

READ PARISH COUNCIL

26/02/01

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Read United Reformed Church on Wednesday 26 February, 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Chairman Councillor Doreen Collinson
Councillors Councillors Davies, Rostron, Pollard, Snape and Nichols

In attendance: Shirley Bridge (Clerk)

6 members of the public attended

1. **Apologies for absence** – apologies were received from Borough Councillor John Hill, Councillors Bennett and Wilkinson
2. **Declarations of Councillors' Interest and dispensations**
 - 2.1 **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda**
None received
 - 2.2 **To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests**
 - 2.3 **To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate**
3. **To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting (15 January 2014) – the minutes were approved**
4. **Matters arising – there were no matters arising**
5. **Public participation:**

Mr P Hanson and Mr R Hanson, Bridge Hey Wood Caravan Park, spoke about the ongoing issue of Martholme Viaduct and the Parish Council's ongoing campaign regarding this issue.

Mr Hanson requested copies of all correspondence and recent reports that have been compiled by the Parish Council. He feels that there may be some inaccuracies contained in the reports and would like to review all the documentation.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report** – no report received
7. **Clerk's Report** – in support of Items 10f) 10g)
8. **Reports from external meetings:-**
See attached reports
9. **Playground:**

The Clerk will now be responsible for carrying out the playground inspections.

 - a) To receive the playground inspection report – **no issues reported**
 - b) Repairs and maintenance – **new sign required on gate as existing one has had lettering peeled off.**

10. Decision items

- a) **Review of Benches** – this follows a review of the benches in the village undertaken by the Clerk.
RESOLVED: To remove the bench in Church Street Gardens, which is in a poor state of repair, and replace it with the iron bench from the Straits Lane end of Church Warden's Way. A new bench is to be purchased to be placed at the end of Church Warden's Way. This will be paid for by a donation to the Parish Council from a resident's family.
- b) **Footpath Review**
This will be discussed at the next meeting.

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c) Church Warden's Way

A request has been received from parents at school asking if the remainder of the path could be widened and surfaced.

RESOLVED: The Chairman will ask at school if they would support widening of the path to enable this to be made possible.

d) Spring Newsletter

The Spring Newsletter is currently being compiled by the Clerk. This will include a message from the Chairman, news from the Youth Council and also a link to the web-site for updated information on the Martholme Viaduct issue.

e) Martholme Viaduct

This matter discussed under Public Participation

RESOLVED: The Clerk was instructed to offer Mr Hanson a copy of all the relevant reports on the web-site regarding this issue.

f) Payroll Services

Diane Malley AAT is our current payroll services provider and is now asking if the parish council would like to retain her services for 2014/2015.

RESOLVED: To appoint Diane Malley AAT as payroll service provider for 2014 at a cost of £48 per annum.

g) Dog Bins

i) James Russell, RVBC has sent a report to the clerk regarding the condition of the dog waste bin on Church Walk. The bin is heavily used, currently requiring 2 empties a week, has limited capacity due to poor design resulting in users leaving many bags on the ground alongside. He is requesting that the parish council give approval for the replacement and installation of a new bin - cost £225 + VAT including fitting costs.

ii) James is also asking if we would like RVBC to continue with the dog emptying from 1st April 2014 – **cost for year £1,040 + VAT** (this is for emptying 6 dog waste bins once per week) – cost for 2013-2014 was £1,014 + VAT.

RESOLVED:

i) To approve replacement of the dog bin on Church Wardens Way at a cost of £225 + VAT.

ii) To approve the annual contract for dog bin services at a cost of £1,040 + VAT.

h) Dog Control Orders

Ribble Valley Borough Council have recently requested feedback regarding their proposed Dog Control Orders.

RESOLVED: To respond to Ribble Valley Borough Council raising the following points:-

Read Parish Council are supportive of any measures that reduce the incidence of dog waste left in public places and would stress that they currently elect to have 6 extra dog bins for which they have to pay Ribble Valley Borough Council to empty. This costs the Parish Council £1,040 per annum and constitutes a large portion of their annual precept. If any extra bins are required by the new orders the Parish Council would like assurances that they would not incur the

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costs for emptying these bins.

i) Best Kept Village Competition

RESOLVED: To enter this competition in 2014.

j) Snow Angels

This is part of an initiative from Ribble Valley Borough Council's Winter Warmth campaign.

RESOLVED: In order to identify residents who may require help during bad weather/snowfalls it was resolved to include a self-referral form within the Spring Newsletter.

k) Allotment Committee – the Parish Council received the notes from the most recent Allotment Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: To have an annual inspection of the allotments by the Parish Council.

l) Planning consent for Friendship Garage site

This matter was raised by residents of Church Street at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED: To request that Ribble Valley Borough Council, Planning Department review the planning consent that was granted in 2008.

11. Correspondence

Out:

- *A letter has been sent to Mr Stansfield (Landlord) regarding the indents on the perimeter of the car park at the rear of We-fit and flats, George Lane. To date no reply has been received.*

In:

- *A letter from Mr B Dearing with a £600 donation for the purchase of a new bench for the village.*
- *An e-mail from a resident regarding excessive and inappropriate parking around Read Motor Body Centre. This item will be discussed at PACT in the first instance.*
- *Reported damage to grass verge junction of Straits Lane/Tennyson Avenue – reported to Lancashire County Council by the Clerk.*
- *Residents have reported problems with parked cars and lorries around the bus stop outside the bakery. The reply from Lancashire County Council suggests a 'bus box' be created. The Clerk has asked Lancashire County Council to move forward with this.*

12. Planning Applications & Decisions

Planning Application No 3/2014/0076

4 Greenacres, Read BB12 7PT

Proposal: Demolition of existing rear extension and outbuildings and erection of a single storey rear extension.

Parish Council response: No observations

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13.

Finance & Accounts

a)

Payments to be authorised

Payee	Type of expenditure	Amount
URC	Room Hire June-Nov	£84.00
LALC	Subscription 2014	£218.32
Little Green Bus	Donation	£150.00
Heys Sheet Metal (replacement cheque)	Panel for bus shelter	£79.20
Heys Sheet Metal	Additional panel for bus shelter	£54.00
AcrylicsRus	Perspex sheeting for bus shelter	£50.20
United Utilities	Water for allotments	£99.52

Items for the next agenda (Wednesday 9 April 2014 to take place at the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7pm)

- Footway – Tennyson Avenue
- Change to start times of future meetings
- Footpath review

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Item 8 - Reports from external meetings

PACT meeting held on 17 February 2014
Shirley Bridge - Clerk

Well attended by 16 members of the public – PCSO Di Bioletti

Actions from last meeting

- Bus stop outside the bakery – residents having trouble hailing the bus due to parked cars on the main road. Ask parish council if anything can be done.
- Dog bags for Stork Path – Adele dealing with this
- White transit van – now checked out and not known to police
- Fountains Ave crimes – now closed – no further action

CRIMES

4 crimes

- Theft from an empty house on Simonstone Lane
- Assault on Straits Lane – young man assaulted in an unprovoked attack
- Vehicle damaged on Fountains Ave – was for repair at the garage at Spar but damaged when it was parked on Fountains Ave
- Theft of cast iron planter from the grounds at Read Hall

Incidents

- Bin bags containing spent cannabis plants thrown out of a car on Trapp Lane
- Incident outside school – driver of a white transit van parked on zig-zag lines in an argument with a parent waiting to pick up children from school
- Suspicious vehicle on Read Hall land – a yellow van – this vehicle known to police and has been linked to poachers in the past
- Roadwatch – has been active on Whalley Road – no speeders found
- Enquiry regarding boards signs to be put on zig zag lines outside school – suggestion of cones
- From residents of Woodhead Road – dog bags being dumped on the road and not put in the bins
- Read Motor Bodies – excessive parking of vehicles that are in for repair – Di will look at this – also to be reported to the Parish Council

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Report from Simonstone Parish Council 13 February 2014 Shirley Bridge –Clerk

Christmas arrangements – to consider a suggestion from Read Parish Council that both Councils have a combined party 2014.

Simonstone Parish Council considered this item at the meeting and decided that as they have already commenced arrangements for their own village event this was not a viable option for 2014. Also a suitable venue is not available that would suit a joint party.

Parish Council Liaison Committee report – meeting held on 30 January 2014 Councillor A Davies

Main topics were:

1) Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Kahn:

- £80k savings required to be made
- Reorganisation 'clarification' by Inspector Kahn (countering the article in the Advertiser , and essentially suggesting that Ribble Valley will have a net gain of 2 'officers')
- However 'technical' reduction in Clitheroe station manning due to the new hubs identified as Colne and Blackburn (suggested no loss in efficiency due to 15-30 min overlap @ shift changeover and 'always' 2 in situ)
- Commitment to PACT meetings , but only via agreed (separate)dates with officers (i.e. could not guarantee attendance at Parish Council meetings)
- Commitment to give notice of any future secondments of community officers in response to complaints of community Officers being seconded to the urban areas without consultation.

2) Highways Schemes Andy Ashcroft presentation:

- Opened by setting the scene on how many job losses (2500) and savings that LCC needed to make going forward)
- He's taking early retirement/voluntary redundancy (as part of above!)and dept will be undergoing reorganisation (2 *public realm managers and some engineering staff taking voluntary redundancy and will not be replaced*)
- Mentioned Mark Wardale (Localities Officer?) as potential interim contact)
- 25 applications received by deadline for Highways Schemes - **narrowed it down to 5 (based on information of schemes they already were aware of!)** and the 2 choices were those he e mailed Shirley; but it appears that there isn't enough money available to do all that's required for Low Moor and may / will have to be c/forward to next year.

(In answer to my query ,he confirmed that our application was not known prior to our latest submission - which begs the question as to what happened, if anything, from

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the action that should have been initiated after my raising it (as a member of the public) at the August Parish Council meeting?)

*(It also implies that the Highways Schemes requests initiative was a cosmetic exercise, since they chose from 5 applications already known to them! *This view was shared by attendees at the LALC meeting I attended in Salesbury*)*

- General view communicated by attendees was that Ribble Valley was significantly underfunded /poor relation in comparison to urban areas
- Suggested that the current 'funding formula' was flawed , and should be more objective and fairer 'county-wide'.

3) Waste Paper Collection

- *Reprogramming of the Paper Collection to coincide with 'bin collection days from April; collection still fortnightly , and Read's will be on 'green bin' day*
- Will be publicised when the new calendars are issued shortly
- Plenty of paper sacks available and encouragement to contact the office if require any more
- Request to Parish Councils to consider establishment of central village hub / location where residents could go and collect
- If anyone still want the larger green bins , then if contact the office, then still prepared to supply

4) Subsidised Bus Services withdrawals (Subsequently rescinded by LCC Cabinet)

- General concerns forwarded to LCC re timing and length of consultation periods
- Clitheroe / Burnley Sunday services on original list!

5) Martholme Viaduct - couldn't raise it under ' Matters Brought forward by Parish Councils' as the protocol is that anything for inclusion under this heading needs to be submitted in writing , 2 weeks before the / a meeting

Report from Councillor A Davies

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) Meeting

11 February 2014

Another very poorly attended meeting – only 5 attendees (+ Chair and Clerk)

Main Topics:

1) Report from 3 tier Forum Representative

(What is a 3 Tier Forum?)

Three Tier Forums are informal joint business meetings of County, District and Parish Councillors to discuss issues of mutual interest in their districts and influence the priorities and forward planning of all three tiers of local government. The agendas and meetings are councillor led and councillors direct the agenda and the discussions. Each forum will be

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asked to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair to rotate annually between the County Council and District Council. The Forum will aim to reach agreement by consensus, failing which the issue will be referred to the Leaders of the County Council and District Council to resolve.

As the Forums are not formal committees of the County, District or Parish Councils the aim is that they will not be overly bureaucratic and will bring a fresh approach to three tier working. As a result Access to Information provisions do not apply and as they are not public meetings members of the public are not able to attend.

The Forums will not duplicate other existing meetings such as Children's Trusts, Area Councils, LSP's etc.

The membership of each Forum comprises of all local County Councillors with an equal number of District Councillors appointed by the District Council. It has also been agreed that one Parish/Town Council will sit on each Forum.

The position of parish representatives is unique on the forum and each represents a very different locality, in terms of the number and nature of parish councils in their area. Their role can be described as:

- Disseminate information and issues for consideration by the Forum to all parishes in their district
- Gather and present collective views of their District's parishes to the Forum)

This item was extremely difficult to follow as the representative read out from a lengthy set of minutes – as opposed to having copies for delegates to refer to .

A lot of the information did not appear to be new:

Summary of major budget cuts required per Nick Keko (Deputy County Treasurer) - £300M savings required to be made over next 4 years

- Subsidised bus services cuts (subsequently rescinded due to flawed consultation, but will still be reviewed on a case by case basis as and when contract renewal dates occur)
- Expansion of cycle routes across the County
- Transport Master Plan
- Enhancement/expansion of Mario to improve resolution of footpath queries/schemes
- Potential for extra railway stations
- Speed limit reduction introduction @ Spring Wood (A671) to improve road safety
- **Discussion on potential withdrawal of LCC funding for 'rights of way' maintenance (£200?)**
- Clitheroe Town Centre parking scheme (York Street?)

In answer to my queries following pre meeting discussions with Shirley:

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Allegedly,

- Questionnaire/notices sent out to all clerks/councils for items PCs may wish to be raised, and “*they never get anything back*”
- As with PCLC , any items need to be submitted, in writing, 2- 3 weeks prior to the meeting ---next meeting scheduled for March 31st
- meetings minutes circulated to all PC

2) Report from LALC Executive

- Public Rights of way discussions
- “Community Futures” initiative – 40 parishes membership
- Proposal for ‘Parish Maintenance Plans’ initiation
- Use of Mario for faults reporting
- Consideration for resurrection of ‘Lancashire Locals’
- Greater representation on 3 tier forum
- Subsidised bus services withdrawal
- Proposed 10% reduction in LCC SLAs

LALC president – Roy Fisher - stepping down
AGM in November

3) Report from Member Parishes

- i) Wilpshire – Carr Hall wind farm planning permission granted on appeal; suggestion that it will be ‘very large’ and a blot on the landscape.
- ii) Simonstone (+ Read support) – representation re Transport Master Plan on implications to A671/A6068 (what potential improvements can we expect to traffic movement etc especially with the potential for significant deterioration as a consequence of R Valley’s |Core Strategy
- iii) Read – requests for workshops / presentations for councillors on :
 - a) **Training/Development for parish councillors involved in planning**
 - b) **Local Government Finance Settlement**

(Briefing note from National Executive LALC:

The Government has not extended referendum principles to parish councils.

The key element of today's written ministerial statement by Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis MP on the final local government finance settlement 2014/2015 is below:

"We have not determined principles for local precepting authorities in 2014 to 2015, but we are putting on notice that we are prepared if necessary to apply the referendum thresholds to larger town and parish councils from 2015 to 2016 onwards to provide protection for local taxpayers and extend the principle of direct democracy."

The statement also reiterates the Minister's expectation council tax support funding is passed on to parish councils:

"We have also set out previously that there is some £3.3 billion in the settlement this year for Council Tax support schemes. There is an element within this national pot that is there

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specifically to reflect reductions in the parish tax base. We have not separately identified the money because it is not ring-fenced and as caseloads change and schemes evolve, the amount that different parishes need will change. It would be wrong to try to manage that centrally. But we have been clear that we expect billing authorities to carry on passing on support to town councils and parishes to help mitigate any reduction in their taxbase due to the local Council Tax support scheme."