

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Date:	03 September 2026		
Place:	St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone		
Present:	Councillors: D. Peat (Chair), C. Pollard, M. Vaughton, J. Hampson, R. McKelvey, S. Finn, J Barker.		
In attendance:	Clerk to the Council (Dr A Haines), Ian Wright from Treescapes		
Meeting started:	19:15	Meeting closed:	21:00

2603090/

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Accepted: Cllr Malcolm Peplow, Cllr Duckworth

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2026.

Approved & signed by Cllr David Peat as a correct record.

Cllr Hampson thanked the clerk for the quality of the minutes.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2026 & CONFIRM THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER TO RVBC.

Approved & signed by Cllr David Peat as a correct record.

Amendments suggested by Cllr Hampson:

Item 4, 2nd bullet: Cllr Hampson didn't ask for SPC decision to be postponed, she suggested that Ribble Valley Borough Council should postpone their decision, although accepted SPC would make a decision.

Contents of the RVBC letter:

First letter – summary of bullet points.

Second letter – more comprehensive.

Cllr McKelvey – previously asked if the original email could be redistributed and wanted sight of the 2016 response by SPC to that planning application. Also commented that point 9 (burial ground) was quite specific to Read and didn't affect SPC. However, if other councillors want to keep this in, happy to accept letter. Cllr Hampson was simply trying to reflect as many views from the meeting as possible in the second draft letter.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of sending the second letter, to be sent from Simonstone Parish Council on letterheaded paper.

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

The clerk declared an interest in item 24/26.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

6. SIGNING OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY DR JOHN BARKER.

Signed by Dr John Barker as a correct record.

7. FINANCE REPORT.

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

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Approve the accounts to date.
- b. Approve the Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments, Schedule of Payments for July-August 2026, and receipts for period 1st April-30th August 2026.

8. CHRISTMAS PREPARATION: SENIOR CITIZENS MEAL AND LIGHT SWITCH ON

Discussion on plans for both events and suggestions for new light purchases.

Cllr Vaughton went to the Higher Trapp – event will be held here on Tuesday 1st December subject to agreement by SPC. Assurance on quality of meal at same price of £23 – SPC will pay £11.50 and £11.50 for residents. If date is agreed Cllr Vaughton will go ahead and make invites.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Accept date and prices
- b. Cllr Vaughton can proceed with arrangements, SPC will pay £50 deposit

9. PRELIMINARY BUDGET PREPARATION

The clerk submitted a report presenting recommended items to consider for 2027/28 budget including recommendations from LALC following LGR, to be finalised in November meeting.

SPC don't have any assets owned by RVBC (confirmed by RVBC) so this is not an issue.

27/28 is a shadow year so we can assume that funding streams should carry on. The issue may be 28-29.

Transitional grey areas – unavoidable.

Clerk outlined SPC's financial reserves at present.

Whalley Parish Council have approximately £5000 set aside for grants, we have £500 set aside. However, Whalley have a much larger precept.

When we discuss this in November, Cllr Hampson is interested in asking residents about doing a traffic survey on speed and weight of traffic, in four separate areas at a cost of £500 each. We should factor into the precept the potential to self-fund this.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Put speed monitoring on the agenda for November.

10. REMEMBRANCE DAY PREPARATIONS

Discussion on the preparations for 2026 Remembrance Service set for 8th November at St Peter's for about 11.45 following the wreath (including purple poppy wreath) laying at St John's. The clerk passed on thanks from Andrea Townsend to SPC for the purchase of a purple poppy wreath.

Three wreaths to be laid. Cllr Hampson asked one of the veterans present to lay a wreath last year.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Take a photograph of the wreaths laid to share on the website and Facebook.

11. OVERGROWN HEDGE NOTICE

The clerk submitted a report on the current overgrown hedge notice and discussion on how to distribute.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Letter to be sent to properties identified. Any further properties should be directed to the clerk.

12. NEWSLETTER

Cllr Vaughton submitted a draft newsletter for council approval.

Include in newsletter school transport costs, subject to 10-day deadline, for Cllr Vaughton to compile material.

The Martholme Greenway are running a drystone walling course, Cllr Pollard will send information to Cllr Vaughton.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Approve the newsletter with extra additions. Newsletter to be sent out via Facebook and noticeboards.

13. SOCIAL MEDIA PPOLICY

The clerk submitted a report outlining the finalised draft (incorporating changes recommended in July meeting) of Social Media Policy for approval.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Approve the policy and put on parish council website.

14. RISK ASSESMENT POLICY AND REGISTER

The clerk submitted a report outlining the draft Risk Assessment Policy and Register.

Cllr Duckworth commented via email that the school footpath risk assessment should be added to risk register. Cllr Peat highlighted that this is the responsibility of LCC.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Approve the policy and put on parish council website.

15. BLOCKED GULLIES AND WEEDS IN SIMONSTONE

The clerk submitted a report detailing complaints received from a resident regarding this issue.

Grids outside houses are very blocked; however, it looks like these have been cleared now. Cllr Hampson has reported different gullies in the past using the LoveCleanStreets app and they have been cleared. Cllr Pollard has also reported blocked gullies and these haven't been dealt with.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: respond to any further complaints by informing residents to use the LoveCleanStreets app and thank residents for being vigilant.

16. LAMPLIGHT PROCEEDINGS

Verbal report from Cllr Hampson seeking confirmation on the proceedings of the lamplight event.

Cllr Hampson has spoken with the Stork pub and Rev Sue and has put a plan together. Cllr Hampson distributed proposed plan among members at the meeting. The Stork Pub have suggested getting numbers together and have said they may put on a buffet. Recommend people to gather at the Stork first. If weather is bad there can be a back-up plan to be held at the Stork. No financial obligation for SPC. Could ask for nominations for people to light the lamp on Facebook and in Newsletter. If there are more than one person interested, some people could read prayers. It would be a nice touch for a veteran to light the lamp.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Put a paragraph in newsletter and on Facebook, asking for nominations for people to light the lamp.

17. SCHOOL TRANSPORT COSTS

Verbal report from Cllr Hampson following correspondence with parish.

Cllr Hampson has shared a draft Facebook announcement requesting Simonstone Parish families feedback on the cost of school transport with members at the meeting. This draft includes Ribblesdale and Clitheroe Grammar Schools but doesn't include St Augustine's. This should be included.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Cllr Hampson to post the announcement.

18. LALC INVOICE:

Discussion on the payment of the LALC invoice lead by Cllr Hampson.

LALC area secretary money gets put to one side if there isn't a secretary in post. Membership of LALC runs from July to August, yet we have to give notice by March 2026 that we aren't continuing (and haven't done this year), so we are legally obliged to pay 26/27 invoice. Cllr Hampson has come off the LALC finance committee. Cllr Peat is concerned that we are paying for a secretary that we aren't getting.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Cllr Peat proposed that we pay the subscription but say that we aren't happy that in the invoice we are paying for a service that we aren't receiving. In November meeting, diarise the LALC new structure.

19. PARISH PLAN OF ACTION:

SPC representatives at the surgery meeting on the 10th September: Cllr Duckworth is attending, Cllr McKelvey can attend as a non-member of Whalley Practice.

20. MICROFOREST PROPOSAL:

The clerk submitted a report on the outcome of the Treescapes meeting and the proposed site for a microforest within SPC.

Ian Wright, community engagement officer from Treescapes since 2023, attended the meeting and spoke about this project. He has met a number of councillors previously. The remit of treescapes is to plant trees, new hedgerows, etc where they don't exist, or do exist but need some encouragement.

Ian discussed his career background prior to working for Treescapes and has a lot of experience with conservation and nature projects.

Since 2023, the team have been pulling in funding to plant 43 Miyawaki Forests. These are miniature native woodlands planted at high density (roughly the size of a tennis court) usually planted in field corners incorporating hedgerows. They lend themselves perfectly because of their scale to green spaces like school playing fields, etc. Don't plant in areas already thriving with wildlife, but in places with real life challenges such as difficulty mowing, areas of wildlife decline, etc. Planted at high density as this mimics nature, where pioneering species create dense thickets, which are better for wildlife as small young trees support vast numbers of invertebrates that provide food for mammals. Also plant climax community of trees that will form finished forest, such as oaks.

Treescapes have already planted three forests within the Ribble Valley. They have succeeded in getting grant funding for planting a forest within every district within Lancashire. They are looking to come to this end of the Ribble Valley following conversations with members of SPC. This would sit nicely between nearby forests in surrounding areas.

Following the site visit, the grass side area by Stork car park is the preferred location for a potential microforest. Carried out a site visit in July, and this site really stood out as a ideal site. Could deal with pollution from road. Ian's opinion – a microforest in the corner by the large green bush. Cllr McKelvey pointed out that there are daffodils here.

Further sites considered:

- Site of old school field – far corner where there is a ditch in front of where residents are building fence.
- Also looked at field next to school and parish gardens. Found 2 springs here and this can make life difficult.
- Site up the hill on the field – potential legal snag – black hold in land registry. Permission of landowner must be sought.

SPC requirements at this point – agree to go ahead. Land by the Stork – this is not owned by SPC. If starting to plant anything like this, must have residents on board.

Ian – can look into the ownership. All planting that has taken place has been done alongside members of the community.

Cllr Hampson has spoken with a member of Readstone Environment Group, and they would be keen to be involved to assist if project went ahead.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: permit Ian to go ahead and gather correct information regarding land ownership of the field opposite the Stork.

21. HGVS USING SIMONSTONE LANE

The clerk submitted a report outlining correspondence from Highways on the matter.

Have had an endless stream of correspondence on this. We are not asking for agricultural to cease, this is unrealistic. HGV's can legitimately be on Simonstone Lane if they are dropping off or picking up. To police this we would need to coordinate parking at the top and bottom and tracking if vehicles stop. Cllr Hampson can write to Garmin and show how many heavy vehicles there are using this route and advise that these vehicles can't be using this route.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: (i) Need to write to Cllr Mirfin and say that we are disappointed that he didn't make an appearance at the meeting to discuss this. Cllr Peat will send this to Stephen Atkinson.

(ii) Put letter from Matt Townsend on the parish council website informing residents what the considered response of LCC is on the matter.

22. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The clerk submitted a report outlining options to upgrade our current website.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Send Chairmans medal coat of arms to Easyweb as suggestion for logo as symbol for Simonstone PC/ask Chat GPT to create a logo based on this. Cllr Hampson has sent a link to a google drive document of Simonstone images. Pick a few out and send to Easyweb.

23. SHARED PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Discussion led by Cllr Hampson.

Cllr Hampson has raised an objection to the clerk sending emails collectively to Read Parish Council and Simonstone Parish Council on shared parish matters, such as the shared parish mobile phone. The members of the Parish Council expressed their disappointment that Cllr Hampson felt she had to go to Jenny Martin from RVBC directly on this matter before discussing with the Parish council first. Cllr Hampson said that she had raised this issue already with the clerk. The clerk, however, was unaware of this matter being a concern to Cllr Hampson until she was informed following discussion with RVBC.

As far as Cllr McKelvey is concerned, the matters that have been discussed in shared parish communications are items we work together on as neighbouring parish councils anyway, and shared correspondence is both cost and time effective. It is working more efficiently and effectively and therefore not a problem. It is important that members understand that there are certain things that are common to both parishes and can be shared, and certain issues, such as setting the precept, need discussing separately.

The clerk highlighted that at no point had she shared laptop costings between parish councils as stated by Cllr Hampson in her email correspondence with Jenny Martin. The clerk asked Cllr Hampson to formally retract this statement. Cllr Hampson did not comment.

24. CLERK CILCA TRAINING

Discussion led by Cllr Hampson. Cllr Hampson has spoken to Jess Dibble regarding CILCA training who has suggested that the workload for this should not be too onerous. Cllr Hampson feels that it would be beneficial for this training to be undertaken sooner rather than later.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: have agreed at the last meeting that CILCA training would be pushed back to next year.

25. DISCUSSION ON CONTENT AND SCOPE OF PARISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH.

SPC already put information on websites, Facebook, newsletters and parish council noticeboard. In the past we used to post out newsletters through letterboxes.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Put on the agenda for November.

26. CLERK SALARY

The clerk submitted a report detailing pay scale uplift for 2026/27.

The clerk left the room during this item.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Agreed to pay scale uplift and scale point increase.

27. ROAD CROSSING POSITIONS

Cllr Hampson shared the proposed road crossing positions with the council via email just before the meeting.

In the highways response to planning application at Hammond Ground, it was highlighted that the proposed road junction to the development is completely inadequate. Requires signalled pedestrian crossing and other infrastructure. This gives SPC a perfect opportunity to state that we have hundreds of houses but no pedestrian crossing across Whalley Road as it is. Furthermore, the additional traffic generated by the Hammond Ground development exerts further demand for a crossing here. Planning permission for the development should include support for a pedestrian within Simonstone.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: put on the agenda for November, send any questions on the road crossing report to Cllr Hampson before October.

28. SCHOOL FOOTPATH

The clerk submitted a report summarising the DMMO application progress – the DMMO application has been submitted, and landowners have been formally notified.

29. SHARED CALENDAR

The clerk submitted a report sharing the calendar and offering councillors the opportunity to add items.

30. BYPASS BID

No meeting held, therefore no report.

31. LGR OUTCOME

Report from the clerk outlining the final LGR decision & subsequent electoral guidance for 2027. Cllr Peplow has covered a lot of the implications in his Borough Councillor Report. Elections next May 2027 for 5 years. It would make sense for Read, Simonstone, Whalley and Sabden to be a single unit. Mair Hill has said in the past that it costs £50,000 to carry out a consultation on local boundaries. At next meeting, need to think seriously about inviting people to attend future meetings and see how they run/become involved. Owe it to electors to keep things going to the end.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Cllr Hampson will put together a graphic on ChatGPT and share via email to invite people to next meeting.

32. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS: NONE

33. 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

1 application received:

Planning Application No: 3/2026/0496

Grid Ref: 377190 434613

Proposal: Proposed rear dormer and erection of a garden room.

Location: Casa Mia 8 Beauley Avenue Simonstone BB12 7HU

Responses on 7th August 2026: no objections

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report and respond to planning department with comments.

34. CRIME FIGURES.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on the latest crime statistics up to July 2026 as provided by PCSO Katie Ferguson.

July: Assault x 1, Road related offence x 4 (1 x Vehicle obstruction, 1 x nuisance motorbikes (apparently e bikes that maybe belong to someone on Hambledon View but I'm yet to find out who), 1 x unfit to drive through drink or drugs, 1 x drive using mobile phone), RTC x 3 damage only, Criminal damage to vehicle x 1.

Cllr Peat received an email from PCSO regarding 2 people on an e bike trying car doors. Clerk has sent CCTV footage to PCSO showing persons on e-bike at the Whalley Road/Simonstone Junction at 22.50 and 11.08 pm approximately.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Put a notice on website asking residents for footage that can be passed on to PCSO.

Note the report (Crime figures spreadsheet in Appendix II).

35. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Bill from handyman for bench on River Calder. Quote was for £200, bill has come in at £257. Extra costs due to ground being full of stone. Agreed to pay for extra few hours work but need to say in future a quote is a quote.

The tree in Gooseleach woods for planted for the centenary has reached top of netting and is now being grazed by deer. It was agreed to order a tree guard, and, when in place, take photos.

Duncan Armstrong has prepared a report on the buses going through the village. Instead of having a bus every half an hour, he has suggested rerouting a different service to the village and reducing the M2 to an hourly service. SPC feel that this is a major trunk service and needs to remain every half an hour.

Black and white painted fingerpost needs refurbishing. Cllr Pollard to say we are prepared to pay £150 to have this repainted.

Quotes sought for overhanging hedges, one received for £200 so far. SPC will permit work to go ahead following further quote with confirmation via email.

Scout hut grant application: SPC have received a grant application, along with the Scout Group's incomings and outgoings, for a new Scout hut. The Scout Group haven't raised subscriptions for 11 years. They currently pay £150 a month at the moment for a storage container. The Scout Group is a valuable village asset for young people; they get involved in Remembrance Day and other local events. All councillors were in favour of providing the grant for £500. Cllr Hampson said that most members present couldn't vote on this matter as they have an interest in the Village Hall. This was overruled as no one declared an interest in being involved in the Scout Group.

36. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Full report in Appendix iii.

37. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA.

1. Christmas preparation – meal and light switch on
2. Budget and precept
3. Remembrance Day
4. Dates for next year's meetings
5. Donations
6. Parish Plan Action Plan
7. Miyawaki Forest
8. Bypass bid
9. Councillor's elections
10. School transport costs
11. Speed monitoring
12. LALC new structure
13. Content and scope of parish communications

Future Meetings 2026: 5 November 2026, 7 January 2027

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Agree that the next meeting would take place on 5 November 2026.

Dr Anna Haines

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Simonstone Parish Council.

Appendix I: Finance Report July-August 2026

July & August 2026 Account reporting		
Payments		
Date	Item	Amount
01/07/26	Easy Websites	£ 62.04
02/07/26	SPC contribution to RPC for SLCC membership	£ 155.00
09/07/26	BP to Anna Haines contribution towards Samsung Galaxy	£ 62.49
10/07/26	BP to Anna Haines SMARTY mobile phone SIM	£ 3.00
15/07/26	Clerk salary July 26	£ 440.50
16/07/26	USE IT computers 52444	£ 19.56
16/07/26	USE IT computers 52276	£ 4.20
16/07/26	DM Payroll services	£ 79.20
20/07/26	BP to clerk for postage	£ 8.73
31/07/26	Bank service charge	£ 7.00
01/08/26	Easy Websites	£ 64.68
14/08/26	USE IT computers 52943	£ 22.07
14/08/26	USE IT computers 52800	£ 4.20
17/08/26	Clerk salary August 26	£ 440.50
19/08/26	Purple poppy wreath	£ 27.50
31/08/26	Bank service charge	£ 7.00
Total		£ 1,407.67
Receipts		
Date	Item	Amount
15/07/26	SMARTY SIM reimbursed A Haines	£ 3.00
Total		£ 3.00
Bank accounts		
	Unity Current:	£ 1,175.49
	Unity Savings:	£ 14,685.48
	Total	£ 15,860.97
	Balance brought forward	£ 17,265.64
	Difference from previous month	-£ 1,404.67
Bank reconciliation		
Receipts - Payments		-£ 1,404.67
Difference from previous month		-£ 1,404.67
Do these amounts match?		YES

		Actual Income													
	Stream	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Total	
RVBC Precept	Precept	9,500.00												9,500.00	
HMRC VAT Return	VAT Repay	1,134.71												1,134.71	
RVBC Grants	Grants	1,000.00												1,000.00	
Concurrent Funding	Grants													0.00	
Other Grants	Grants													0.00	
Bank interest	Bank			71.98										71.98	
Tax rebate/refund	Rebates, refunds and switches	387.84			3.00									390.84	
Account switch	Rebates, refunds and switches													0.00	
Totals:		12,022.55	0.00	71.98	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,097.53	

			Actual Expenditure														
		Stream	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Total	Budget	Rem.
Clerk Salary	Admin. Exp.	402.90	461.70	456.90	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	440.50	5,286.00	5,709.99	423.99
HMRC Income Tax	Admin. Exp.			10.56			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	80.56	149.50	68.94
Clerk Expenses	Admin. Exp.	2.19	3.48	14.70	8.73		15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	134.10	150.00	15.90
Payroll services	Admin. Exp.				79.20				79.20						158.40	149.47	-8.93
Use-It	Admin. Exp.	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	26.27	26.27	26.27	26.27	26.27	26.27	26.27	26.27	26.27	305.20	382.48	77.28
Easy Web/web site	Admin. Exp.	62.04	62.04	62.04	62.04	64.68	64.68	64.68	64.68	64.68	64.68	64.68	64.68	64.68	765.60	690.56	-75.04
Training	Admin. Exp.	20.00													20.00	259.11	239.11
Audit	Admin. Exp.	125.00													125.00	125.00	0.00
Lisence fees/subscriptions	Admin. Exp.	52.00			155.00			248.48							455.48	51.90	-403.58
Insurance	Admin. Exp.		279.55												279.55	243.53	-36.02
Bank charges	Admin. Exp.	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	84.00	74.00	-10.00
Room Hire	Admin. Exp.		200.00												200.00	250.00	50.00
Other admin	Admin. Exp.				65.49		6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	107.49	200.00	92.51
RVBC Bins	Amenity Exp.														0.00	561.34	561.34
Lengthsman/Other Maint	Amenity Exp.														0.00	1500	1,500.00
Defrib./Bus Shelter	Amenity Exp.	60.00						60.00							120.00	386.03	266.03
Other amenity	Amenity Exp.														0.00	155.7	155.70
Grants/contributions	Sundry Exp.		375.00												375.00	500	125.00
Remembrance/Other	Sundry Exp.					27.50									27.50	200	172.50
Christmas	Sundry Exp.														0.00	500	500.00
Totals:		754.89	1,412.53	574.96	841.72	565.95	569.45	877.93	648.65	569.45	569.45	569.45	569.45	569.45	8,523.88	12,238.61	3,714.73

Appendix II

The table below shows the crime statistics for various months. The category previously listed as 'road' has been split into 'road-related offence' and 'road traffic collision'.

Period	Category													Total
	Burglary	Drugs	TFV	Road-related offence	Road traffic collision	Robbery	Theft	DTV	Assault	ASB	Public order offence	CD	Other	
August '26														
July '26				4	3				1			1		9
June '26			1	1	3			1	2				1	9
May '26		1		6	3			1	2	8				21
April '26				3	2			1		1				7
Mar '26			2	4	2				1					9
Feb '26			1	1	1		1				1			5
Jan '26	1			1	2		2		1	4		1		12
Dec. '25	2				3		1		1	1				8
Nov. '25					3		1		2	0	1	2		9
Oct. '25	1			1	1				4			1		8
Sept. '25	1		1	1			1		1			1		6
August '25	1			1	1		4		1	1		2	1	12
July '25		1	1		1				1					4
June '25				3	1		2		2					8
May '25	1			1	5		1		3					11
April '25				2	3		1			4				10
March '25			1	4	1					4				10
Feb. '25			1	2	2		1							6
January '25								1	2	1				4
Dec.'24		1		1	4		1							7
Nov. '24				3						1				4
October '24				2	3		1			1		2		9
Sept.'24								1	1			1		3
August '24				4				1						5
June'24							1			4				5
April '24	2	1	1											4
October '23	1			1		1	2							5
August '23				1			1	1						3
July '23	1		1				2	2	1	1				8
June '23	1						1		3				1	6
May '23	1		1						1	2		1		6
Total:	13	4	11	47	44	1	24	9	30	33	2	12	3	233

Table Key: TFV = Theft from Vehicle. DTV= Damage to Vehicle. ASB = Anti- Social Behaviour . CD Criminal Damage

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL ON 03 SEPTEMBER 2026.

Firstly, regarding Planning Application Ref: 3/2026/0356 to build 77 houses on Hammond Ground.

My online comments were anonymised when the Council uploaded them, so I reproduced them in my previous report to Simonstone Parish Council in July so that Ward residents knew what I said. There was a typo in paragraph 7. which I spotted and corrected in the version uploaded to the Council website. I have reproduced the amended paragraph below for accuracy:

7. Read residents report that during times of prolonged heavy rainfall, the manhole cover to the mains sewer running along the A671 already lifts and overflows and that surface water ponds in the southwest corner of the Hammond Ground site and runs across the A671 when it rises above footpath level, affecting traffic safety. The proposed development appears to rely on the existing mains surface water drains and sewers which are already failing during flood conditions. Although the installation of an attenuation basin has been included to the southwest of Hammond Ground in the proposed plans, The risk of this backing up, overtopping and causing a major flood across the A671 is high. In my opinion, even with a SUDS scheme, the development risks creating an unacceptable risk of flooding and breaching POLICY DME6 – WATER MANAGEMENT (10.17) due to the inadequacy of the existing infrastructure.

It remains my intention to attend the Planning & Development Committee Meeting when this planning application comes before it and to request to address the committee for five minutes so that I can speak against the application and ask for planning permission to be refused. It may well come before the Committee on 24 September at 6.30pm so we all need to remain vigilant as to the date but there is now also a significant chance that it will be delayed further as Council Planning Officers re-evaluate the application following the Governments unexpectedly early publication of a further revision to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which tips the tilted balance test even further in favour of house builders than the previous document. I hope that as many concerned residents as possible attend the public gallery for this meeting when we have a confirmed date to show the strength of feeling against this application.

I would urge Simonstone Parish Council to submit its comments on this planning application to Ribble Valley Borough Council as soon as possible if it hasn't already done so. Even though the indicative deadline for submitting comments was noted as 30 June 2026, my understanding from Planning officers is that comments can still be submitted up until the point that Planning Officers have determined their recommendation to the Planning Committee which has not happened yet. I hope very much that this Parish Council will object to this application in the strongest terms as I consider the substantial harms this development would cause will greatly affect both villages. In my opinion, the majority of these houses are the wrong type, in the wrong place at the wrong price for local people, with the exception of the 30% affordable units proposed which are still in the wrong place.

We now have much greater clarity on local government reorganisation in Lancashire. Ribble Valley Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Preston City Council and Lancashire County Council will cease to exist on 31 March 2028 and will be replaced by a new unitary council covering the former Lancaster, Preston and Ribble Valley Council areas and coming into force on 1st April 2028 ('Vesting Day'). This new Council will deliver the full range of local services (a 'one-stop-shop'). The Ribble Valley area will elect 14 councillors to the 'Shadow Authority' in May 2027, enabling nearly a year of administrative overlap before the new unitary council goes live on 1 April 2028. Existing Ribble Valley Borough Councillors including me and Gaye will have our terms extended

without re-election from May 2027 until 31 March 2028 to ensure that the Council's business can be wound up smoothly by that date. From 1 April 2028, the 14 councillors elected in May 2027 will be doing the workload of the 44 Borough and 4 County Councillors previously representing the people of the Ribble Valley area, in my view a huge reduction in local democratic representation. There remains a disagreement over the new Council's name which was required to be unanimously supported by all four councils it is replacing. The provisional name of 'North Lancashire Council' was not supported by Lancaster, Preston and Ribble Valley councils which all preferred 'Lancaster, Preston and Ribble Valley Council' as it name-checks each area to maintain their identities. Unfortunately, Lancashire County Council has not agreed this name, preferring 'Lancashire' to remain in its title. This matter has been referred to the Government Minister for a decision which we await.

The burnt-out camper van in the Blackhill Quarry just over the Ward boundary in Sabden was finally removed albeit a few weeks later than expected in my last report.

Our next Councillor Drop-in Session is in the Hub Room at Read & Simonstone Village Hall on Wednesday 30 September from 10-11am.

Councillor Malcolm Peplow

1 September 2026