

READ PARISH COUNCIL

09/09/2020

A meeting of the Parish Council was held held digitally on Zoom on **Wednesday 9th September, 2020 at 7.00p.m.**

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hacking
Councillors: Anderson, Greenhough, Ridge

In attendance: Lesley Foster (Clerk)

1 member of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillors Bennett, Collinge, Hanson, and Pollard.
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 8th July 2020 – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *None.*
5. **Public participation:**
 - There were no queries from the public on this occasion.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – Councillor Bennett was not present and had passed on that there was nothing to report.
7. **Clerk's Report** - *none*
8. **Reports from external meetings** –
Simonstone Parish Council – Councillor Pollard was not present, and so was not able to report on this meeting.
9. **Playground:**
 - a) **To receive the playground inspection report** – The playground was reopened in mid-August with the agreement of all councillors. It was cleaned before opening, and all relevant notices regarding COVID safety rules have been displayed.
 - b) **Repairs and maintenance** – The benches mentioned in last year's ROSPA report still have some issues. Councillor Anderson agreed to look at them to determine whether any lower cost solutions might be feasible. The supports for the swings are rusting and the paint is peeling, so these may need to be repainted soon. The closing mechanism of the gate is broken so the gate must currently be shut manually. Councillor Anderson will also look at this.
There has been some litter in the area. The bin on the playground had been missed during the collection, though it was later collected after RVBC was contacted. Councillor Hacking will monitor the situation to ensure the bin is collected in the future.
10. **Allotment Management Committee report** – Due to resignations, the allotment management committee now consists of Councillor Anderson and two other people. The inspection of the allotments is due to take place next week. Councillor Anderson has wrapped the asbestos that was mentioned in the previous minutes. The waiting list for the allotments currently contains nine people. The Clerk will include a note reminding people of the £50 deposit with the letters about this year's rent, and will also include a reminder that maintaining the fences is the responsibility of tenants.

One tenant wants to swap to a different plot when it becomes available in November. As the plots are the same size, the councillors present did not object to this. Councillor Anderson will also consult the allotment management committee about the matter.

11. Decision Items

a) Website upgrade – After consultation with the IT specialist at RVBC, it has been determined that the existing old content management system needs to be upgraded to the new version so that the website can be moved to a different hosting server. It is as yet uncertain whether this will fix the issue with website access. The Clerk will look into doing this.

b) Read Motor Bodies – Read Motor Bodies was inspected on 8th September 2020 by a group of councillors. The councillors were pleased by the progress that had been made. There was discussion of the progress and of suggested additional improvements.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write a draft letter to Read Motor Bodies outlining the results of the inspection, to be viewed by the councillors before sending. Read Motor Bodies will be inspected again in around six months' time.

c) Cricket Club proposal – There has been no additional information yet. Attempts to arrange an informal meeting to discuss the proposal between councillors, the Cricket Club, and other interested parties are in progress.

RESOLVED: To arrange an informal meeting to discuss the proposal.

d) Lengthsman and footpaths – The Clerk had written to the Clerk of Sabden Parish Council, who coordinates the lengthsman, but had not yet received a reply. Councillor Hanson was not present and so could not discuss the current situation of the lengthsman, but had passed on the information that he had instructed the lengthsman to work on the footpath at the beginning of August.

e) Playground – Councillor Hacking brought up the idea of installing a more permanent sign regarding COVID safety measures in the playground, as opposed to the current laminated signs. It was decided that this was not likely to be worth the effort, especially as COVID regulations are likely to change over time.

f) Car park – The additional work on the car park seems to have improved the issue. There will need to be continued regular maintenance. Councillor Anderson has been doing some of this and made some suggestions about how to continue with this going forward.

g) Dog bags – All the remaining dog bags have now been used.

RESOLVED: To review the situation in six months.

h) Bin for football club – It is unlikely that the bin that is being removed from Whalley Road will be able to be reused. There are now several options for the type of bin to potentially order. The football club will be written to and presented with the options.

i) Bus stop cleaning – Currently the bus stops are cleaned quarterly, which costs £40 per time.

RESOLVED: To continue with the existing cleaning regimen.

j) Air quality monitoring – Councillor Pollard had forwarded an email from the department at RVBC which is responsible for dealing with this. The lead member of staff is currently on maternity leave, so the issue should be pursued again in January.

k) Power washing Church St gardens and playground – These were previously power washed in June 2019 and in November 2017 at a cost of £220 each time. The issue was discussed.

RESOLVED: Not to order the power washing of the gardens and playground at the present time.

m) Environmental group – litter – The environmental group had been wanting to run a campaign about litter, but had not been able to get permission from RVBC to display notices around the village. There was discussion of possible ways of helping, but it was decided there was nothing suitable to be done at the moment.

n) Overgrown pathway by garage – One pathway leading towards Simonstone is overgrown. There was discussion of the situation and whose responsibility the pathway might be to take care of. Councillor Anderson agreed investigate the situation and look into options for weedkiller. There was discussion of other overgrown vegetation in the village, and whether to send letters to the residents with overhanging hedges and greenery. It was noted that shrubs have been replanted at Acremount as requested.

o) New bin on Whalley Road – The bin has been ordered from RVBC, but has not yet been installed.

p) SPC request for meeting re allotment road – The meeting has not yet been set up. The Clerk will write to all parties to try to arrange the meeting. It was discussed whether the meeting would be better taking place indoors or outdoors.

12. Correspondence – An email was received from a resident complaining about issues with people urinating in the ginnel by the chip shop. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

An email was received from the tennis club enquiring about parish council funding and grants. This will also be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Planning Applications/Decisions/Enforcements – There were three planning application received since the time of the last minutes, as follows:

Application 3/2020/0259 6 Singleton Avenue Read Burnley BB12 7PJ

First floor extension over existing side elevation.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application

Application 3/2020/0449 Plot 2 8 Hammond Drive Read BB12 7RE

Variation of condition 2 to allow variation to size of approved garage for plot 2 from application number 3/2019/1032.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application

Application 3/2019/1010 Land opposite Rake Bottom, George Lane, Read BB12 7RD

Application for outline consent for one dwelling including access, landscaping and scale with appearance

and layout reserved.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

The planning committee objected to this application on the following basis:

The site is outside the settlement boundary.

The loss of trees with TPO's.

Poor access onto the highway close to a poor road junction.

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

16/7/2020	LF Salary June 2020	£242.22
20/7/2020	FM Powell bus stop cleaning	£40.00
20/7/2020	GA Lambert internal auditor	£60.00
20/7/2020	RVBC Grass cutting	£830.72
21/7/2020	Use of Zoom Premium for meetings (reimbursed to Clerk)	£20.00
7/8/2020	J & T Lofthouse (additional work on car park)	£280.00
19/8/2020	DM Payroll Service	£40.50
24/8/2020	Lancashire County Council (renovation of fingerpost)	£80.00

b) Income

8/6/2020	Bank interest	£3.30
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c) Bank reconciliation as at 31st July, 2020

Opening Balances 01.04.20			
Community Account	£2,776.49		
Business Saver Account	£14,575.13		£17,351.62
Add: Receipts			£11,244.13
Less: Payments			£16,122.01
Balance			£12,473.74

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Website update**
- **Read Motor Bodies**
- **Complaint about ginnel**
- **Cricket Club proposal**
- **Tennis Club**
- **Lengthsman and footpaths**
- **Playground**
- **Meeting with SPC about the allotment road**

The meeting ended at 8:21 pm.