

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes: 7 March 2024

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at St Peters School Church Hall, School Lane, Simonstone on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.00p.m.

Attendance

Clerk: Clerk position is currently vacant. Therefore, Cllr Hampson took minutes.

Chair: Cllr Peat [DP]

Councillors: Duckworth [AD], Finn [SF], Hampson [JH], McKelvey [McK], Norse [GN], Pollard [CP], Vaughton [MV]

Expected guests: Borough Councillor(s): Malcolm Pepwell [MP]
Altham Parish Councillors: Rennie Pinder, Dexter, John

Public attendance: 1 member of Hyndburn area

Meeting Minutes and Actions

1	Apologies for absence <i>None received.</i>	
2	Declarations of Councillors Interests and Dispensations 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda. 2.2 To receive requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). 2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. <i>None offered/recorded.</i>	
3	Public Participation Dr John Barker, chair of Martholme Greenway Group (MGG), circulated a document with his ideas for a bypass route, to coincide with the later agenda item about the latest draft of the bypass funding bid. Cllr Duckworth reminded SPC members that any route any bypass would take would be the decision of LCC and respective highway engineers.	

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	<p>Cllr Peat stated that he has had official advice from RVBC legal team that only residents of Simonstone can speak during the public participation section. Therefore, he wouldn't be allowed to do so in this way again.</p> <p><i>Post-meeting note:</i> After the meeting, the Martholme Greenway Group have distributed their group position that they are against a bypass along the old railway line as it conflicts with the walkway they would prefer to have.</p> <p><i>Handout follows at end of minutes. Item formally recorded in a transcript excerpt.</i></p>	
4	<h2>SPID Presentation from representatives of Altham Parish Council's SPID team</h2> <p>Altham Parish Council suffered with appalling road traffic volumes and speeding traffic. Their response was ultimately to invest in SPIDS (Speed Indicator Devices) that not only responded to a vehicle's speed with a slow down message but also recorded it (date, time, speed) and consequently this enabled them to gather evidential data to inform discussions with Lancashire County Council [LCC] and the police.</p> <p>The Altham SPID team attended to provide a presentation to Simonstone Parish Council [SPC] about what was possible if SPC wanted to go ahead and rent some SPIDs for their road safety data gathering.</p> <p>Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) LCC agree position of backplates on lampposts, new ones may need to put in place.(2) Altham SPID team are authorised by SPC to proceed and inform where to put the SPID and what the respective speed limit is for the position of the SPID.(3) After agreed deployment of SPID has occurred (7-10 days) the Altham team retrieve the SPID and download the data.(4) Altham team send the digital CSV file to SPC parish clerk. <p>Notes <u>£150</u> to position SPID <u>plus mileage</u> for outward and return journeys.</p> <p>At present Altham SPID team can't activate the function that takes a picture of the driver and registration plate as that involves further legal clearances. The Altham team may pursue this in the future.</p> <p>The SPIDS provide undisputable evidence (if) speeding is occurring, with the date, time and speed of each vehicle being recorded. Non-speeding traffic is also recorded.</p>	

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	<p>Altham SPID team can adjust existing backplates to fit the new data-gathering SPIDs.</p> <p>Action(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) JH and AD to propose some additional locations for deploying additional SPID backplates on Whins Lane and Trapp Lane.2) Log where our existing backplates are.3) Decision to be made at next council.	JH/AD JH ALL
<i>Resume normal agenda</i>		
5	<p>Approve minutes of previous meeting – 8th February 2024</p> <p>No amends proposed. Minutes then signed off by DP.</p>	
6	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
6.1	<p>Clarification of wastebin requirements [Duckworth]</p> <p>Action(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) AD to send DP a list of wastebins that are required.	
6.2	<p>Electric Vehicle Strategy [Peat]</p> <p>More likely to affect Read residents in the terraces that can't easily run cables across pavements.</p> <p>Residents in the terraces of Simonstone Lane or Whins Lane may experience problems so we should consider opportunities for them. Cllr Hampson suggested considering the land below the Stork Car Park for 2/3 EV charging points if respective grants are available.</p> <p>Action(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) AD to do a scoping document for EV potential in Simonstone and present at a later meeting.	AD
6.3	<p>Bypass Report [Duckworth]</p> <p>The initial draft was well received.</p> <p>Suggestions</p> <p>Better referencing so when you're reading through text at the start, you know which of the appendices is being referred to.</p> <p>Refer to other existing schemes being discussed that might make the original bypass proposition more attractive.</p>	

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	<p>CP will not support the project unless it guarantees the delivery of Cycleway's 685 extension to the Martholme Greenway. Also, adamant that the project has to go over the Martholme Viaduct.</p> <p>Vote 1: The bypass scheme should consider the Cycleway extension as part of the bypass (but not go as far to state it must be done). Proposed: CP Seconded: McK, GN</p> <p>Vote: All in favour (no absentions or 'no' votes)</p> <p>Vote 2: [Named Vote]: Proceed with distribution of document after AD has incorporated the suggested amendments. Proposed by JH Seconded by AD Vote: All in favour (no absentions or 'no' votes)</p> <p>Action(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) RMcK to send any information on Huncoat Rail Freight Terminal to AD, for incorporation in document.(2) AD to incorporate improved referencing and reference to Huncoat Freight Terminal.(3) AD to include in document a reference to consideration being given to active travel options during bypass planning and construction. <p><i>Item formally recorded in a transcript excerpt.</i></p>	<p>McK/AD</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD</p>
7	<p>Borough Councillor's Report [Peplow]</p> <p><i>Cllr Peplow gave a verbal report to SPC. A transcript of what was said is available on the SPC website next to the minutes of this meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally...</i></p> <p>Thanks to LCC Councillor Ged Mirfin for progressing the removal of concrete bollards that had been installed as a temporary measure, but then left at Altham Pump House cottages.</p> <p>Waste bins for the car park area of Back Lane. To be discussed with Read and Sabden Parish Councils. Big thanks to individuals of the local groups that pick up litter in the local area.</p> <p>MP and GMcC will liaise with the potential donor of funds for road safety measures.</p> <p>JH had asked County Cllr Mirfin to request a traffic data strip that could record the proportion of HGV/LGV traffic for A671. Awaiting an update.</p> <p>Cllr Peplow departs</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>MP/CP</p> <p>MP/GMcC</p> <p>JH</p>

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8	Clerk's Report	
8.1	<p>Local crime statistics for Read & Simonstone in February from our PCSO Katie Ferguson (given via email).</p> <p>Fraud x1 Public Order x 1 Road related offence x 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 x vehicle stopped and issue a fixed-penalty notice- 1 x criminal damage to a vehicle by a known offender- <p>Rmck reported a vehicle fire at the bottom of Simonstone Lane near Fort Vale entrance.</p>	
9	Facebook & Website Report <p>Cllrs Finn and Vaughton had nothing to report.</p> <p>Cllr Hampson reported that she had accessed the back-end of the website to check on its structure and status quo, and happy to report that should SPC want to do a content refresh later in the year it should be straightforward to do. In doing this evaluation, had become aware that the contact details were still referring to those of a previous parish clerk. Therefore, she updated the contact details to match those of the Chair (in absence of a parish council clerk).</p> <p>Furthermore, the Clerk@Simonstone.org.uk is available to use and Cllr Hampson, for the time being, has set up an automatic redirection to the current clerk's gmail address if anyone emails the org.uk account.</p>	
10	Reports from External Meetings <p><i>None to report</i></p>	
11	Decision Items	
11 a	Parish Plan Working Group <p>Defer to next meeting at which a date and time for the working group will be agreed.</p>	SF, AD, JH
11b	Fort Vale [Pollard] <p>CP met with Andy Brice (Fort Vale Innovations Director) and his assistant to discuss Martholme Greenway projects in Gooseleach Wood. Showed him where they wanted to locate a SPC bench and that SPC wanted the lengthsman to have access to the land to repair the bank. Fort Vale have agreed to give the lengthsman access and even went further with an easier path than had been requested (which was highly appreciated).</p>	

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	<p>Lengthsman was contacted to do the work, but sadly the request coincided with notification that the lengthsman won't be continuing in the role and we have another vacancy. CP to liaise with Sabden Parish Council Lengthsman Scheme regarding the vacancy.</p> <p><i>Safe Lanes notes follow under that later section.</i></p>	CP
11c	<p>Banking [Peat]</p> <p>Barclays Bank are being very problematic about updating contact details, establish electronic banking and add additional signatories.</p> <p>Action(s):</p> <p>11c (i) DP will continue to pursue and add AD as soon as possible.</p> <p>11c(ii) RMcK requested that we waive the ban on a village hall trustee signing the cheque to the village hall, with the additional signature on the back of the relevant cheque by AD (as an independent councillor). Agreed.</p>	DP Rmck
11d	<p>Christmas Light Update [Vaughton]</p> <p>Defer to next meeting.</p>	
11e	<p>Safe Lanes [Pollard]</p> <p>Angela Whitwell, Whins Lane resident, has agreed to a sign (Peplow/Pollard Pendle inherited signs) being placed there subject to her son Richard's approval.</p> <p>CP requested a letter for Huntroyd for an additional sign, DP asked JH to draft a letter, but JH didn't know which location was being discussed. CP and JH to visit desired location so JH can take a location reference.</p>	CP CP/JH
11f	<p>Parish Noticeboards [McKelvey]</p> <p>RMcK has received the cheque and will give the go ahead tomorrow.</p>	Rmck
11g	<p>Parish Clerk vacancy</p> <p>DP has discussed the vacancy with the HR Director at RVBC.</p> <p>SPC agreed to add a sentence that for experienced candidates' higher rates of pay may be available.</p> <p>Action(s):</p> <p>(1) DP to readvertise vacancy middle of March.</p> <p>(2) 28 March to be deadline for applications.</p>	DP

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	An update will be given at the next meeting regarding the number of applicants and the selection of an interview process/panel.	DP/ALL
12	Correspondence	
12.1	Lengthsman CP and AD liaising with Sabden Parish Council regarding the new vacancy for this role.	CP/AD
12.2	Easibeats: SPC to send an application to the group requesting further information. SF to send JH previous SP application form for funding requests.	JH SF
13	Planning Applications, Decisions & Enforcements <i>None received.</i>	
14	Finance & Accounts The absence of a parish clerk has resulted in a lack of information reaching the council, especially regarding bank statements.	DP

(a) Payments out since last meeting (February 2024)

Date	Cheque No	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Status
		<i>Sub-Totals</i>	0	0	0.00	

(b) Unpresented cheques

Date	Cheque No	Description	Net	VAT	Total
		<i>Sub-Totals</i>	100	20	921.35
	101558	Use IT Computers			97.40
	101560	Clerks Jan Wage			267.74
09/01/2024	101557	Clerks Dec wage			306.74
19/01/2024	101550	Village hall hire			22.00
25/01/2024	101559	DM Payroll services	100	20	120.00
26/01/2024	101555	A Collinson back pay			107.47
30/01/2024	101556	HMRC			26.80

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(c) Income

Date	Description	Total	Status
Sub-Totals		0	

(d) Payments to be made

Date	Cheque No	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Status
Sub-Totals			44.28	7.5	114.78	
07/03/2024	101563	USE-IT Dec to Feb	44.28	7.5	51.78	Approved
07/03/2024	101564	LALC Training (2 x £15 DP, SF for C&R			30	Approved
07/03/2024	101565	R&S Village Hall: Meeting room Feb SPC			22	Approved
07/03/2024	101566	R&S Village Hall: Clerk Interviews (15/12/23)			11	Approved

(e) Bank reconciliation (cannot be updated)

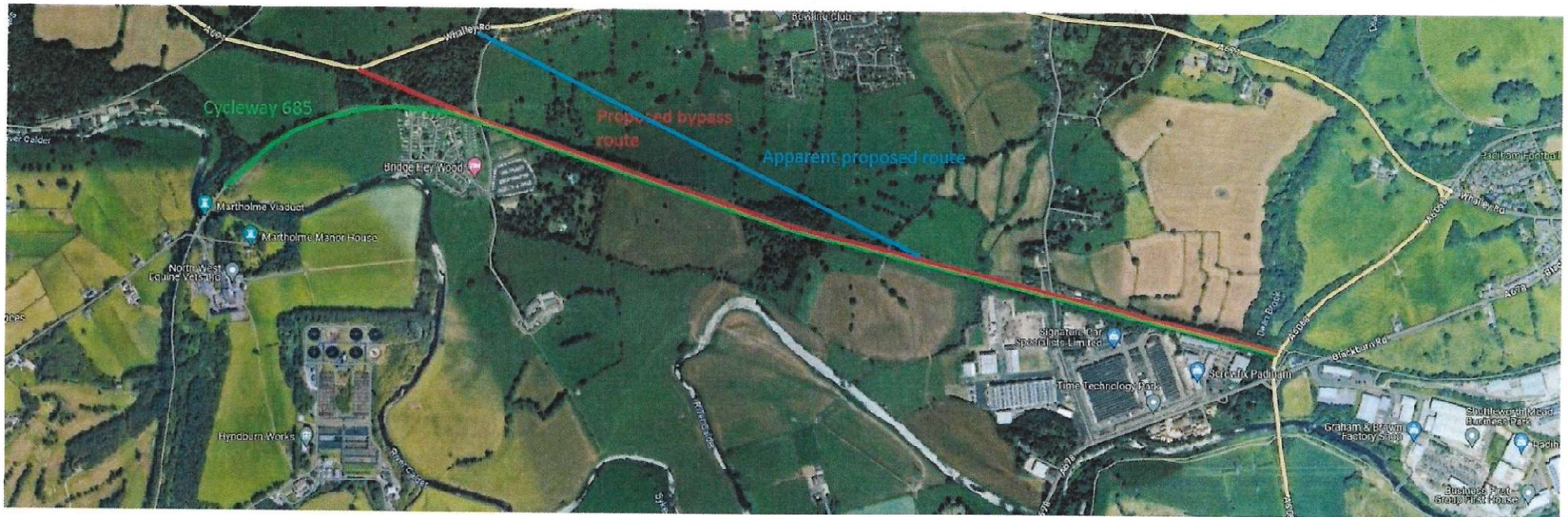
No access to account to check bank statements for updated figures.

Balances brought forward	
Community Account	
Business Saver Account	£8,967.03
Add: Receipts (c)	0
Less: Payments (a + d)	114.78
Less: Unpresented cheques (b)	921.35
Balance	7930.9

15	Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 4 April Agenda Items to be submitted by the Monday of Easter week.	
16	Items for next agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety – SPID rollout <i>Consider SPIDS placement and authorisation.</i> 6.2 Update on Wastebins 6.3 Scoping document for EVs 11a Parish Plan Working Group: Agree a date/time to meet. 11c(i) Banking update 11d Christmas lights 11g Clerk vacancy update 12.1 Lengthsman vacancy 12.2 Easibeats application update 	JH/AD AD AD SF/AD/JH/GN DP MV DP CP/AD JH

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JOHN BARKER [JB]
SUBMITTED TO
SPC 7/3/24

Blue line

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE
ROUTE FROM C. ROLLARD .

RED

JB'S SUGGESTED ROUTE

GREEN

CYCLEWAY 685 PROPOSED
EXTENSION