g. St. John's Church and the Borough Council garage site.
8. **Crickets Club Lease:**
Miss Pallister has written to the Parish Council setting out suggestions for the proposed extended term lease. It was agreed that the terms were satisfactory and that the proposals be sent to the Cricket Club for comment and action as necessary.
9. **Post Box Removal:**
The petition has been signed by a number of residents requesting the replacement of a post box at a point on Whalley Road. A further letter has been received from Royal Mail Headquarters stating that the current posting facilities are being monitored and that there are no plans to site another box. It was agreed that further names be collected for the petition to be sent with a covering letter to the Chief Executive of the Royal Mail Group expressing the Council's concerns.

10. **Recreation Ground CCTV:**
A further meeting was held with the Chairman of Read Cricket Club who agreed that Mr. Westell be given the opportunity to comment on the lower quotation. Mr. Westell advised that the quotations were not for the same equipment and it was agreed to accept his original estimate. Arrangements will be made for access to the Cricket Club to allow the installation to proceed at an early date.
11. **Planning Applications & Decisions:**
Two planning applications have been received:
08/0048 - Proposed internal alterations to create a utility room including formation of window at rear of property. Internal alterations to part of the garage to create a family hobby room at The Close Read Hall
08/0051 - Demolish existing garage/office/utility and build new garage/lounge/toilet/utility room and proposed conservatory to read at 18 Buckingham Drive
Observations:
The Council noted that this was a retrospective planning application, the work having already commenced.
Decisions:
No planning decisions have been received
12. **Lancashire Local Meeting**
Nineteen items were on the agenda, four pertaining to Read:
Item 6: **Highways Budget Allocation:** In the 2007-8 budget, there was £4,300 remaining. The refurbishment of the Read footpath was deferred to next year because the estimated upgrading would cost £23,000.
Item 7: **Grants to Small Voluntary Organisations and Project Grants to Young People:** Grants worth £37,000 were handed out, but no organisations from Read made a bid for funding.
Item 12: Customer Access Strategy - Face to Face: Lancs CC are to increase the number of services available on the web, on a central phone centre at Longridge and through face to face mobile offices, eg. applying for school places.
Item 18: Urgent Business: Cllr. John Hill asked for an update report on the Read-Simonstone cycle path from the Padiham boundary to the Hyndburn boundary over Martholme Viaduct to be brought to the next meeting.
Item 19: Date of Next Meeting: 20th February 2008 at 18.00hrs at Ribblesdale High School, Queens Road, Clitheroe.
It was agreed to request permission for Read to speak on the Martholme Viaduct project at the February Local Meeting.
13. **Playground Report:**
a) The equipment was found to be satisfactory but it was agreed to obtain quotations for raising the level of the surface with topsoil and laying turf.
14. **Allotment Report:**
Allotments 22, 33, 34 have now been vacated and will be relet. The rent has not been received and it is noted that three gates have been removed in contravention to the rules of tenancy. A letter to be sent requesting the immediate return of the gates and payment of 3 months rent.
15. **Finance & Accounts:**
Two payments were authorised:
a) D. Bridge - dog waste bins - £117.00
b) CTP - training course - £20.00
16. **Items for the next Agenda:**
A. Purchase of Chairs for Read School
B. Further light on back Whalley Road

C. Sale of Land adjacent to the Motor Body Centre

17. The date of the next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 5 March 2008 at 7.30pm
The meeting closed at 8.25pm.