

Simonswood Parish Council
"Growing from Strength to Strength"

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 9:30am at Four Lane Ends Mission Hall, Skelmersdale Rd, Bickerstaffe L39 0EZ.

PRESENT

Parish Councillors: J Mercer, A Lewis, B Rimmer and N Shaw

WLBC councillor: I Rigby

Clerk : S Smith

Residents : 1

APOLOGIES - None

Prior to the meeting starting Cllr Mercer asked those present to stand for a minute's silence in remembrance of the 80th anniversary of VE day.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Mercer at 09:33 am

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Clerk asked Cllr Mercer and Cllr Lewis to stand down as Chairperson and Vice chairperson.

Clerk asked for nominations of Chairperson.

Cllr Mercer was proposed as Chairperson

Proposed by Cllr Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Shaw

Cllr Mercer accepted the position

Clerk asked for nominations of Vice Chairperson.

Cllr Lewis was proposed as Vice Chairperson

Proposed by Cllr Rimmer

Seconded by Cllr Shaw

Cllr Lewis accepted the position

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider the Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 3rd April 2025; and to approve them as a true and accurate record and signed by the chairman.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The meeting was adjourned for a period of public participation.

Resident has conifers at the rear of the garden which are a danger to their property and could cause serious injury to anybody if it falls, also obstructing light to the property. This has been brought to the owner's attention previously.

RESOLVED:- Cllr Mercer and Cllr Lewis to speak to the owner and ask would he cut the conifers down to at least a reasonable height

Fly tipping:- (Mattress) dumped on Stopgate Lane and junction of Pingwood Lane;
Lay-by near High Barn Farm;
On the Slip Rd on the Industrial Estate; and
The public highway.

Industrial Estate:- Firms on the estate are currently working 7 days per week i.e., Keel Shore, Grab and Go and County Machines last noted working 4/5/25

North West Turf:- no longer rents fields in Hall Lane. Contact Robin Cropper, Long Lane. 01695423306.

Stopgate Lane:- Pavement on Stopgate Lane needs repairing
RESOLVED Clerk to contact the relevant people/councils

Meeting reconvened

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

PLANNING

APP 2025/0027/LDP Spencers House Farm (previous appeared in Jan 2025)

Reply from Wayne Daly

This must have been put on the weekly list by mistake as Parish Councils and neighbours are not usually sent notification requests for these types of applications. As you can see on the portal this application has already been decided. The certificate of lawfulness was issued to the applicants on the 21st March as the proposal was deemed to be within the scope of permitted development rights.

Under the Class A criteria of the GPDO we do not assess the number of bedrooms on site but only the floor area and dimensions of the proposed and any other previous extensions.

As it is an LDP application your comments would not be able to be made public on the planning portal anyway and nor would the neighbours so you do not need to comment.

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APP 2025/0120/FUL Decision: Planning Permission Granted Proposal: Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage building. Location: Woodhouse Farm, Stopgate Lane, Simonswood

STOPGATE LANE GRIDS

Reply from Love Clean Streets

"This has been assessed by an inspector and has been recommended for inclusion in our future programme. We will continue to monitor and make safe any hazards in the meantime"

Clerk has replied.

Simonswood Parish Council would like to know when it will be discussed and when will the future programme will be set. Please keep the parish council informed.

Reply

Between 2019 and 2025, we cleared around 294,000 highway gullies on a reactive basis. This means we jetted and cleansed them when told that they were blocked.

In January 2025, Cabinet agreed a new approach to help reduce the overall risk of flooding. This should largely remove the need for reactive visits. We now clean all of our highway gullies regularly. Of course, we still encourage highway users to report blocked gullies as and when they arise.

We will also adopt a risk-based approach for future visits. We will address any gullies that do not meet the criteria for a reactive visit on their next scheduled visit. This should help deliver a more efficient and cost-effective programme. It will also provide valuable data to drive future service improvements.

We have scheduled the jetting and cleansing of the gullies on Stopgate Lane, Simonswood, for the end of January 2026.. Hafsa Essa, Highways Enquiries Officer

RESOLVED Clerk to advise gully cleaner will not be able to clear grids and drains, as full of concrete, it needs ripping up. We have reported the grids have been blocked many times and grids have never been unblocked. It needs immediate attention. To save on costs we suggest it links to the new development on Stopgate lane to save costs.

HALL LANE

Reply from Neil Smith Police,

Thanks for the information, obviously I do pay passing attention to the area when I am able to but with covering such a large area its sometimes hard to get there. If you happen to see youths or bikes in the area please ring up on 101 at the time so we can get a patrol out to them at the time.

I KNOW TEAM

We have had several scramblers in Hall Lane, Simonswood who seem to be casing properties. Also 8 youths have been seen in Stopgate Lane, then a fire was started using accelerant. this has been reported to the fire brigade who attended.

It would be nice to see the police at our meeting. It has been a very long time since we have seen one. Invite has gone out to Darren Carr from Lancs police to attend our Open Meeting

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

From Jonathan Edwards LCC Planning

Thank you for email. As you point out the enforcement notice was issued by the Environment agency and not LCC.

Whilst we were aware that the notice may be issued, the actual process and timing was determined by the Environment Agency. We wouldn't routinely, and don't possess the resources, to closely track the activity of other organisations. Furthermore we would anticipate that the Environment Agency would share this kind of information with key stakeholders like yourselves.

I am pleased you are now aware of the enforcement notice and I hope you agree that this is an important step in resolving the matter. We will continue to support the process where necessary and will of course communicate any actions being taken by the Local Authority.

SPEEDING SCHOOL BUSES HALL LANE

The School Transport Team

We will raise this with the operator and ensure that their drivers adhere to the speed limits and drive to the conditions of the road surface.

We trust that this will serve as a satisfactory resolution, however if any further issue come to light, please let us know.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

HSE We have carefully considered the information you provided and, based on your confirmation that work has now ceased, we have concluded that there is no current ongoing risk that would warrant further intervention by HSE at this time. As the Environmental Health Department is already involved, we would expect that if any new or ongoing risks arise that fall within HSE's remit, they will notify us accordingly

FINANCES

PRECEPT Income £1,500 paid 17/4/2025

Clerk has advised never had it paid in two instalments and can we have it in one lump sum

Reply I have arranged for the second half of your payment to be paid on the next creditor run.

CIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Amount allocated to Simonswood Parish Council £2,910.76,

2023/0511/FUL- Woodhouse Farm

Clerk wrote regarding the above amount, to make sure it was correct.

Reply

It appears that Simonswood Parish Council have not previously received CIL monies in its Parish. This would be due to any developments previously granted in Simonswood not falling into one of the categories on the Council's CIL Adopted Charging Schedule (attached).

The development detailed on the letter previously attached was one that attracted a CIL liability, therefore in accordance with the CIL regulations, the Council is required to pass 15% of the amount raised to the Parish Council as the 'Neighbourhood' portion.

Neighbourhood CIL payments to parishes are made in April and October of each year, so if there were any CIL liable developments for which the Council received monies between April and September, these would be paid in October, in addition to this amount payable in April. However, we would write out to you in September to advise of any amount that is due to the Parish for Quarters 1 & 2 of 2025/26.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM

[Parish Champion - Lancashire County Council](#). If you would like to apply for a grant you can visit the Champion Grants Scheme website at [Champion grants scheme - Lancashire County Council](#) or email LPTlocalmembergrants@lancashire.gov.uk

RESOLVED Clerk to apply for funding

GOVERNMENT EMAIL AND DOMAIN NAME

Cllr Shaw and clerk met up and discussed what is required for the web page from Parish Council online. Cllr Shaw has taken the lead with Parish Online and Microsoft 365. Clerk would like to thank Cllr Shaw for everything she has done

Cllr Shaw will pay for the initial set up and reclaim the monies from the parish council.

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

Zurich Insurance Annual premium - £214.55

Cllr Shaw for Microsoft 365 - £243.36

LALC Annual Premium - £45.85

HIRE OF HALL - £84.00 (3 hires 1 April and 2 x May)

Parish Online for Domain name and web site - £312.00

DIRECT DEBIT CARD

Clerk would like the council to think about requesting a debit card for any future payments that would require them.

RESOLVED Clerk to request debit card

NEXT MEETING

5th June 2025