

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

www.simonstone.org.uk

Members of Simonstone Parish Council are summoned to attend a meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 14 November 2024 at St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone commencing at 7.00pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. Pollard.

2. Approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 October 2024.

3. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other registrable and non-registrable interests.

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary, and other registrable and non-registrable interest in respect of matters contained in the agenda.

4. Public participation.

This 15-minute session (time limit of 5 minutes per item/per person) provides members of the public an opportunity to indicate interests in an agenda item and put questions to the Parish Council. Such questions may be answered after the meeting or become an agenda item at a future Parish Council meeting.

ITEMS for DECISION/DISCUSSION:

5. Finance Report.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) to approve the:

- Accounts to date.
- Schedule of Payments as set out in the Report.
- Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments as shown in the Report.

6. Budget Considerations.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to review the budget for 2025/26 as a precursor to setting the Town Council's 2025/26 Precept.

7. Banking Considerations.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to consider transferring funds from the current NatWest current account to a Unity Bank savings account.

8. Bypass Bid.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to consider approving a document of the 'Bypass Working Group' that considers the impact of the UK Government's housing growth on traffic in the Ribble Valley.

9. VE Day 2025 – Planned Activities.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to consider activities for VE Day 2025.

10. Public Rights of Way – Access to a footpath on Whins Lane, Simonstone.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to consider installing a gateway.

ITEMS for INFORMATION:

11. Festive Preparation.

Verbal update from Cllr. Vaughton to update members on preparations for Christmas.

12. ‘School Field’ Footpath.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to consider an issue that has been raised by a parishioner.

13. Update on Actions from recent meetings.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) to update members on actions from previous Council meetings.

14. Planning Report.

Report of the Clerk (enclosed) for members to consider planning matters since the previous meeting.

15. Councillor Reports.

Reports from Councillors (enclosed).

16. Newsletter.

Update from Cllr. Hampson

17. Consideration of matters not on the agenda.

An opportunity for the clerk and members to provide updates, raise matters and suggest items for future meetings.

Future Meetings:

- **2024** – 15 December.
- **2025** – 9 January, 6 February and 6 March.



SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council Meeting – Draft Minutes

Date:	3 October 2024		
Place:	St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone		
Present:	Councillors: D. Peat (Chair), S. Finn, J. Hampson, R. McKelvey, G. Norse, C. Pollard and M. Vaughton.		
In attendance:	Clerk to the Council (Mike Hill).		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	20:05

241003/

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

County Cllr. Mirfin, and Borough Cllrs. Peplow and McCrum sent their apologies.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

One member of the public was present, but did not participate on any agenda item.

5. FINANCE REPORT.

The Clerk submitted a report seeking approval for the accounts to date, Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments and the Schedule of Payments.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Approve the accounts to date.
- b. Approve the Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments as set out in the Report and Table b below.
- c. Approve Schedule of Payments as set out in the Table a below:

Schedule of Payments to be considered for approval.								Table A
#	Ref.	Payee	Description	Gross £	Vat £	Net £	Due Date	Ref.
1	40531, 40947, 41154, 41368, 41878 and 41667	Use it Computers	Provsion of IT Services	68.84	11.47	57.37	Paid	Admin. Exp.
2	Contract	Clerk	September 2024 - Salary	343.20	0.00	343.20	Paid	Admin. Exp.
3	3769	DM Payroll Services	Payroll Services	60.00	0.00	60.00	Paid	Admin. Exp.
Totals:				472.04	11.47	460.57		

Summary of Receipts and Payments		Table B
	£	
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2024:	9,286.46	
Add total receipts to date:	9,513	
Less total payments to date:	(4,853)	
Balance:	13,946.88	If these two figures are different an explanation is required.
	£	
Unity Trust Bank Balance as at 29/09/24:	13,946.88	

6. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.

The Clerk submitted a report asking members to consider adopting a Complaints Procedure which was attached as an Appendix to the Report.

The Report noted that complaints would be handled in Full Council or by nominated Councillors who are authorised to deal with complaints but are not involved with the complaint.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Approve the Procedure as shown in Appendix 1 to the Report.
- Agree to review the Procedure in April 2025.

7. CRIME FIGURES

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on the latest crime figures as provided by PCSO Katie Ferguson. The report noted that there had been one report of damage to a vehicle, four related to road related offences, one assault (where the offender was known to the victim) and one damage to a window.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

8. FESTIVE LIGHTING.

Cllr. Vaughton updated members on the preparations for festive lighting. It was noted that an electrician is still required to check the current installation and that the area is overgrown and needs to be tidied.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Note the update.
- Request Cllr. Duckworth to contact the Lengthsman and ask him to trim the shrubbery, prune the trees and when they are delivered, install the festive lights.

9. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM RECENT MEETINGS.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on actions from recent meetings. It was noted, that with a few exceptions most items had been completed.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the update.

10. PLANNING REPORT

The clerk submitted a report on the relevant planning applications that had been submitted since the last Council meeting. Members were reminded that weekly planning applications and decided lists of planning applications are available to view on the RVBC website by using the link below:

https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/weekly_lists

Members were informed that Borough Cllr. Peplow had called in Planning Application 3/2024/0366 (application to build a new grid battery storage facility on the site of the former colliery at the junction of Simonstone Lane and Burnley Road).

Rationale provided by Cllr. Peplow for calling the application in:

'Although I viewed this as being essential infrastructure to enable the successful transition to renewable energy sources, I had several concerns that the potential hazards presented to neighbouring premises by this facility did not appear to have been adequately considered and mitigated. The Planning Team's report to the Planning and Development Committee recommended refusal but the Applicant withdrew the Planning Application shortly before the Planning and Development Committee was due to meet to consider the application.'

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the contents of the report and Cllr. Peplow's considerations.

11. PARISH NEWSLETTER.

Councillor Hampson noted that only two Councillors had responded to a request for information.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Request Cllr. Hampson to present a draft Newsletter to the next Council meeting for consideration.

12. ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Councillor Hampson update members on matters relating to the RVBC's Road Safety Working Group.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Request Cllr. Hampson to stay in dialogue with LCC Highways and the Road Safety Work Group.
- b. Request Cllr. Hampson to present a report to a future meeting of the Parish Council, requesting members to consider the installation of additional Speed Indicator Devices.

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- Cllr. Peat informed members that he had been invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire to attend the Lancashire Business Awards.
- County Cllr. Mirfin submitted a report updating members on a meeting he attended with LCC's new Highways Director and his direct-line management team.
- Cllr. Pollard updated members on the planting of the Giant Redwood tree in Gooseleach Wood.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Thanked members for their updates.
- b. Requested the Clerk to purchase a commemorative plaque for the Giant Redwood.

14. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

No further matters were considered.

Future Meetings:

- 2024 – 14 November and 5 December.
- 2025 – 9 January, 6 February and 6 March.

Agenda Item 5

For Decision

Simonstone Parish Council

Meeting Date: 14/11/2024

Title: **Finance Report**

Submitted by: Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Purpose of the report:

To update members of the Council's financial position and to seek approval of the accounts to date and agree any payments to be made.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the Report and specifically the:
2. Schedule of Payments.
3. Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments.

Schedule of Payments to be considered for approval.

#	Ref.	Payee	Description	Gross £	Vat £	Net £	Due Date	Ref.
1	S01950166	Festive Lights	String and Cluster lights, brackets and cables	1,834.16	305.69	1,528.47	Paid	Amenity Exp.
2		Lenghtsman Scheme	Contribution to 2024/25	700.00	0.00	700.00	Due	Amenity Exp.
3	3940	Barrie Tyrer	Termination of siminstone.org.uk	135.20	0.00	135.20	Paid	Admin. Exp.
4	PCJ07	Royal British Legion	Wreaths x 2	100.00	20.00	80.00	Paid	Sundry Exp.
5	5968337	Holyart	Nativity Set	124.45	20.74	103.71	Paid	Amenity Exp.
Totals:				2,893.81	346.43	2547.38		

Note: Approval is not usually sought for people of organisations where the Parish Council has a contractual relationship or has already been agreed by Council.

Receipts for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Bank		Income Streams					Totals
Date	Reference	Details	RVBC Precept	VAT Repay	RVBC Grants/Other	Other Grants	
08/04/2024		RVBC - Precept payment	8,400.00				8,400.00
03/07/2024	422557	LCC PROW and Bio diversity Grant				800.00	800.00
23/09/2024	054992	Concurrent Grant			313.00		313.00
Total:			8,400.00	0.00	313.00	800.00	9,513.00

Schedule of Payments made for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Dates		Administration Expenses								Amenity Expenses					
CHQ Stub	Bank Recon.	CHQ No./Ref	Details	Clerk Salary	HMRC Tax/NIC	Expenses	General Admin.	Website and IT Expenses	Other Admin.	General Maintenance	Play Areas	Other Expenses	Sundry Expenses	VAT	Total
07/03/24	02/04/24	101563	Use It				51.78								51.78
07/03/24	12/03/24	101564	LALC Civility (£30)												-
07/03/24	04/04/24	101565	RS Village Hall - February						22.00						22.00
07/03/24	04/04/24	101566	RS Village Hall - Interview - December						11.00						11.00
04/04/24	11/04/24	101567	LALC Training				35.00								35.00
04/04/24	09/04/24	101568	Clean Bus Shelter									65.00			65.00
04/04/24	09/05/24	101569	Use IT					2.08						0.42	2.50
04/04/24	08/04/24	101570	Cltr. Hampson (Paper)			8.32								1.67	9.99
09/05/24	21/05/24	101571	Under payment previous clerk	7.20											7.20
09/05/24	19/06/24	101572	Sabden PC Lengthsman 2023/24							216.00					216.00
09/05/24	19/06/24	101573	Sabden PC Lengthsman 2024/25							300.00					300.00
09/05/24	05/06/24	101574	Room hire Clerk interview St John's						15.00						15.00
09/05/24	22/05/24	101575	GDPR annual subscription						40.00						40.00
	15/05/24	101576	Zurich Insurance						267.88						267.88
	20/06/24	101577	Use it Computers					17.26							17.26
	05/06/24	101578	Contribution to Read Playground 2024								375.00				375.00
	20/06/24	101579	Use it Computers					2.08						0.42	2.50
	01/07/24	DD	Easy Websites					48.40						9.68	58.08
	17/07/24	101580	Use it Computers					2.08						0.42	2.50
10/06/24	30/09/24	101581	St. Peter's Letting May 2024 - April 2025						200.00						200.00
	17/07/24	101582	Use it Computers - Office 365					12.26							12.26
	20/06/24	101583	Fees to cover clerk duties - Lord Accountancy						250.00						250.00
	27/06/24	101584	Internal Audit - David Swift				70.00								70.00
	16/07/24	101585	Cltr. Hampson D-Day celebration										20.00		20.00
	26/07/24	101586	Ark Plastics - Bench									525.00		105.00	630.00
	23/07/24	101587	Clerk Salary - May 2024	343.20											343.20
	23/07/24	101588	Clerk Salary - June 2024	343.20											343.20
	01/08/24	DD	Easy Websites					48.40						9.68	58.08
	16/0724	101589	HMRC Cumbernauld		172										171.60

Dates		Administration Expenses							Amenity Expenses						
CHQ Stub	Bank Recon.	CHQ No./Ref	Details	Clerk Salary	HMRC Tax/NIC	Expenses	General Admin.	Website and IT Expenses	Other Admin.	General Maintenance	Play Areas	Other Expenses	Sundry Expenses	VAT	Total
	07/08/24	101590	Use it Computers					2.08						0.42	2.50
Unity	27/08/24	367009	High Trapp Deposit - Cllr. Peat										50.00		50.00
Unity	30/08/24		Clerk Salary - August 2024	343.20											343.20
DD	02/09/24		Easywebsites - Email and website hosting					48.40						9.68	58.08
Unity	02/09/24	20232406	PKF Littlejohn - AGAR for 2023 Audit				252.00								252.00
Unity	16/09/24		Cllr. Norse IKEA for D-Day										28.46		28.46
Unity	16/09/24		Clerk Salary - September 2024	343.20											343.20
Unity	16/09/24	3769	DM Payroll Services				60.00								60.00
Unity	16/09/24	2425117	LALC annual subscription						249.27						249.27
Unity	19/09/24	Use It	Invoices: 0531, 40947, 41154, 41368, 41878 and 41667					57.37						11.47	68.84
Unity	30/09/24	Unity	Service Charge (Bank)				7.04								7.04
Unity	01/10/24	DD	Easywebsites - Email and website hosting					48.40						9.68	58.08
Unity	14/10/24		Grant to Easi-Beats										100.00		100.00
Unity	14/10/24		Nativity set (paid by clerk)									103.71		20.74	124.45
Unity	15/10/24		Clerk Salary October 2024	343.00											343.00
Unity	16/10/24		HMRC Cumbernauld (three months)		429										429.00
Unity	31/10/24	Unity	Service Charge (Bank)				5.40								5.40
Unity	01/11/24	DD	Easywebsites - Email and website hosting					46.20						9.24	55.44
Unity	04/11/24		Use It Computers - Invoice 42127					2.08						0.42	2.50
Unity	04/11/24		Royal British Legion 2 x wreaths										80.00	20.00	100.00
Unity	04/11/24		Barrie Tyrer - old website termination					135.20							135.20
Unity	06/11/24		Festive Lights									1,528.47		305.69	1,834.16
TOTALS				1,723.00	600.60	8.32	481.22	472.29	1,055.15	516.00	375.00	2,222.18	278.46	514.63	8,246.85

Summary of Receipts and Payments

	£	
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2024:	9,286.46	
Add total receipts to date:	9,513	
Less total payments to date:	(8,247)	
Balance:	10,552.61	<i>If these two figures are different an explanation is required.</i>
	£	
Unity Trust Bank Balance as at 11/11/24:	10,552.61	

The Switch from Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank took place on 16 August 2024.

Amount transferred = £15,086.93

Switch Authorised by:

- David Peat
- Clifton Pollard
- Stephen Finn

Comparisons as at 11/11/2024

	FINAL ACCOUNTS 2023/24	BUDGET 2024/25	ACCOUNTS TO DATE 2024/25
INCOME	£	£	£
RVBC Precept:	8,400	8,400	8,400
Concurrent and other grants:	0	0	1,113
HMRC VAT Refunds:	0	0	0
LCC, sundry and other grants:	0	0	0
	8,400	8,400	9,513
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenses:	£	£	£
Clerk's salary:	0	0	1,723.00
HMRC: Employers Tax and NIC:	0	0	600.60
Expenses: mileage etc.	0	0	8.32
General Administration:	0	0	481.22
Website and email hosting, software/hardware:	0	0	472.29
Other Admin:	0	0	1,055.15
	0	0	4,340.58
Amenity Expenses:	£	£	£
General maint and lengthsman.:	0	0	516.00
Play area and Read play area	0	0	375.00
Other Expenses	0	0	2,222.18
	0	0	3,113.18
Sundry Expenses:	£	£	£
Christmas trees, lights and bunting:	0	0	0.00
Remembrance Sunday - wreath etc:	0	0	0.00
Defibrillator costs:	0	0	0.00
Other Sundry Expenses:	0	0	278.46
	0	0	278.46
VAT on Expenses to be Reclaimed:			514.63
	£	£	£
Total Expenditure:			8,246.85
SUMMARY:	£	£	£
Income:	0	0	9,513.00
Expenditure:	0	0	-8,246.85
	0	0	1,266.15
BALANCE:	£		£
Balance brought forward at 1 April:		2023/24 balance carried forward:	9,286
Add surplus / less deficit for the year:		2024/25 Balance to date:	1,266
Balance to be carried forward:		Overall Balance:	10,552.61

Cash Flow Forecast for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

			Actual Income							Forecast Income					
INCOME		Stream	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Total
1	RVBC Precept	Precept	8,400.00												8,400.00
2	RV in Bloom	RVBC Grant													0.00
3	HMRC VAT Return	VAT Repay									550.00				550.00
4	Concurrent Funding	RVBC						313.00							313.00
6	Other RVBC Grants	RVBC Grant								500.00	150.00				650.00
7	Other Income	Other													0.00
8	Other Funding	LCC				800.00									800.00
	Totals:		8,400.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	313.00	0.00	500.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,713.00

			Actual Expenditure							Forecast Expenditure					
EXPENDITURE		Stream	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Total
20	Use-It	Admin. Exp.	51.78	2.50	19.76	14.76	2.50	68.84		2.50		50.00		50.00	262.64
21	Easy Web	Admin. Exp.				58.08	58.08	58.08	58.08	55.44	55.44	55.44	55.44	55.44	509.52
22	RVBC Payments	Other Exp													0.00
23	LALC Subs. training	Sundry Exp.	35.00					249.27				125.00			409.27
24	Accountant and PKF LJ	Admin. Exp.			320.00			252.00							572.00
25	Consum/License/GDPR	Admin. Exp.	9.99	40.00						135.20					185.19
26	Clerk Salary	Staff Costs		7.20		686.40	343.20	343.20	343.00	343.20	343.20	343.20	343.20	343.20	3,439.00
27	Defrib./Bus Shelter	Sundry Exp.									120.00				120.00
28	Bank charges	Admin. Exp.						7.04	5.40		18.00			18.00	48.44
29	HMRC Income Tax	Staff Costs				171.60			429.00			258.00			858.60
30	Payroll services	Admin. Exp.						60.00				60.00			120.00
31	Clerk Expenses	Staff Costs									50.00				50.00
32	Amenity etc.	Amenity Exp.	65.00		375.00	630.00		28.46							1,098.46
33	Insurance	Admin. Exp.		267.88											267.88
34	Room Hire	Admin. Exp.	33.00		15.00			200.00							248.00
35	Lengthsman/Other Maint	Grnd Maint			516.00						700.00				1,216.00
36	Training/Other Subs	Sundry Exp.													0.00
37	Grants	Other Exp.							100.00						100.00
38	Remembrance/Other	Sundry Exp.				20.00				100.00					120.00
39	Christmas	Sundry Exp.					50.00		124.45	1,834.16	275.00				2,283.61
	Totals:		194.77	317.58	1,245.76	1,580.84	453.78	1,266.89	1,059.93	2,470.50	1,561.64	891.64	398.64	466.64	11,908.61

2024/25 FORECAST	£
Forecast Income	10,713
Forecast Expenditure	11,909
Forecast Balance 2024/25	-1,196

EOY 2025 FORECAST	£
Balance at 11/11/24	10,552.61
Forecast Income - Nov. onwards	1,200
Forecast Spend - Nov. onwards	5,789
Balance EOY	5,964

For reference:	
Balance EOY 2023/24 = 9,286	

2024-2025 - Unity Trust Bank Statements												
DETAILS	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Balance brought forward 31 March 2023	9,286.46	17,491.69	17,174.11	15,928.35	15,147.51	14,693.73	13,739.84	12,679.91				
Income 2024/25:	8,400.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	313.00	0.00					
Expenditure 2024/25:	194.77	317.58	1,245.76	1,580.84	453.78	1,266.89	1,059.93					
Balance:	17,491.69	17,174.11	15,928.35	15,147.51	14,693.73	13,739.84	12,679.91					
Bank Statement Balance:	17,491.69	17,174.11	15,928.35	15,147.51	14,693.73	13,739.84	12,679.91					
Statement Date:	30/04/24	31/05/24	30/06/24	31/07/24	31/08/24	30/09/24	31/10/24	30/11/24	31/12/24	31/01/25	28/02/25	31/03/25

Barclays Business Premium Account

£

Balance carried forward at 31 March 2024:	9,000.56
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Expenditure April 2024 to 31 March 2025:	0.00
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Balance at 31 May 2024	9,000.56
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Balance at 31 August 2024	9,034.22
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Balance at 30 September 2024	9,068.00
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Balance at 31 October 2024	9,068.00
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Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	Budget and Precept Considerations
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to review the Council's budget for 2025-26 as a precursor to agreeing the 2025-26 Council precept.

2. Introduction:

Members are reminded that parish councils irrespective of their size, have a statutory duty to prepare an annual budget. It should be noted that it is not lawful to set a precept unless a budget has been prepared and approved.

3. The Annual budget process:

- Allows the Council to set a precept for the following year.
- Gives the Clerk authority to make spending commitments in line with the decisions of the Council.
- Enables progress monitoring during the year by comparing actual spending against planned expenditure.

4. The draft budget

A draft budget is provided in Appendix 1 for consideration/amendment by the Council and includes proposed budgets for each of the headline expenditure categories used in previous years. Members are however required to consider what services it intends to deliver in 2025-26.

The draft budget has seven columns which cover:

- Categories of expenditure.
- Budget for 2024-25 as prepared in 2023-24. (*Not valid for this year*)
- Actual expenditure for 2024-25 (April to October).
- Forecast expenditure for 2024-25 (November to March).
- Projected annual out-turn (spend) for 2024-25.
- Budget variance to projected annual out-turn for 2024-25 (*Not valid for this year*)
- Proposed budget for 2025-26 based on the continuation of existing services.

5. The Council's precept:

The Council's precept requirement must be advised to RVBC by 24 December 2024.

6. Reserves:

The Council must review its level of reserves and whilst there are no statutory levels only guidance, significant levels may give rise to comment by the Council's auditor.

Simonstone Parish Council holds its reserves in line with those set out in the Joint Panel of Accountability and Governance March 2024 (p38 5.31-5.39) in that they are maintained at between three and twelve-months Net Revenue Expenditure. The smaller the authority, the closer the figure may be to 12 months expenditure, in practice, any authority with income and expenditure in excess of £200,000 should plan towards 3 months equivalent general reserve.

7. General Reserve:

The General Reserve is the balance of the parish council's revenue account and are funds which have no restrictions as to their use. These reserves can be used to smooth the impact of uneven cash flows, offset the budget requirement if necessary, or can be held in case of unexpected events or emergencies. They cannot be used for recurring general expenditure as this would gradually reduce the reserves to zero. The level is proposed by the Responsible Financial Officer and agreed annually when setting the final budget for the forthcoming year at a Council meeting.

8. Members are recommended:

- a. To note the contents of the report and Appendix 1.
- b. To approve a budget and the services the Council intends to deliver in 2025-26 as set out in Appendix 1.
- c. To set a precept for 2025-26, based on the service and expenditure agreed in b. above.
- d. To set a General Reserve for 2025/26 of no more than £8,000.

Appendix 1

For Decision

Simonstone Parish Council

Meeting Date: 14/11/2024

Title: **Budget and Precept Considerations**

Submitted by: Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Purpose of the report:

To consider the Council's Budget for 2025/26

Recommendations:

See main report.

Proposed Budget - based on Actual and Projected Expenditure - 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Expenditure Stream		2024-25 Budget	2024-25 Apr-Oct Actual £	Forecast 2024- 25					2024-25 Projected Spend £	Variance: Projected vs Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget £
				Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March			
1	Use-It	-	160.14	2.50		50.00		50.00	262.64	-	275.00
2	Easy Web	-	232.32	55.44	55.44	55.44	55.44	55.44	509.52	-	665.00
3	RVBC Payments	-	0.00						0.00	-	0.00
4	LALC Subs. training	-	284.27			125.00			409.27	-	425.00
5	Auditor	-	572.00						572.00	-	100.00
6	Licenses/GDPR	-	49.99	135.20					185.19	-	100.00
7	Clerk Salary	-	1,723.00	343.20	343.20	343.20	343.20	343.20	3,439.00	-	4,116.00
8	Defrib./Bus Shelter	-	0.00		120.00				120.00	-	150.00
9	Bank charges	-	12.44		18.00			18.00	48.44	-	80.00
10	HMRC Income Tax	-	600.60			258.00			858.60	-	1,032.00
11	Payroll services	-	60.00			60.00			120.00	-	120.00
12	Clerk Expenses	-	0.00		50.00				50.00	-	120.00
13	Amenity etc.	-	1,098.46						1,098.46	-	500.00
14	Insurance	-	267.88						267.88	-	300.00
15	Room Hire	-	248.00						248.00	-	250.00
16	Lengthsman/Other Maint	-	516.00		700.00				1,216.00	-	1,225.00
17	Training/Other Subs	-	0.00						0.00	-	100.00
18	Grants	-	100.00						100.00	-	500.00
19	Remembrance/Other	-	20.00	100.00					120.00	-	500.00
20	Christmas	-	174.45	1,834.16	275.00				2,283.61	-	500.00
Totals:			6,119.55	2,470.50	1,561.64	891.64	398.64	466.64	11,908.61	-	11,058.00

Summary

£

Proposed Budget for 2025-26	11,058
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The difference between the proposed budget of £11,058 and the requested Precept of £9,000 will be made up from the Council's General Reserves and the Council's own income streams, grants etc.

Precept:

Previous Years				
Year	Tax Base	Band D Tax £	Tax Band % Change	Precept £
2019/20	496	16.94		8,400
2020/21	497	16.9	-0.24	8,400
2021/22	502	16.73	-1.01	8,400
2022/23	500	16.80	0.42	8,400
2023/24	500	16.80	0.00	8,400
2024/25	498	16.87	0.42	8,400
2025/26	504	17.86	5.70	9,000

Figure provided by RVBC

Percentage increase.

Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	Banking Considerations
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to consider transferring funds from the current Barclays Business Premium Account to a Unity Trust savings account.

2. Background.

Members are reminded that they have two main deposit accounts, one is held with Unity Trust Bank, this is used on a day-to-day basis to receive, transfer and pay money out. The other account is held with Barclays Bank and is used for the Council's General Reserves. The Barclays account currently has funds of £9,065, is relatively dormant and accrues little interest.

3. Introduction.

For some-time members have discussed transferring funds from the Barclays account to another account. If such a transfer were to take place, it would seem sensible to transfer funds to an account that has Internet access, accrues interest and facilitates the easy transfer of funds to an existing current account.

Unity Trust Bank offer several schemes designed specifical for town and parish councils the main consideration is the level of fund access the Parish Council require see below.

- ✓ 2.96% Interest Rate (as of August 2023)
- ✓ 30 day fixed term (no access)
- ✓ Your money is FSCS protected, up to £85,000

4. Financial Considerations

As at early September 2024 the AER (Annual Equivalent Rate) for instant access was 2.6% and for 30-day access was 2.96%. Unity Bank calculate interest daily and it is paid quarterly.

5. Members are recommended to consider:

- Setting up a new savings accounts.
- The type of account to be setup.

Subject to the above:

- Authorise the Clerk to make the necessary banking arrangements.

Agenda Item 8

For Decision/Discussion

Simonstone Parish Council

Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	Bypass Bid
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to consider approving a document from the 'Bypass Working Group' that considers the impact of the UK's Government housing Growth on traffic in the Ribble Valley. The document is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

2. Members are recommended:

To consider approving the document attached as Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Addendum to ‘Proposed Bypass Road for Read & Simonstone’

The Impact of Housing Growth on Traffic

This addendum addresses the (new) government’s intentions regarding housing growth in the Ribble Valley and the consequential impact of the additional traffic volumes on the A671 Whalley Road through the villages of Read and Simonstone.

The following are extracts from the Ribble Valley District ‘Report to Planning and Development Committee National Planning Policy Framework Changes (Draft)’.

1. For the Ribble Valley the new methodology would require the delivery of 330 dwellings per year compared to the current method which requires the delivery of 113 per year.

2. Building infrastructure to grow the economy 3.37 The proposed changes to the planning system are intended to provide particular support for the following key industries:

- *Laboratories*
- *Gigafactories*
- *Digital Infrastructure*
- *Freight and Logistics*

3. Whilst there is not an extensive amount of designated Green Belt land in the Borough there are areas of the Borough which are designated as Green Belt. These are primarily located along the southern fringe of the borough, including areas south of Mellor, east of Wilpshire, west of Ramsgreave, south and east of Whalley, and south of Read and Simonstone.

The government’s target housing growth, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework, will result in the growth of vehicle volumes on the roads of the Ribble Valley District. Assuming an even geographical distribution of the housing growth, the daily, bothway traffic through the settlements is estimated at 74,000, at the end of a twenty year growth plan. The traffic through Read and Simonstone will be in the region of 17,000 vehicles.

If the housing growth is concentrated into the south and east of the Ribble Valley District then the traffic volumes in Read and Simonstone will be significantly higher, without additional road infrastructure.

The introduction and usage of a bypass road would:

- reduce congestion, pollution, and accidents in the settlement of Read and Simonstone.

- The location of the housing growth toward the south and east of the district would benefit significantly from this road. The road could provide the initial access to the development area.
- The increased traffic volumes on the bypass road resulting from the growth will increase its economic benefit.

The traffic data referenced in this addendum are sourced from UK Government and Lancashire County Council statistics, and published planning documents, including UK Gov National Road Traffic Projections 2022.

The housing statistics in this document refer to growth in the remaining period of the Ribble Valley District planning period ie the remaining twenty years of the 2018 to 2043 planning period. The growth targets are as stated in the government's National Planning Policy Framework. The vehicle traffic statistics are the latest publicly available, and are based on measurements made in 2022.

Housing Growth over the Planning Period

Under the previous government the ONS figures for households in the Ribble Valley District show a growth of 21.4% between 2018 and 2043: an overall increase of +5560 households (+222 per annum).

The target under the new government is a growth of + 330 households per annum, or +6600 over the remaining duration (20 years) of the planning period.

Current Traffic Levels on the A671 Whalley Road

Average daily bothway traffic levels on the A671, through the Read & Simonstone conurbation as measured in 2022, are:

cars 11,178: light goods vehicles 2053: heavy goods vehicles per day 518.

Vehicle Growth over the Planning Period

The data of the LCC Licensed Vehicles 2023 states that there are 42,658 vehicles in the Ribble Valley District, of which 36,239 are cars, 1449 LGV's and 800 HGV's.

Cars per household in the Ribble Valley District number approximately 1.25. Household growth of +330 per annum results in +413 additional cars per annum. Over the remaining +20 years of the planning period this would result in +8260 additional cars; an overall increase of 23% in cars over the remainder of the planning period.

No published figures relating to the growth of LGV and /or HGV vehicle volumes specifically in the Ribble Valley District have been determined.

Increased Daily Traffic Volumes on the A671 Whalley Road

It is assumed that the average daily car traffic in Ribble Valley District will increase from the level at 2022 (11,178) pro rata with the increase in car volumes in the district (+23%), to 13,749 in 2043.

No figures relating specifically to the growth of LGV and /or HGV traffic in the Ribble Valley District have been obtained. However, growth estimates for the traffic on the A roads of the North West of England are available in the UK Gov National Road Traffic Projections 2022, and have been used here to estimate the impact on the LGV traffic on the A671 Whalley Road, through Read and Simonstone.

The traffic data shows that LGV traffic grows by 20% over the twenty year period from 2025 to 2045, (from 1.9bvm to 2.3bvm).

There are currently recruitment drives in progress for HGV drivers in the Ribble Valley. Based on the numbers required a nominal HGV traffic growth of 10% over twenty years has been included.

- Car traffic will increase by 23% to 13,749 over the remainder of the planning period.
- LGV traffic will increase by 21% to 2484 from 2025 to 2045.
- HGV traffic will increase by 10% to 510 to 570 from 2025 to 2045.

Average daily bothway traffic on the A671 Whalley Road will grow to reach the following volumes:

cars 13,749: light goods vehicles 2484: heavy goods vehicles per 570.

Economic Impact of the Growth

On completion of the proposed bypass road the year one savings are calculated to be approximately £2.96m (Attachment 1).

Thereafter there will be annual savings increasing with the per annum traffic growth. The incremental traffic growth and hence savings will be cumulative year on year with the economic savings of £3.67m achievable in year twenty of the Ribble Valley District planning period (Attachment 2).

[illegible]

Bypass/No Bypass Cost Comparisons 2043

[illegible]

Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	VE Day 2025– Planned Activities
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to consider the activities the Parish Council may want to undertake for VE Day 2025.

2. Introduction.

VE Day in 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with two key dates to remember, Thursday 8 May and Friday 15 August.

- Thursday 8 May is Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) – the day the German forces surrendered to the Allied forces.
- Friday 15 August is Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day). This is the day on which Imperial Japan surrendered, in effect bringing World War Two to an end.

To commemorate these two moments in history, cathedrals, churches, local councils and community groups are encouraged to bring people together .

Notes:

- Neither date is currently a national holiday.
- RVBC have yet to announce their plans.

3. Members are recommended:

- a. To consider the activities.
- b. To set a budget for any planned activities.

Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	Public Rights of Way – Access to a footpath on Whins Lane, Simonstone.
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to consider installing a gateway on the footpath to the north of the property on Whins Lane, Simonstone.

2. Introduction:

The Council is aware that the footpath (1210024) has been fenced off. The Council believes it knows the landowner, who in most cases would be the person to apply to LCC requesting a new gate or stile to be installed. Please see below screen shot from LCC's website:

Request authorisation for a new gate or stile on a right of way on your land

Any new structure such as a stile, kissing gate or gate that a land manager erects across a public right of way is an unlawful obstruction (even though it is usable) unless it is either authorised (for stock control) or is legitimately a limitation to the public rights because a similar structure was there at the time the public right of way came into being. A landowner can request authorisation for new gate (a stile would only be agreed in exceptional circumstances) by using the application form below.

A member of the Council has tried to contact who it considers to be the landowner without success.

3. Members are recommended:

To write to who it considers to be the landowner, seeking permission for the Parish Council to restore access to the footpath by installing a gateway at no cost to themselves. Noting that if they are unable to permit the gateway installation, the Council will arrange to restore unhindered access to the footpath.

Agenda Item 12

For Information/Discussion

Simonstone Parish Council

Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	School Footpath
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to consider an issue that has been raised by a parishioner.

2. Introduction:

The Parish Council recently received an email from a parishioner requesting members to consider installing a pathway down the field behind the school.

The parishioner notes:

- That among other benefits, a clear path going from the top of the field to the bottom would stop residents having to go near the main road and direct people away from the busy traffic.
- That grants may be available.
- That other residents some with mobility issues would also appreciate a pathway.

3. Members are recommended:

To consider the issue raised by the parishioner.

Agenda Item 13

For Information

Simonstone Parish Council

Meeting:	14 November 2024
Title:	Updates on Actions from Previous Meetings
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

To update members on actions from recent meetings.

2. Actions from 3 October 2024 – Council Meeting

Minute 241103/	Action	Who	Update
8	Contact the Lengthsman and ask him to trim the shrubbery, prune the trees and when they are delivered, install the festive lights.	Cllr. Duckworth	Complete
11	Present a draft Newsletter to the next Council meeting for consideration.	Cllr. Hampson	?
12a	Stay in dialogue with LCC Highways and the Road Safety Work Group.	Cllr. Hampson	On-going
12b	Present a report to a future meeting of the Parish Council, requesting members to consider the installation of additional Speed Indicator Devices.	Cllr. Hampson	?
13	Purchase a commemorative plaque for the Giant Redwood.	Clerk	Noted

3. Actions from 5 September 2024 – Council Meeting

Minute 240905/	Action	Who	Update
6	b. Change definitions in Website Policy	Clerk	Complete
	c. Send website login credentials to Cllr. Finn and Hampson	Clerk	Complete
7	b. Prepare a Complaints Policy for submission at the next Council meeting	Clerk	Complete
8	b. Make the necessary Unity Bank arrangements for the new councillor authorisations	Clerk	On-going
	c. Look at opening a Unity Bank savings account	Clerk	On-going
10	c. Festive lighting: Check current electrical installation and make the necessary festive arrangements.	Cllrs. Vaughton, Norse and Finn	Complete
11/15	Road safety report to be presented at the October Council meeting.	Cllr. Hampson	?

15	b. Submit a report on a Parish Newsletter to the Council's October meeting	Cllr. Hampson	?
	c. Engage with RVBC and Martholme Greenway on the planting of the Golden Jubilee - Giant Redwood tree.	Cllr. Pollard	Complete

4. Actions from 11 July 2024 – Council Meeting.

Minute 240711/	Action	Who	Update
11	b. Approach Huntroyde Estate to see if they would allow the Council make repairs to footpaths and gates on their estate.	Cllr. Pollard and Duckworth	Agreement in principle
	c. Approach the LCC PROW office for advice as to whether LCC would offer additional funding for repairs.	Clerk	Complete and waiting
	d. Contact Law Farm and see if they have any objection to the Council raising the surface level at the Tennis Club 'Kissing Gates' to alleviate the flooding problem.	Cllr. Pollard and Duckworth	Complete. Waiting on LCC
14	Add item to November's agenda on VE Celebrations	Clerk	Complete

5. Actions from 09/05/2024 - Council Meeting:

Minute 240509/	Action	Who	Update
4	a. Review issues submitted to the Road Safety Working Group, see if they can be re-prioritised/updated, to included measures to mitigate the road safety issues faced by pupils.	Cllr. Hampson	?
	b. Upload the 2024 Bypass Funding Bid to the Parish Council Website and provide links to it from the Council's social media channels.	Cllr. Hampson	Complete
6	a. Implement a new website and bespoke email addresses	Clerk	Complete
	b. Amend the Council's budget to cover the annual cost of above	Clerk	Complete
7	a. Start the switching process to Unity Trust Bank	Clerk	Complete
8	a. Accept the offer of a Giant Redwood and inform RVBC.	Clerk	Complete
	b. Consult with landowners and confirm to the clerk a preferred location for the Giant Redwood.	Members	Complete
9	a. Provide a suitable 'Current Financial Status' question to Cllr. Hampson, for inclusion into the Grant Application Form.	Cllr. Peat	Complete
	c. A revised Application Form and Grant Policy to be submitted to a future meeting of the Parish Council.	Clerk	Complete
	d. The Clerk will inform Easi-Beats on the status of their application.	Clerk	Complete
10	b. Place order for new bench with Ark Plastics	Clerk	Complete
	c. Contact Ark Plastics re an amendment to the engraved text	Cllr. Pollard	Complete

	d. Liaise on the proposed location of the new bench	Cllr. Pollard and Clerk	Complete
11	Contact RVBC regarding larger bins for the laybys on the A671 and an additional bin at Whins Lane.	Clerk	Complete
12	Inform LCC that the Parish Council is considering two locations within the parish for EV charging points.	Clerk	Complete
14	b. Find quotes for installation, and storage of the lights.	Cllrs. Vaughton and Norse	Complete
	c. Look at available grants for festive lights		?
15	Contact Sabden Parish Council regarding the Council's actual expenditure so far this year.	Cllr. Duckworth	Complete
18	Contact RVBC and LCC regarding scope for mowing/grass-cutting scheduled for May/early June being put back to later in the year.	Clerk	Complete
21	Add PROW and Kissing Gates as an Agenda Item to a future meeting of the Parish Council.	Clerk	Complete.
22	a. Contact LCC regarding the cleaning of bus shelters.	Clerk	Ongoing
	b. Contact the landowners where the locations for the Safe Lane Signs have been identified.	Clerk	Complete

6. Actions from 30/05/2024 - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council:

Minute 240530/	Action	Who	Update
9	a. Contact Cllr. Mirfin regarding the use of Roadside Variable Message signs for use by the Parish Council.	Clerk	Complete and waiting
	b. Contact Parish Lengthsman regarding the disused SpID on Harewood Avenue.	Cllr. Pollard	Complete
15	a. Organise a lamp lightening ceremony at the Parish Green.	Cllr. Hampson	Complete
	b. Write a suitable letter to Lancashire's Beacon Champion.	Cllr. Hampson	Complete
16	a. Ask the Parish Lengthsman to examine the status of the SpID, to see if it can be brought back into serviceable use.	Cllr. Pollard	Complete
	b. Find out what happened to the 'second SpID'.	Cllr. Pollard and Duckworth	Complete

7. Members are recommended:

To note the report, the ongoing actions and actions not yet completed.

Agenda Item 14

For Information

Simonstone Parish Council

Meeting:	14 November 2024
Title:	Planning Report
Submitted by:	Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report.

To inform Members of planning matters since the last Council meeting that relate to Simonstone.

Members are reminded that the weekly and decided lists of planning applications are available to view on the RVBC website: https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/weekly_lists

Please note the following types of applications are not for consultation and are therefore excluded from the lists below: *Agricultural Determinations, Discharge of Conditions, Certificates of Lawfulness, Observations to another authority and Screening Options.*

2. Applications received by RVBC since the last Council Meeting.

Note. For most applications, RVBC's Planning Department email a letter to the Parish Clerk requesting comments by a certain date. These comments will be collated by Councillors Duckworth and McKelvey, who will submit them to RVBC.

Application:	3/2024/0801 – 25 October
Proposal:	Retention of 2m high boundary fence.
Location:	2 Woodside Road Simonstone BB12 7J
Link:	Planning Application - Ribble Valley Borough Council
Considerations:	

Application:	3/2024/0785 – 1 November
Proposal:	Demolition of conservatory, and single storey side extension, and construction of single-storey extension to rear and two-storey extension to side.
Location:	2 Lane Ends Simonstone Road Sabden BB7 9EZ
Link:	Planning Application - Ribble Valley Borough Council
Considerations:	

3. Applications approved by RVBC since the last Council Meeting.

Application:	3/2024/0669 – 13 September
Proposal:	Prune T2 Beech Tree, T5 Oak Tree, G1 Hazel, G2 and Fell T3 Cedar Tree, T4 Sycamore Tree, T7 Cypress Tree, T8, Ash Tree,T9 Plum Tree, T10 Ash Tree.
Location:	Trapp Forge Trapp Lane Simonstone BB12 7QW
Link:	Planning Application - Ribble Valley Borough Council
Decision:	Approved with Conditions

4. Status of recently approved applications.

Note: The Status of an approved application is based on information provided by Council Members from their observations and submitted to the Clerk for submission at Council meetings.

21 June 2024:

3/2024/0288	Simonstone Applications for full consent	Grid Reference 377356 434465
Decision Date: 21/06/2024	Development Address: Stoneroyd Haugh Avenue Simonstone BB12 7HZ	Development Description: Proposed demolition of existing garage and utility room, erection of single-storey extension to rear and attached double garage to side, creation of new access/ driveway with new gates and provision of new railing to boundary wall along Haugh Avenue frontage.
Officer: Decision Type:	Emily Pickup APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS	

Status:

5. Members are recommended:

- a. To note the contents of the report.
- b. Set out any actions relating to the planning matters mentioned.

Meeting Date:	14 November 2024
Title:	Councillor Reports
Submitted by:	Council Members – Collated by the Clerk

1. Purpose of the report.

For members to consider the Reports submitted by Parish Councillors.

2. Councillor Reports:

Appendix 1 - Councillor Duckworth.

Appendix 2 – Borough Councillor Peplow

3. Members are recommended:

To consider the reports.

Public Rights of Way and Lengthsman Scheme

1. PRow:

- Flooded pathways:
FP1209007 & FP1210036 reported to PRow Team. Inspection by Team to be scheduled. Lengthsman to draft a potential solution for the area at Trapp Lane summit (FP1210036).
- No access to pathway:
FP1210024 fenced off near the property named 'Whinsfield'. Unable to contact the landowner. Requested a letter (by Clerk) for permission to install a gate.

2. SpID Deployment:

SPiD moved as requested.

3. Lengthsman Scheme:

Christmas lights:

- All preparatory work completed as requested: trim shrubbery; prune trees.
- Lights installation awaiting lights.
Cost estimate £360 to be approved.

Parish Garden:

- Cut grass
Cost £126

Bench sanding and varnishing:

- Both benches completed as requested and back in situ.
Cost £360.

-oOo-

Appendix 2

Borough Councillor Malcolm Peplow.

We held our most recent Councillor Drop-in Session here on 26th October.

Councillor McCrum played a key part in getting climate awareness training offered to all councillors and key officers through the Council's Climate Change Working Group. This training took place on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th November and the vast majority of Councillors attending said they found it very interesting and informative. Councillors were very well engaged and I'm sure this will enable a lot of positive work to be started to reduce the Council's and wider Borough's carbon dioxide emissions that probably otherwise wouldn't have happened anywhere near as quickly. I think this is a major cross-party collaboration that will benefit the whole Borough.

We have been receiving reports of notices being put up on lamp posts by a broadband company called IX Wireless giving the proposed locations of metal telegraph-style posts to transmit 1GB broadband around the village. Under permitted development (Ofcom is the supervisory body), this company has the power to erect poles up to 15 metres (50ft) high outside residents' homes on footpaths and verges with the potential to cause a permanent change to the view from their properties. Ribble Valley Borough Council was not consulted and has to the best of my knowledge had no warning of the works or information regarding their location / scope. I have nevertheless contacted Ribble Valley Borough Council's Chair of Planning and Solicitor to ask what, if anything, the Council can do to inform and support residents, I have written to Jonathan Hinder MP about this matter asking for the Government to tighten up the rules on broadband and other similar private utility firms. IX Wireless has installed similar poles in other areas including Blackburn with Darwen and Oldham. Oldham Council (a Highways Authority) stopped IX Wireless's work on safety grounds and only allowed it to recommence when a safe working method on its highways including footpaths and verges had been approved and implemented.

I have included an article on this IX Wireless work in our next Green View Newsletter which is being delivered from later this week including contact details for different types of query or complaint which I have summarised below:

Queries or complaints about proposed locations of poles:

Email: IXWBuild.co.uk or tel. 01254 405000 (10am to 5pm)

Complaints about safety or quality of work when works are being undertaken / completed:

Lancashire County Council Highways

Tel: 0300 123 6780

County Councillor Gerald Mirfin

Mobile: 07890 025766

Email: Gerald.Mirfin@lancashire.gov.uk

Requests to tighten the law covering broadband firms:

Jonathan Hinder MP

Email: jonathan.hinder.mp@parliament.uk

Thanks to Councillor McCrum's persistence, a tarmac hard standing has been provided in the soft verge for the recently reinstated Clough Lane bus stop on the south side of the A671.

The damaged grit bin on Fountains Avenue has now been renewed following my report to Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways.

I have reported that the flashing amber warning lights below the school children crossing signs on the A671 have been out of action for months again and that these are repaired urgently now that we are back into much shorter hours of daylight.

Borough Councillor Malcolm Peplow.

I have also chased up LCC Highways regarding overgrown hedges along Simonstone Lane causing a serious hazard for pedestrians following my report on the Love Clean Streets app in August, further reports from affected residents and no action having being taken. The Highways District Lead Officer is aware and chasing the job up.

Councillor Malcolm Peplow

12th November 2024