

READ PARISH COUNCIL

21/11/01

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Read United Reformed Church on Wednesday 21 November, 2012 at 7.15pm.

Present: Chairman Councillor Clifton Pollard
Councillors Richard Bennett, Doreen Collinson, Lisa Snape, Alan Mashiter,
David Waterhouse, Tony Wilkinson, Gerald Nichols
In attendance: Shirley Bridge (Clerk)
Public participation: 8 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence** - apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor John Hill.
- 2. Renewable Energy** - Anthony Seaford gave a presentation to the Parish Council on Community Renewable Energy Projects and how they work in other areas of the country. The Parish Council agreed to mention this issue in their Spring Newsletter to inform residents of the possible benefits.
- 3. Public participation** – one resident reported that there was a large hole in the road in Fort Street. This will be reported to Lancashire County Council by the Clerk.
Fort Street Garage site – several residents raised concerns regarding the possible change of use of the garage site. The Clerk read out a draft proposal by Borough Councillor John Hill to be submitted to Ribbles Valley Borough Council. This would entail changing the letting policy at the Fort Street garage site so that once people leaving the site have removed the garage structure there is no longer a requirement for a replacement garage to be erected but instead the space is left empty and allowed to be used for the parking of vehicles. This would reduce the practice of using garages for storage of goods and not the parking of vehicles. It was also proposed that the Parish Council would help to monitor the use of the open car parking spaces. It is envisaged that this proposal would help ease the parking problems currently being experienced around the streets.
- 4. Declaration of Councillors' Interests** – none received
- 5. Police Report** – next PACT meeting to be held on Wednesday 23 January 2013.
- 6. Borough Councillor's Report** – Borough Councillor John Hill had submitted a written report concerning the recent planning application for the Read Activity Centre. This has been referred and delegated to officers for approval subject to agreement on how to protect the heron nest site. He is also aware that there has been some opposition to the proposition that the Whalley Road bus shelter should be moved to Straits Lane. It might be useful to ask Lancashire County Council for a view on the feasibility of placing bus shelters in certain locations given that the County Council is in direct contact with bus operators who may be able to offer advice on the practicalities of providing shelters and their locations.
- 7. Allotment Chairman's Report** – Plots 9b and 11b transferred from Mr West to Mr Shaw. A quote was received to repair the fencing for £425. Materials to complete this job would be approximately £63. Councillors Alan Mashiter and Tony Wilkinson will buy the materials and complete the work.
- 8. Clerk's Report** – the Clerk's report gave background details for Items 12c), 12f) and 12h).
- 9. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting** – the minutes were approved
- 10. Matters arising** – there were no matters arising.

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11. Playground

a) Monthly report - the monthly playground report was received. The children's swings have been thrown over the top bar. Councillor Nichols will attend to this matter.

b) Report from Playground Sub-Committee – this committee met on the playground on 14 November 2012. Two quotes have been received for the new signage. These were £889 and £730. Purchase of a wooden mount for the new Church Path sign at a cost of £50.40 was approved.

The committee agreed the work schedule for maintenance and repairs as quoted.

12. a) 5-a-side pitch project – a new sub committee was formed to take this project forward. Councillors Pollard and Nichols will be members of this committee. The first meeting was planned for 13 December 2012 at 7pm.

b) War Memorial – Mr Brian Jeffrey had sent a letter to the parish council outlining his findings regarding missing names on the War Memorial. Although councillors agreed in principal to support this matter they will now require more detailed information. Mr Jeffrey to be invited to the next parish council meeting to provide this information.

c) Community Noticeboard – Simonstone Parish Council is considering the purchase and erection of a Community Noticeboard. The siting will be adjacent to the existing Simonstone Parish Council Noticeboard.

RESOLVED: To contribute £100 to this initiative.

d) Future meeting dates – a draft outline for meeting dates in 2013 was circulated.

RESOLVED: The dates were accepted and will be posted on the web-site and on the noticeboard.

e) Fort Street garage site – this matter was dealt with at Item 6.

f) Read Motor Body Lease – the Clerk gave an update on this matter. The new tenants have agreed the revised terms of the lease and the legal terms will now be drawn up and agreed.

g) Renewable Energy – following the presentation by Anthony Seaford the parish council agreed to insert an article regarding this matter in the Spring Newsletter 2013.

h) Lengthmans Scheme – the parish council had received details of the scheme.

RESOLVED: To request entry into the scheme – the exact annual financial contribution will be decided once further discussions have taken place with the scheme administrator and the exact requirements are known.

i) Correspondence –

- Mr Shaun Porter – e-mail received regarding the siting of the bus stop, Whalley Road
- Mr Brian Jeffries – letter received regarding the recent questionnaire and also road holes in Nowell Grove.
- Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Board – a funding request had been received by the parish council from Ribble Valley Citizens Bureau.
RESOLVED: To donate £50 to RVCAB.
- Read and Simonstone Defibrillators Fund – Councillors Collinson and Bennett will attend the event on Tuesday 27 November 2012 to receive training in using the defibrillator.

13. Planning Applications & Decisions

Planning Applications & Decisions:

Applications

Planning Application No: 3/2012/0910

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Proposal: Proposed change of use of land for the siting of 15 new static holiday caravans in place of the storage area which will be relocated.

Location: Bridge Heywood Caravan Park Dunkirk Farm, Whalley Road, Read BB12 7RR

Response:

Read Parish Council are keen to support development within the village which has a potential to provide employment so long as it falls within the planning and highway criteria and does not meet with objections from residents living close to the proposed development.

The planning statement prepared by GVA on behalf of Bridge Heywood Caravan Park makes the case (in 4,4) that an additional 15 unit Holiday Park at Bridge Heywood would take advantage of an increased demand for domestic holidays and meet sustainable development objectives for increased access to the countryside and accommodation within walking distance of local shops and services.

The statement also highlights (4,7) that there is a high demand for holiday let and owned caravans with up to 5 bookings per week being turned away the main season. The statement also makes reference for the need for sustainable transport (7,51).

We would ask that the following points be given serious consideration by the planning officers:-

- The northern boundary of the caravan site is adjacent to the disused railway which was used as a link to the Martholme Viaduct and to what is now the Lancashire Cycleway on the Hyndburn side of the River Calder. This amenity was enjoyed by local people from the early 60's until 2000/01 when access was blocked by the caravan site owner following the foot and mouth outbreak. The disused railway had been purchased by the landowner's family during this period. The landowner has consistently refused many requests to grant access to the 800 metre link.
- Read Parish Council supported by Simonstone Parish Council, Padiham Town Council and Great Harwood Residents Association and Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Ramblers made a request in 2011 to Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate for a footpath creation order which was refused. The reason given was the landowner's assertions that the path creation would cause many of his caravan site tenants who enjoyed the secluded and private environment to leave, damaging the local economy and would result in unacceptable compensation and litigation costs falling on Lancashire County Council.
- The Parish Council would argue that the addition of a 15 additional units as a Holiday Park on the site would detract from the private and secluded environment which would have caused tenants to leave and would now ask if the increased demand resulting in this application has now voided this argument.
- Lancashire County Council have stated that during negotiations with landowner to include this link in the Greenway Projects from Rosegrove to Great Harwood, offers were made to provide a security gate and fencing alongside the site and efforts were made to convince the landowner of the widely held view that a cycleway adjacent to the site would be an asset to his business.
- Taking into account the applicants planning statement, Read Parish Council would ask that the planning officers bring to the attention of the landowner that the connection to the Lancashire Cycleway from his road along the disused railway,

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would allow increased access to the countryside by local residents and the holidaymakers on his site, who would also have access to shops and services in Great Harwood on foot and cycle, in line with the need to encourage the use of sustainable transport.

- Read Parish Council feel that the proposed application would upgrade what is now a caravan site to a holiday park and would generate increased traffic onto the A671 at a point where there have been two fatal accidents in recent times. The Parish Council feel that it is imperative that granting this application should be conditional on agreement being reached between the applicant, Lancashire County Council and Sustrans (owners of the viaduct) for a concessionary cycleway to be created along the disused railway to connect to the Lancashire Cycleway on the Hyndburn side of the viaduct.
- Creation of the cycleway connection would also reflect NPPF advice (Para28) that policy should benefit and support land based businesses, economic growth, jobs and the prosperity of rural areas and promote leisure developments which benefit businesses, communities and visitors alike.

Planning Application No 3/2012/0909

Proposal: Proposed erection of a manager's dwelling

Location: Bridge Heywood Caravan Park, Whalley Road, Read BB12 7RR

Response:

The Parish Council believe that there is already a bungalow at Dunkirk Farm which is rented out and question the need for a new property.

14. Finance & Accounts

a)

Payments to be authorised

| Payee | Type of expenditure | Amount |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Fresh-Air Fitness | Playground equipment | £7,947.90 |
| S Gidley | Dog Bin collection September 5 weeks | £60.00 |
| URC | Room hire | £77.75 |
| Royal British Legion | Poppy wreath | £18.00 |
| Bens Gardening Service | Mowing + path tidying March - October | £300.00 |
| Nu-Age Print + Copy | Winter Newsletter printing costs | £35.00 |
| S Gidley | Dog Bin collection October 4 weeks | £48.00 |
| Doreen Collinson | Bookers – Senior Citizens Party requirements | £156.96 |
| Clifton Pollard | Churchwardens Way sign | £135.00 |

b)

Receipts:

| | Type of income | Amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Read Cricket and Bowling Club | Annual Rent | £60.00 |
| Publication Sales | | £8.00 |

c) External funding report – this report was noted.

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15. Items for the next agenda

Bridleways
Questionnaire
War Memorial

The meeting closed at 9.05pm