

SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council Meeting – Minutes

Date:	6 March 2025		
Place:	St. Peters School Church Hall, Simonstone		
Present:	Councillors: D. Peat (Chair), S. Finn, C. Pollard, A. Duckworth, M. Vaughton, J. Hampson, R. McKelvy and G. Norse.		
In attendance:	Clerk to the Council (Mike Hill) and one member of the public.		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	20:00

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were accepted from Borough Councillor M. Peplow.

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2025.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

Regarding Agenda Item 7 (Grant Applications), declarations of interest were made by Cllrs. Peat, Finn, McKelvy and Vaughton, as they are Trustees of Read and Simonstone Village Hall.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

A member of the public, requested that in any newsletter the Council Publish, the Council request the importance of residents keeping their hedges and verges tidy.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Thanked the member of the public for attending the meeting and noted the request for an article to be placed in any Newsletter the Council issue.

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	01T41276	Cllr. Pollard	Postmix for Crib	25.78	4.30	21.48	Paid	Sundry
Totals:				25.78	4.30	21.48		

Note:

Approval is not usually sought for Direct Debit payments or for people or organisations where the Parish Council has a contractual relationship or has already approved payment.

Summary of Receipts and Payments		
	£	
Balance carried forward at 1st April 2024:	9,286.46	Table b
Add total receipts to date:	9,713	
Less total payments to date:	-12,980.62	
Balance:	6,018.84	
	£	If these two figures are different an explanation is required.
Unity Trust Bank Balance as at 01/03/25:	6,018.84	

6. COUNTRYSIDE CHARITY

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider renewing their membership to the Countryside Charity.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Renew their membership to the Countryside Charity.

7. GRANT APPLICATIONS.

The Clerk submitted a Report asking members to consider grant applications from Readstone Environment Group, Padiham on Parade and Read and Simonstone Village Hall.

The Report noted that members can make monetary grants to groups and organisations that work for the benefit of the local community within Simonstone.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Approve a grant of £339.99 to the Readstone Environment Group.
- Approve a grant of £110 to Padiham on Parade.
- Approve a grant of £140 to Read and Simonstone Village Hall.

8. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

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

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the Report

9. SCHOOL FIELD 'FOOTPATH' AND CONDITION OF FOOTPATH FP1210019 – UPDATE

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on matters raised by parishioners and the Chair of the Governors at Simonstone School, regarding the 'path' from Harewood Avenue to School Lane and to discuss the condition of footpath FP1210019, where it passes through Ox Hey Wood.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- Note the Report.
- Request Cllr. Duckworth contact LCC requesting they consider constructing a drop-off area in the school field.
- Request Cllr. Pollard to contact the owners of the land where FP1210019 runs asking them to improve the footpath.

Post meeting note:

The Parish Council submitted an Expression of Interest funding request to RVBC for a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity and Jubilee Fund for installing a School Field Footpath.

10. VE DAY 2025 PLANNED ACTIVITIES - UPDATE.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on planned activities for VE Day 2025.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Request Cllrs. Hampson and Norse to arrange something similar to what the Council did last year.

11. LITTLE GREEN BUS.

The Clerk provided a verbal update that the Little Green Bus had provided the information requested. planning report.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Request the Clerk to make a payment of £150 to Little Green Bus.

12. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

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

The Clerk reminded members that comments on planning applications are collated by Councillors Duckworth and McKelvey, and that Cllr. Duckworth will submit the comments to RVBC.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

14. CRIME FIGURES.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on the latest crime statistics up to January 2025 as provided by PCSO Katie Ferguson.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION

The Clerk submitted a report to update members on how the Government's plans for Local Government Devolution could affect Simonstone Parish Council.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report.

16. COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Borough Councillor Peplow submitted a report for consideration by the Council.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Thanked Cllr. Peplow for his informative report.

17. PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Nominate Cllrs. Hampson, Norse and Duckworth to be members of the Parish Plan Working Group.
- b. Agree to invite residents via social media and the Parish Newsletter to become involved in discussions.
- c. Request the Working Group to report back to a future meeting of the Town Council.
- d. Request Cllr. Peplow to provide a copy of the Parish Settlement Plan.

18. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

No further considerations.

19. FUTURE MEETINGS 2025:

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Agree that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 8 May