

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council Meeting – Minutes

Date:	6 February 2025		
Place:	St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone		
Present:	Councillors: D. Peat (Chair), S. Finn, C. Pollard, A. Duckworth, M. Vaughton and Borough Cllr. Peplow.		
In attendance:	Clerk to the Council (Mike Hill) and several members of the public.		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	20:00

250206/

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Hampson, McKelvey and Norse.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

Cllr. Finn expressed interest in Agenda Item 9 – Request for a donation from the Little Green Bus Company

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Several members of the public were present at the meeting including the Chair of Governors at Simonstone School, who spoke about the safety of the children attending the school and the volume of traffic through the village and the impact it has on the children and their commute to school either by car or on foot.

Note: Agenda Item 8, 'School Field Footpath' was brought forward for consideration as it was relevant to the public participation discussions.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Thanked the School Governor for addressing the meeting.
- Requested the Clerk to add the schools concerns over road safety and the ongoing matter of the 'School Footpath' to future Council meetings.

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:

- Approve the accounts to date.
- 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

#	Ref.	Payee	Description	Gross £	Vat £	Net £	Due Date	Ref.
1		Dr John Barker	Contribution to crib expenses	100.00	0.00	100.00	Paid	Amenity Exp.
2	MV058B	Cllr. Vaughton	Light connectors	54.34	9.06	45.28	Paid	Amenity Exp.
3	MV022B	Cllr. Vaughton	Extention lead	11.19	9.32	1.87	Paid	Amenity Exp.
4		Martholme Greenway	Donation (Dr John Barker)	100.00	0.00	100.00	Paid	Sundry
5	BK367009	Cllr. Peat (Higher Trapp)	Pensioners Lunch - Deposit 1	192.00	0.00	192.00	Paid	Sundry
6	9137	RVBC	Wheel bin emptying	530.41	88.40	442.01	Paid	Amenity Exp.
7	190461	Cllr. Norse	School Gift - stampers	20.97	3.49	17.48	Paid	Sundry
8	190484	Cllr. Norse	School Gift - wooden decorations	47.97	7.99	39.98	Paid	Sundry
9	1637138	Cllr. Norse	School Gift - felt pens	79.92	13.32	66.60	Paid	Sundry
10	1344	CKW Electrical Ltd	Install Cable protector	167.87	0.00	167.87	Paid	Sundry
11	1345	CKW Electrical Ltd	Electrical condition report	180.00	0.00	180.00	Paid	Sundry
12	BK367009	Cllr. Peat (Higher Trapp)	Pensioners Lunch - Deposit 2	66.00	0.00	66.00	Paid	Sundry
13		Cllr. Peat	Raffle conribution to Read PC	18.00	0.00	18.00	Paid	Sundry
14	BK367009	Cllr. Vaughton	Deposit to Higher Trapp	22.00	0.00	22.00	Paid	Sundry
Totals:				1,590.67	131.58	1,459.09		

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 2024:	9,286.46
Add total receipts to date:	9,713
Less total payments to date:	-12,527.72
Balance:	6,471.74
	£
Unity Trust Bank Balance as at 01/02/25:	6,471.74

If these two figures are different an explanation is required.

6. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – ACCESS TO THE FOOTPATH ON WHINS LANE

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on access to a local footpath (FP1210024) to the north of a property on Whins Lane, Simonstone.

Members were reminded that at their meeting on 14 November 2024, they discussed restoring unhindered access to the footpath, if the landowner, for whatever reason was unable to permit a gateway installation. As at the date of this meeting the footpath still did not have unhindered access.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Keep a watching brief on the issue.
- b. Contact LCC and ask them for a status update.

7. VE DAY 2025 – PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

The Clerk submitted a Report requesting members to consider the activities the Parish Council may consider undertaking for VE Day 2025. The Report noted that VE Day in 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, with two key dates, Thursday 8 May and Friday 15 August.

Members were reminded that at their meeting on 14 November 2024, they approved a budget of £500 for VE Day commemorations and agreed to consider possible events at a future meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Approve the setting up of a Working Group tasked with looking at possible activities and reporting back to the Council.
- b. Request Cllr. Vaughton to contact Read Parish Council in regard to hosting a joint event.

8. SCHOOL FIELD 'FOOTPATH'

The Clerk submitted a Report asking members to consider an issue that had been raised by parishioners and the Chair of Governors at Simonstone School. (*Also see Agenda Item 4, Public Participation*).

The Report set out comprehensive considerations by both Cllr. Pollard and Cllr. Duckworth.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Thanked both Cllr. Duckworth and Cllr. Pollard for their contributions to the debate on this matter.
- b. Agree to make a request to the LCC PROW Team to include the path in the definitive PROW map.
- c. Agree to consider all actions that the Council can take to address the concerns raised by the Chair of School Governors regarding the safety of children enroute to and from school.

9. LITTLE GREEN BUS – DONATION FREQUEST

The Clerk submitted a Report asking members to consider a request from Little Green Bus for financial support.

The report noted that the Clerk had received an email (as had all parish and town councils in the Ribble Valley) from Little Green Bus asking the Council to consider providing financial support to enable them to maintain their services.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Request the Clerk to contact Little Green bus and ask them:

- a. To complete the Council's Grant Request Form.
- b. To explain their level of reserves.
- c. To provide information on the services they provide in Simonstone and Read

10. UPDATE ON ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

The Clerk presented a report updating members on actions from recent meetings.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

11. 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.

12. CRIME STATISTICS UPTO DECEMBER 2024

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on the latest crime statistics up to December 2024 as provided by PCSO Katie Ferguson.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Parish Councillor Duckworth and Borough Councillor Peplow submitted reports for consideration by the Council.

Cllr. Peat noted that he had attend the Ribble Valley regional LALC meeting, the Parish Council Liaison Meeting and also provided an update on Local Government Devolution across Lancashire.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Thanked Cllr. Duckworth and Cllr. Peplow for their informative reports.

14. SPRING NEWSLETTER.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Agree to defer issuing a Newsletter to Autumn 2025.

15. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Agree to set up a Christmas 2024 – Lessons Learnt Working Group.

16. PARISH PLAN.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Agree to continue working on the Parish Plan and provide an update to a future meeting of the Town Council.

17. FREQUENCY OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Agree to hold Council meetings every two months

Future Meetings 2025:

- 6 March
- 8 May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting)