

## READ PARISH COUNCIL

10/02/2021

A meeting of the Parish Council was held digitally on Zoom on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

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

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

5 members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Bennett.
2. **Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
  - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.** – *Councillor Pollard declared an interest in the Martholme Greenway Group.*
  - 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – *the minutes were approved.*
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes not on the agenda** – *regarding the planning application for Automotive Tools Hambledon View, the applicant asked if he would be able to temporarily store things in storage containers by the wall near the cricket field while the works are taking place. The councillors will view the proposed area and a decision will be taken at the next meeting. He also had wondered about using the space at the back of Read Motor Bodies. This is leased to them from the council. Councillor Pollard commented on the letter about the DMMO read out in the correspondence section previously. The Clerk will circulate the report that led to the decision being taken about the DMMO, and will put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting.*
5. **Public participation:**
  - **A resident who holds an allotment expressed her upset about the issue of the allotment deposits. She explained that she thought they should not have been introduced during the pandemic lockdown, and had felt threatened by some of the communications sent to those who hadn't paid yet that had mentioned the possibility of residents giving up their allotments if they did not wish to pay the deposit. Councillor Hacking went over the reasoning the council had used when introducing the deposits, and explained that they are fully refundable bonds held securely and that it is important that all allotment holders are treated equally in respect of paying the deposits.**
  - **A representative of Martholme Greenway discussed the failed DMMO application. Martholme Greenway was unhappy with the evidence that had been presented to the committee and felt that evidence had been left out or misrepresented. Councillor Pollard explained that this was why he had asked the Clerk to circulate the report about the DMMO.**
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – Councillor Bennett was absent, but had passed on a letter a constituent had asked him to send that he wanted to get council approval to send. The letter was read out by the Clerk, and the councillors suggested that it

would be more appropriate to ask Simonstone Parish Council to approve the letter, as it related to a location in Simonstone.

**7. Clerk's Report – none**

**8. Reports from external meetings –**

Simonstone Parish Council – Councillor Pollard reported that Simonstone have secured the installation of an air pollution monitor which will be put up in a location along Whalley Road. They had discussed the telephone box in Read and suggested that RPC should contact the village hall representative directly about the suggestions related to that. They had also thanked Readstone Environmental Group for all the hard work that they had been doing in the area, and suggested that RPC might want to do the same. They had discussed the possibility of setting up a joint committee for the Christmas party in 2021, as it may be that COVID restrictions are lifted by Christmas.

Parish Council Liaison Committee – Councillor Pollard reported that most of the discussion had been about works on an aqueduct that did not affect the Read area, but that Simonstone Parish Council's representative had reported some grit bins had not been filled. As far as RPC is aware, the grit bins in Read had been filled.

**9. Playground:**

**a) To receive the playground inspection report** – this was discussed under item 11f.

**b) Repairs and maintenance** – this was discussed under item 11f.

**10. Allotment Management Committee report** – Not much has been happening at the allotments at the moment due to the lockdown and the winter season. All rents have been paid, and those who have not paid the deposits have all promised to pay by Easter. There are 3 vacant plots and a waiting list of 16 people. The Allotment Management Committee is considering the possibility of splitting some of the plots, if they are not too small.

**11. Decision Items**

**a) Allotment rents**

Regarding the deposits, some allotment holders have been given more time to pay. Some residents wanted a list made of items that had been there at the beginning of their tenancy that the previous holder had not removed.

**b) Overgrown plants in public areas**

Councillor Hacking had been in touch with the disabled resident that had not yet been able to cut his overgrown plants himself. Some of the nearby overgrown plants also belonged to his neighbours. The council will not cut all residents' overgrown plants, but as this resident is disabled, Councillor Anderson volunteered to trim the plants for this resident in particular. He had contacted the resident and offered to do the task when the weather is suitable. He will also try to contact the resident's neighbours about getting them to trim their plants.

**c) Lengthsman and footpaths**

The Clerk had received information about Read Parish Council's current and past expenditure on the lengthsman scheme from the clerk for Sabden Parish Council, and went over this information. There was discussion of how many hours would be needed during the remainder of the year and what was a good amount to pay into the scheme for the year. There was also discussion of arranging a meeting with the lengthsman for him to inspect the work that needed doing, and of what jobs the lengthsman might need to do, including a stile that was previously resolved to be fixed but had been delayed due to the gin festival and COVID.

**RESOLVED: To make an interim contribution of £350 to the lengthsman scheme now, and to return to making a £900 annual contribution for the year 2021/22.**

**d) Church St Gardens**

A notice had been purchased as previously discussed. Councillors Pollard and Anderson offered to position the notice on a wooden stake in the area as soon as the wooden stake arrived, and to at the same time erect the footpath sign discussed below in item 11h). A resident had offered to improve the Church St Gardens area with items like a birdhouse and similar things. Councillor Greenhough offered to work with her on this. Councillor Hacking will pass on the resident's contact details to Councillor Greenhough.

**e) Read Motor Bodies lease**

The solicitors who deal with the Read Motor Bodies lease had sent an email regarding the possibility of increasing the rent in line with inflation, and asking about renewing the lease next year, as it runs out in 2022. It was suggested that the renewal of the lease could be discussed later in the year.

**RESOLVED: To ask the solicitor to keep the rent the same for this year, in consideration of the COVID situation.**

**f) ROSPA report**

The ROSPA report had now been received, as it turned out a report had been made in 2020, but had been sent to an incorrect email address and therefore not been received by the council until January 2021. There was discussion of the contents of the report. Councillor Hacking said she would send the report to the companies that installed the playground equipment in order to get a quote for maintenance and repairs. An email had also been received about the Parish Champion's Grant, and it may be possible to receive grant money towards the playground repairs by applying for this.

**g) Air pollution monitoring**

Simonstone Parish Council are now having a monitor installed on Whalley Road. Read Parish Council will therefore be able to ask for the readings from this monitor.

**h) Footpath sign erection**

This will be erected by the footpath at Turner Road by Councillors Pollard and Anderson.

**i) Joint Vision For Planning**

A PDF about the Joint Vision for Planning had been received via CPRE. Previously, the Clerk had written to RVBC about planning, but the Clerk had not received a response at the present time.

Councillor Hanson thought that a response had been sent out, but this was not sent to the Clerk. It was requested that Councillor Hanson circulate this response.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to send a letter to RVBC asking why there had been no response to the previous letter.

**j) Website update**

The Clerk had received details of the company that had been working on Simonstone Parish Council's website. The company is a small company that produces websites using Wordpress.

**RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact the company to get a quote for producing a new website for Read Parish Council.**

**k) Adoption of phone kiosk**

Councillor Greenhough will contact a village hall representative to see if the village hall want to do something with the kiosk. The item will appear again on the next agenda.

**12. Correspondence** – The Clerk took the meeting through the correspondence that had been received.

An email had been received regarding an upcoming virtual information event about standing for election as a county councillor on Lancashire County Council.

Further information from the Census Engagement Manager had been received.

A query had been received from a resident about the permitted locations grit from the grit bins could be used on, to which the clerk had responded.

A list of training courses for the upcoming year had been circulated.

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

**Application 3/2020/0011, Land adjacent to Number 34 and 40 George Lane Read**  
*Proposed four bedroom detached dwelling and associated garage and external works including forming a new access from George Lane.*  
*Read Parish Council Planning Committee*  
**No objections to this application**

**Councillor Pollard noted that at some point it is expected that a planning application will be received relating to land which Councillor Hanson has a pecuniary interest in. As Councillor Hanson is on the planning committee, when this application is received it will be considered by the full council, minus those council members with interests in it, rather than just by the planning committee.**

**14. Finance & Accounts:**

**a) Payments**

27/01/21	SLCC Membership	£80.00
27/01/21	ROSPA report 2020	£115.80
29/01/21	Dog fouling sign for Church St Gardens	£39.67
29/01/21	Xmas expenses	£171.62

**b) Income**

7/12/20	Interest on deposit account	£0.24
2/2/21	Allotment deposit	£50.00

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

<b>Opening Balances 01.04.20</b>			
Community Account	£2,776.49		
Business Saver Account	£14,575.13		£17,351.62
Add: Receipts			£16,186.40
Less: Payments			<b>£19,309.62</b>
Balance			<b>£14,228.40</b>

**15. Items for the next agenda**

- **Car park maintenance**
- **Playground**
- **Parish Champion's Grant**
- **Overgrown plants in public areas**

- **Church St Gardens**
- **Read Motor Bodies lease**
- **Adoption of phone kiosk**
- **Website update**

**The meeting ended at 20:17 pm.**