

## READ PARISH COUNCIL

11/03/2020

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at **Read & Simonstone Village Hall, 6 East View, Read, BB12 7PS on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 7.00p.m.**

**Present:** Chairman: Councillor Hacking  
Councillors: Anderson, Bennett, Collinge, Greenhough, Hanson, Pollard, Ridge

**In attendance:** Lesley Foster (Clerk)

6 members of the public attended.

**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**

**3. To approve the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – *the minutes were approved.***

**4. Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda – *regarding item 8), Councillor Pollard had sent an email regarding the potential locations for tree planting, but had had no response.***

*Regarding the invitation of comments regarding substance misuse by Public Health Concerns, Councillor Hacking had noted a large number of Guinness cans on one of the local roads, and will monitor the situation.*

*Regarding dog bags and dog fouling, Councillor Hacking had made the dog warden aware of an incident, and has been putting up anti-fouling posters. She requested that anyone who can think of a good location for another poster should make her aware.*

**5. Public participation:**

- One resident representing the Martholme Greenway Group thanked the Parish Council for the £100 donation made using the money donated to the Council by the gin festival.
- One resident noted that the two cars which that resident mentioned at the previous meeting still haven't moved, and provided the registration numbers and descriptions of both.

**6. Borough Councillor's Report –** Councillor Bennett reported regarding an issue relating to Martholme Greenway which Councillor Pollard had raised, saying that the installation of the gate behind the new development at Simonstone business park demonstrated the acceptance by the developer and RVBC that the cycleway was to be constructed. He also reported that the developers on Hammond Field have permission to build one house on George Lane.

**7. Clerk's Report - none**

**8. Reports from external meetings –**

Simonstone Parish Council – Councillor McKelvey of Simonstone Parish Council reported that Simonstone Parish Council had discussed the Christmas party and were also in favour of holding the event at Higher Trap. They have also agreed to be on the committee planning the event for VE Day.

## 9. Playground:

**a) To receive the playground inspection report** – The playground continues to be very wet, but there are no new issues.

**b) Repairs and maintenance** – The repairs are still waiting for the lengthsmen. The lengthsmen does not have many hours left allocated to Read before the new financial year starts. Regarding the stile, it would be likely better to wait for this to be reinstated until after the gin festival, if the gin festival goes ahead. The dog bin on the car park is also waiting to be moved.

**10. Allotment Management Committee report** – The meeting summary is as follows: This meeting held on 2 March 2020 was attended by Marie Hacking, Chairman of Read Parish Council

Apologies were received from Bevan and Carole.

The main subject was what to do about clearing rubbish and tyres from plot 5B.

After discussing the situation, it was decided that we would try and dispose of the tyres via Carole's garage if possible. (At a cost to the PC)

To get rid of the general rubbish a miniskip would be hired and filled by the previous tenant of 5B or by volunteers. That tenant is to be asked to pay £50 towards the estimated cost of £100, the balance to be paid by Read PC.

All of the proposed expenditure is subject to approval by Read PC.

The increasing of the deposit from £50 to £100 was also discussed but the general opinion was that this would put off people applying for allotments.

A ban on the use of tyres on allotments was also proposed and an addition to the Tenancy Agreement will be proposed at the next PC meeting to avoid future problems, as well as a mention of clearing items unwanted by new tenants.

The problem between plot 1D and plot 3C regarding access to stored goal posts was mentioned but a reply to the letter sent to the tenant of 3C on the subject has yet to be seen.

A general update on the proposed car park and road improvements was discussed and the Cricket Club contribution and rent were considered to be on the low side. This will be discussed at the next PC meeting.

Monday 20 April is to be the date of the Allotment Holders General meeting in the Con Club as all other dates that week were not suitable. It will be at 7.30 and food is not being offered as on previous meetings there was a mismatch between demand and supply.

## 11. Decision Items

**a) Cricket Club proposal** – The representative of the Cricket Club was not present, and as discussed at the last meeting, more information is needed before the council can make a decision on this proposal.

**b) Cricket Club lease payment** – There was discussion of the current rent, how long it has been at that level, and when the next opportunity for review will be. The next opportunity for review will be in 2021. The clerk will enquire with the Land Registry to confirm the exact area owned by the council and rented to the Cricket Club.

**c) Senior Citizen Party** – An general enquiry was made and provisionally the cost per head at Higher Trap would be £19. With the attendees making a contribution, the cost to the council would be reduced to £11.50 per head. The price may be able to be reduced further, depending on the number of people attending. The price would include a two course meal with quizzes and games, and would fit within the budget for the event based on the likely number of people. The event would have to take place on a Tuesday or Wednesday due to the availability of the venue. Travel options were discussed. More information is needed before a final decision can be made.

**d) Gin festival** – The gin festival provisionally would like to run on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

July. There was discussion of the practicalities of the event, and also the potential complications due to the coronavirus, which may end up causing the event to be cancelled for this year. There was discussion of the issues raised about the event by the football club, which had already been resolved between the two parties by email.

**RESOLVED: That the gin festival can go ahead on the date requested on the same terms as the previous year, provided that it is not cancelled due to coronavirus.**

**e) Football club** – There was discussion of whether the football club rent could be reviewed. It was considered that it would be better to make this decision concurrently with the review of the cricket club rent.

**f) Read Motor Bodies** – The clerk had received a response from Read Motor Bodies regarding the potential payment of the road and the complaints raised, and described this response to the council. There has been no further response yet from HSE. There was a discussion regarding the complaints received and the best course of action going forwards.

**g) Finger posts** – Councillor Pollard had talked to Duncan Armstrong, but received no information about the potential cost. Councillor Pollard will contact him again. Some of the other signs may need cleaning, and it was suggested the lengthsmen might be able to do this.

**h) VE Day** – The subcommittee planning this event had not yet made any decisions. There was a discussion of potential suggestions for the event, and a reminder not to spend too much on it. A representative of the school agreed to ask whether the children's choir would be able to perform at the event.

**i) Training** – The Clerk requested permission to take the ILCA qualification course, which costs £99 plus VAT.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will take the ILCA course, and the council will pay for the cost of this.**

**j) Flooding** – During the recent storms, there had been some flooding due to blocked culverts and grates. The Clerk had received a response from Lancashire County Council Highways regarding the main culvert that was blocked. There was a discussion of how Read was coping with the water flow. The clerk will write to Highways again in more detail.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will write to Lancashire County Council regarding the continuing flooding issues.**

**k) Foliage overhanging pavements** – Councillor Anderson would like a standard letter to be created that can be delivered through letter boxes in the case of overhanging foliage. He will draft one and send it to the Clerk.

**l) Allotments** – There was discussion of a wording change to the allotment tenancy agreement suggested by Councillor Anderson, and of the hire of a skip for removal of rubbish which had been left on a plot by a previous tenant, which was likely to cost around £100. There was also discussion of the level of the allotment deposit and the allotment situation in general.

**RESOLVED: To change the wording of the allotment tenancy in accordance with Councillor Anderson's suggestions, and to pay for the hire of a suitable skip.**

**m) Safer Road Users Free Event for over 60's** – Councillor Hacking had booked to go on this event, but unfortunately it was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

**n) Display stall at the official opening of the VH** – A flipchart was displayed at the event that contained information about the council. The event was pleasant and attended by a variety of groups.

**o) Environment Group** – Councillor Hacking stated that the Environment Group has been doing a fantastic job. Some councillors will be attending a litter pick organised by the group.

**12. Correspondence** – Ribble Valley Borough Council had sent a document containing their minutes for the last half a year, along with some other information. Thank you notes had been received from Read and Simonstone Village Hall and from St. John’s Church regarding the donations made to these bodies.

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

**Application 3/2019/1136 26 Straits Lane, Read BB12 7PQE**

*First floor extension to side.*

*Read Parish Council Planning Committee*

*No objections to this application.*

**14. Finance & Accounts:**

**a) Payments**

12/2/2020	Donation to RSVH	£100.00
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**b) Income**

2/12/2019	Bank interest	£7.91
24/2/2020	Allotment rent	£83.00

**c) Bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020**

<b>Opening Balances 01.04.19</b>			
Community Account	£1,159.16		
Business Saver Account	£11,546.16		£12,706.04
Add: Receipts			£29,422.92
Less: Payments			<b>£22,894.29</b>
Balance			<b>£19,234.67</b>

**15. Items for the next agenda**

- **Cricket Club proposal**
- **Read Motor Bodies**
- **Senior Citizen’s Party**
- **Finger posts**
- **VE Day**
- **Flooding**
- **Dog bags**
- **Football club bin**

**The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.**