

READ PARISH COUNCIL

14/10/2020

A meeting of the Parish Council was held held digitally on Zoom on **Wednesday 11th November, 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 received.
2. **Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
 - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.** – *Councillor Hanson declared an interest in item 11g).*
 - 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 14th October 2020** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *Regarding item 11b), it was noted that some rubbish had begun to build up outside Read Motor Bodies. The Clerk will send them an email asking them to remove it.*
Regarding Remembrance Sunday, last meeting it was noted that the church yard would be open for the laying of wreaths, but the gate was still locked at 11am, and a member of the public had to go to get the person with the key to open it. A letter of complaint was received from a resident regarding their disgust that they had to enter the church yard to lay their wreath via a gap in the hedge. Councillor Collinge commented that the church gate has been recently locked in the evenings due to an incident with stone thieves, but that as he was not present on the day then he did not know why the gate was locked on Sunday morning.
Councillor Hacking has sent a letter to the resident who created the Remembrance display on the side of the cricket club thanking him on behalf of the village for creating a magnificent display.
5. **Public participation:**
 - **One resident said that the Church St green is covered in dog fouling, with people standing close to each other and allowing their dogs to foul, and there have been people standing in the dog mess. They said that the green is a community garden, not a dog toilet. It was noted that the issue was on the agenda as a decision item. They also asked why the regular waste bin had a sticker on saying that dog waste could be put in it. It was noted that this is the current policy for waste bins throughout the area. Councillor Pollard suggested that residents could contact the dog warden and request that they make a special visit to the location, and that photographs could be taken of the culprits and these could also be sent to the dog warden.**
 - **Another resident said that they had also come to comment on dog fouling in Church Street green, and that dog mess had been left on their doorstep, which is adjacent to the green, and that they see the same repeat offender every morning.**

- One resident representing Martholme Greenway commented on item 11q) from the last meeting. They said that the tree felling done was not comparable to felling done by Martholme Greenway, and that Martholme Greenway had gone through all required official channels before proceeding.

6. Borough Councillor's Report – The RVBC meetings are still being held via Zoom. A resident at the top of George Lane had contacted Councillor Bennett requesting that the 20mph speed limit be painted on the road surface on George Lane due to speeding, and requested that the Clerk write to LCC to investigate the possibility of this.

7. Clerk's Report - none

8. Reports from external meetings –

Simonstone Parish Council – SPC have not yet decided what they will do regarding Christmas. They are planning to move some dog bins in Simonstone to alternative locations. SPC had received a reply from RVBC about air quality monitoring sites in the Ribble Valley and it was discovered that all of these sites are in Clitheroe. SPC's Christmas tree will go up on 28th November and the lights will be turned on on 5th December.

9. Playground:

a) To receive the playground inspection report – A spring has now been attached to the playground gate which enables it to self-close again. The muddy section has solid stone underneath the mud. Councillor Hacking has some chippings which can be distributed if necessary.

b) Repairs and maintenance – There has been no response from the lengthsman regarding painting the swings.

10. Allotment Management Committee report – There have been no further requests for allotments, and the two vacant allotments will be assigned after the lockdown has finished. There has been one request for fencing repairs. The lengthsman may not be able to do this at the moment, but the allotment holder may be willing to do it themselves if the parish council funds the posts. Councillor Anderson has acquired the red bags for transporting away the previously mentioned asbestos, but is waiting on the lockdown situation. Regarding unpaid allotment deposits, the council will see how the situation looks in January.

11. Decision Items

a) Date of next year's meetings

RESOLVED: To hold next year's meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7pm, as follows:

Wednesday 13th January 2021

Wednesday 10th February 2021

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Wednesday 14th April 2021 annual parish meeting

Wednesday 12th May 2021 annual parish council meeting

Wednesday 9th June 2021

Wednesday 14th July 2021

Wednesday 8th September 2021

Wednesday 13th October 2021

Wednesday 10th November 2021

b) Precept

The Clerk presented a suggested budget and precept for 2021-2022. This was discussed.

RESOLVED: To set the precept for the year beginning 4th April 2021 to £10,836.

c) Newsletter

The newsletter has been printed and has now been delivered to almost all households. Councillor Hacking will divide the remaining newsletters between councillors for distribution to the remaining households.

d) Christmas presents

Councillor Hacking has now collected the biscuits for distribution. These will be distributed in bags along with an appropriate Christmas message. They will be offered to residents who are 70 or over, who will be located by either a councillor being aware of them, by responding to the newsletter, or by a member of the public making the council aware of them. More biscuits can be ordered if the existing batch runs out. The distribution will begin in early December, and residents will have the opportunity to turn the biscuits down if they do not want them.

e) Hedge cutting

The Clerk contacted the usual hedge cutting company who have agreed to cut the hedges. They may let the Clerk know what day they are coming on or they may not.

f) Adoption of phone kiosk

The cheque for £1 and the contract have been sent to BT Payphones and receipt of these has been acknowledged. Once the phone box has been disconnected and the countersigned contract has been returned, then ideas for the phone box can be considered in more detail.

g) Development on disused railway

Martholme Greenway had asked RVBC to investigate the development by the caravan site that was discussed last meeting, and have also contacted the Forestry Commission who are investigating the tree removal.

The Clerk read out a proposal from Councillor Pollard to send a letter to RVBC regarding future development on the disused railway along the length of the proposed cycleway, and also read out the section of the Parish Council website relating to planning.

There was a discussion about the proposed letter.

RESOLVED: To send the proposed letter.

h) Football and cricket leases

There was discussion of these. More information is required to make a final decision on increasing and decreasing the rents. The Clerk will provide this information for January.

i) Lengthsman and footpaths

The previous footpath repairs have been completed.

Councillor Pollard noted a stile on a footpath between a field and Back Lane that needed replacing and suggested asking the lengthsman to look at it.

The Clerk is still enquiring about how the footpath grant works and what budget the lengthsman has available.

It was suggested that LCC could be asked directly to repair the stile. The Clerk will investigate this.

j) Allotment rents

The allotment rent letters for 2020 have been distributed and allotment rents are gradually coming in.

There was discussion of whether to increase the allotment rents for 2021.

Councillor Anderson declared an interest as an allotment holder and did not vote on this issue.

RESOLVED: Not to increase the allotment rents at this time.

k) Church Street gardens

An email had been received from a resident complaining about dogs on Church Street gardens, in addition to the two complaints from residents in the public participation session above. There was discussion of what to do about the issue.

RESOLVED: Councillor Hacking will create the wording of a sign to be placed in the area in consultation with the residents who complained. The wording will be approved by councillors over email and the sign will be placed in the area.

l) Parking issues

Councillor Hacking had contacted the local PCSO regarding resident complaints of parking issues in the area. The PCSO had responded and noted that she could send letters to owners of offending cars if given the car registrations.

m) Email from Census Engagement Manager

The Census Engagement Manager with the Office of National Statistics in Preston had sent an email regarding the upcoming census on 21st March 2021, asking if the Parish Council would be able to help create engagement with the census. There was discussion of possible ways to help.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will write back offering the Council's assistance in this matter.

n) Gardening budget

An email had been received from the environmental group asking if the Parish Council has a gardening budget and whether money would be available for the environmental group to use to plant shrubs and flowering plants around Read. There was discussion of whether to give money. It was suggested that garden centres could be asked about donations.

RESOLVED: To provide £50 to the Readstone Environmental Group for use in planting shrubs and flowering plants within Read.

o) Overgrown shrubs and hedges

Councillors Hacking and Greenhough distributed letters to residents who had overgrown shrubs and hedges in their gardens. Some residents have already agreed to attend to the shrubs and hedges.

One resident is disabled and living in a rented house, so may struggle to attend to their hedge.

It was suggested that before looking to LCC for enforcement, the situation of residents who are struggling to maintain their hedges could be investigated, as it may be possible to get volunteers to help them.

p) Website update

The Clerk had attempted to proceed with the update, but had decided in the end that it was beyond her technical abilities, and recommended getting an external

party to perform the update or to create a new site altogether. Councillor Pollard suggested a contact in Simonstone who created Simonstone's website and who may be able to help. The Clerk will email them to ask about this.

12. Correspondence –

Correspondence had been received from Martholme Greenway regarding item 11q) from the last meeting. The letter discussed the tree felling, saying that the trees removed may not all have been ash trees and that current recommended practices do not recommend clear cutting for ash dieback. It also noted that all tree felling carried out by Martholme Greenway had been carried out after acquiring all appropriate permissions and conducting the appropriate wildlife surveys, and within what is permitted by other relevant legislation.

Further correspondence from Martholme Greenway was received including the response they received from RVBC about the works carried out in that location. The response discussed the concerns Martholme Greenway had noted about the earth bund, the development along the old railway line, the tree felling, and the hardstandings. The RVBC will be inviting a retrospective application for planning permission in respect to the first two concerns. The third concern has been referred to the Forestry Commission. RVBC found no evidence of hardstandings being laid.

A letter had been received from an allotment holder querying the new request for existing allotment holders to pay deposits. Councillor Anderson said he would talk to the allotment holder about this.

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

Application 3/2020/0704 2 George Lane, Read BB12 7RH

Demolition of existing garage and construction of a single-storey extension to north elevation; construction

of single-storey extension to south elevation; demolition of existing porch on north elevation and replacement with

new single-storey porch; replacement windows throughout; replacement roof.

Read Parish Council Planning Committee

No objections to this application

14. Finance & Accounts:

a) Payments

16/10/20	Royal British Legion poppy wreath	£17.00
01/11/20	BT Payphones	£1.00
05/11/20	LF Salary September 2020	£242.22
05/11/20	LF Salary October 2020	£242.22

b) Income

7/9/20	Bank interest	£1.33
15/10/20	Contribution to playground from Simonstone PC	£325.00
15/10/20	Petty cash banked	£31.13
26/10/20	Ribble Valley Borough Council	£1,136.00
4/11/20	Allotment rent	£18.00

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4/11/20	Allotment rent and deposit	£74.00
5/11/20	Allotment rent	£18.00
5/11/20	Allotment rent	£18.00

c) Bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2020

Opening Balances 01.04.20			
Community Account	£2,776.49		
Business Saver Account	£14,575.13		£17,351.62
Add: Receipts			£10,893.43
Less: Payments			£16,672.63
Balance			£11,572.42

15. Items for the next agenda

- **Christmas presents**
- **Adoption of phone kiosk**
- **Football and cricket leases**
- **Church St Gardens**
- **Website update**

The meeting ended at 20:40 pm.