

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Date:	04 September 2025		
Place:	St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone		
Present:	Councillors: D. Peat, A. Duckworth, C. Pollard, M. Vaughton, J Hampson		
In attendance:	Clerk to the Council (Dr A Haines).		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	20:40

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were accepted from Borough Councillor M. Peplow and Councillors S. Finn & R. McKelvey.

Absent: Cllr Greera Norse.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 3 JULY 2025.

Councillors have agreed to approve the minutes with the following amendments in place:

Item 8 to be amended to:

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

After a long discussion on the disposal of the laptop, in which Cllrs Finn, Peat and Vaughton did not vote due to disclosed pecuniary interests and Cllr Hampson expressed her opinion that interested parties should bid on the laptop, members agreed in a vote to dispose of the laptop to the village historians (Footnote: it was subsequently discovered that the laptop was no longer serviceable and was disposed of accordingly).

Item 8 to be amended to:

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Note the report, make enquiries with Huntroyde Estate regarding a formal path, hold discussion with residents to check they are happy with the path, speak to the Lengthsman regarding the plan for and cost of the scheme, and contact LCC Treescapes.

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

Regarding Agenda Item 16 (Consideration of matters not on the agenda), declarations of interest were made by Cllr. Hampson, as she chairs the Ribble Valley branch of LALC.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No public in attendance.

5. 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.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Approve the accounts to date.
- Remind the Clerk to progress the request for Cllrs. Hampson and Duckworth to become signatories.
- Approve the Reconciliation of Receipts and Payments as set out in the Report and Table b below.
- Approve Schedule of Payments as set out in the Table a below:

Table a

Schedule of Payments to be considered for approval.

#	Ref.	Payee	Description	Gross £	Vat £	Net £	Due Date	Ref.
1	Various	Use It Computers	IT Services	71.28	11.88	59.40	Paid	Admin
2		Read Parish Council	Contribution to Playground	375.00	0.00	375.00	Paid	Play Areas
3		Church	Use of meeting room	45.00	0.00	45.00	Paid	Admin
4	8651	David Peat	Deposit for Higher Trapp	50.00	0.00	50.00	Paid	Sundry
Totals:				541.28	11.88	529.40		

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

Summary of Receipts and Payments

Table b

	£
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2025:	5,024.21
Add total receipts to date:	10,655
Less total payments to date:	-6,935.45
Balance:	8,743.42
	£
Unity Trust Bank Balance as at 29/08/25:	8,743.42

If these two figures are different an explanation is required.

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

6. DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE HALL – UPDATE

The Clerk submitted a report informing members that the current defibrillator was no longer manufactured, and that new defibrillators cost from £800 + VAT, outdoor boxes from £450 + VAT. Cllr Peat informed members that the current defibrillator was installed in 2016 by the North West Ambulance Service and has not been registered/has had no work carried out on it in 9 years. On top of the new defibrillator costs, the running costs are estimated to be £214 every other year. Rev. Sue is still happy cover the trickle charge if the Parish Council pay the costs of the defibrillator.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Make enquiries for grant funding with Air Ambulance and Clitheroe/Burnley Rotary Clubs in September.
 Purchase a new defibrillator up to the cost of £1000 before next meeting.

7. REMEMBRANCE WREATHS: HORSES

The Clerk submitted a Report asking members to consider providing funds to the amount of £27.50 to Murphy's Army for an additional purple poppy remembrance wreath in recognition of service animals.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Provide funds to the amount of £27.50 to Murphy's Army – clerk to order wreath to be delivered to Cllr Peat.
- b. Order 2 standard wreaths from British Legion (clerk to order, to be delivered to Cllr Peat).

8. GRANTS: UPDATE

The clerk submitted a report informing the council of the termination of PROW and biodiversity funding, which has previously been used for Lengthsman services (£500, PROW) and for the environment group (£350, biodiversity). The report also contained information on the Christmas lights grant.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Write to LCC/RVBC expressing concerns over the news of funding cuts, informing the council that this has been utilised to maintain valuable miles of footpath across Simonstone Parish as well as funding other projects (list), and request for reasoning behind cuts and further clarity on how this will proceed in coming years.
- b. Apply for Christmas Lights Grant (this was £150 last year).
- c. Look into a timer system for the lights to operate on.

9. VE DAY REMEMBRANCE BENCH – UPDATE

The council discussed ordering the bench. Concerns were expressed over where the bench would be located within the tennis courts due to car parking. Cllr Pollard informed the council that the bench would be sited in a corner out of the way of traffic on a grass verge.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Order bench (Cllr Pollard).
- b. Arrange with Lengthsman to install (Cllr Pollard).

10. RVBC'S UK SHARED PROSPERITY AND JUBILEE FUND - UPDATE

No update as of yet. A meeting will be held in September to review applications, and we should hear following on from this.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

11. PARISH PLAN - UPDATE

The council were informed that there were no business specific requirements. A resident questionnaire has been produced and will be distributed to councillors for comment. Cllr Hampson expressed her opinion that the questionnaire should contain a question on parish demographics as current census figures are out-of-date. It was agreed that questionnaires returned may not represent an accurate cross-section of parish residents.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Submit comments to questionnaire.
- b. Distribute questionnaires to all parish residents.
- c. Purchase and put up post boxes around parish (Stork Hotel, outside Church, Village Hall) for residents to return their questionnaires.

12. SCHOOL PATH - UPDATE

As justification for the school path, the school headteacher provided an update to the council on the percentage of children at Simonstone School living in the parish. She states that 62 % of the school currently live in the parish, with 75 % of the new reception class and 80 % of Year 1 living in the parish.

Technical issues (land registry plan) arising from the path plan:

- a. The section of the path crossing the bottom of the field would be on unadopted land, with maintenance responsibilities for this land resting with no. 7 and 9 School Lane.
- b. Leaving the bottom of the field, the path would cross land owned by no. 9.

It was mentioned that Treescapes would be able to provide information on woodland planting options around the field edges.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Write to landowners (no 7, 9 and Huntroyde) and request if they would be willing to dedicate the school path as a PROW.
- b. Request cost information from Lengthsman for a gravel path.

13. 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

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

14. CRIME FIGURES.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on the latest crime statistics up to September 2025 as provided by PCSO Katie Ferguson. Cllr Duckworth requested clarity on the subheading 'road' of the report.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Advise parish residents to remain cautious of cold-callers and vigilant in locking doors following recent incidents.
- c. Seek clarity on crime statistic table subheadings.

15. COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

None.

16. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

- a. Dates for diary:
 - a. Christmas Tree event/Elves party: 28th November,
 - b. Christmas Lunch at Higher Trapp with Read PC: 4th December
 - c. LCC conference, 1st November – 2/3 representatives from each council are invited to attend, either in person (Preston County Hall) or from home. The conference will take place in the morning and will be followed by the LALC AGM in the afternoon.
- b. The clerk informed the council that the noticeboard on Whalley Road is covered by foliage and therefore difficult to use or see. Options were discussed for an alternative location for the noticeboard, including on the grass verges along Whalley Road.
- c. Items for Autumn newsletter to go out before Remembrance Sunday: Parish plan, school footpath, Christmas events.
- d. Councillor Peat has highlighted a difference in approach to declaring property on the council's Declaration of Interest forms. If councillors are resident in the village, they should be declaring property/land in the Declaration of Interest.
- e. The clerk shared correspondence with the council on nominating voluntary groups for the prestigious King's Award.
- f. PROW by tennis club – it was highlighted that one path which had been previously diverted due to crop planting is now obstructed by piles of wire netting.
- g. LALC are accepting applications for a new president. Cannot be a serving councillor.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Ask Lengthsman to trim the hedge behind the noticeboard on a regular basis.
- b. Send out and complete updated Declaration of Interest forms.
- c. Share nomination information amongst council on King's Award.
- d. Share information between councillors on LCC conference.

- e. Inform landowner of obstruction to PROW by tennis club.
- f. Share LALC nomination forms within council.

17. FUTURE MEETINGS 2025:

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL: Agree that the next meeting would take place on 6 November 2025.