Minutes of Simonswood Parish Council
4th September 2025
Growing from strength to strength

PRESENT

Parish councillors	Cllrs Mercer, Lewis, Rimmer, Shaw
Councillor West Lancs	Cllr Rigby.
Residents	2
Clerk	Sue Smith

APOLOGIES
No apologies.

Cllr Mercer thanked those for attending and opened the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
To consider the Minutes of the last meeting 3rd July 2025 and to approve them as a true and accurate record. Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the chairman.
There are no minutes for August as there wasn't a quorum of to make the meeting official.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST
No Declaration of interest.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM
The meeting was adjourned for a period of public participation.

WINDMILL
Residents have stated that odour is still being smelt from Windmill.
Cllr Rigby asked the residents if everyone has seen leaflets, cards regarding Southport and Ormskirk hospital. Residents need to check online representation. Forms need to be in by 3rd October 2025. Simonswood residents and councillors have not had any paperwork regarding changes.

There have been 2 recent robberies in Barrow Nook, Bickerstaffe.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

MARCUS HUDSON
Head of Planning and Transport, Lancashire County Council left LCC 18/7/25.

SIMONSWOOD MOSS
Clerk has written to LCC planning.
Has a 106 agreement been done and signed. Current or previous owner?
Has the 106 agreement been adhered to under the previous owner?
Please advise the 10 year aftercare that should have been done.
Has any of it been completed?
If the 106 agreement hasn't been completed has anything been done against the previous owner?
How can you tell if the peat is regenerating?
Clerk wrote to Environmental Agency
How do we know if peat regenerating - Does not come under the remit of the Environment Agency

Stuart Baldwin will speak to Natural England
MEETING

Clerk has written to LCC and Shaun Canning Traffic management Officer
The parish council has been advised that there are meetings to be held with LCC, WLBC councillors and Simonswood Round Table.
Please advise who Simonswood Round Table is and where they are situated as we have never heard of them. I cannot find anything on the internet or on the round table web site? Also we would like to be involved in any meeting regarding Simonswood.
Reply from Jonathan Haine
I don't think the Simonswood Round Table have been invited but I have not been directly involved in organising this meeting.
As I said earlier, the meeting was intended to be at a high level and not to get too involved in site specific issues as there are other forums dealing with those.

Clerk written to Director of Planning
Simonswood parish council have been made aware that there is to be a meeting regarding Simonswood, involving LCC, WLBC, Police, Simonswood Round Table and maybe others.
Why was Simonswood Round Table invited? I have looked on the round table web site and the nearest round table group is Southport. The parish councillors have never heard of this group. Does this round table exist ? Who is involved in this round table? How did they get an invite?
Why wasn't Simonswood Parish Council invited to join the meeting?
The parish council would appreciate a representative at any future meetings regarding Simonswood or the industrial Estate, they can provide current and historical local knowledge which could be useful to those who may not know Simonswood's location within West Lancs or what our parish consists of i.e. 2 roads, an industrial estate and farm land.

Jonathan Edwards Director of planning
Has appointed Flo Churchill to sort the meetings out.
Clerk has contacted her and queried who Simonswood Round Table is.
Flo has replied
This was meant to indicate the style of discussion rather than an organisation. I will follow up on associated matters and come back to you
Clerk suggests we give an Agenda that we would like to be included in the meeting
Concerns send to Adrian Owens

PLANNING
App No: 2025/0727/LBC Listed Building Consent - Repointing of eroded cement joints with lime mortar. Replacement of external lighting with traditional-style fittings, failed rooflight with VELUX GGL Heritage Conservation Rooflight, Urgent replacement of top chimney stone, Repair/replacement of plastic RWGs with cast iron-effect PVCu downpipes, Door, Hooks and Window Glazing Repairs. Site Location: Simonswood Hall, Hall Lane,
The parish council seriously obects to this application. The building is grade II*, not grade II. The application does not seem in line with a listed building.
Clerk to write to Paul Chadwick advising our objection and stating it looks like an extension is being erected and residents seem to remember the hall had cellars are they still intact

SIMONSWOOD HALL
Reply from Paul Chadwick planning enforcement officer. Ref E/2024/0213/LB.
I can advise that we have an ongoing enforcement investigation at Simonswood Hall and I've been visiting the property since December last year. LCC conservation officers have also accompanied me on visits and various works that require listed building consent have been noted.
In view of this an application from the owners has been requested and we've recently been contacted by their planning consultants who have given us assurances that an application will be submitted by the end of the month.

If we receive the application as assured, then we will withhold from considering further action until the application has been determined. However, if we do not receive an application then a decision will be made by LCC conservation team as to whether it is expedient to serve a listed building enforcement notice seeking any rectification works. I'll continue to monitor the site and will provide you with an update again in due course.

WINDMILL
From Nicola Hamilton Principal Planning Officer Enforcement
I am aware that the Environment Agency has served a couple of notices on this site in relation to the environmental permit held by the company. One notice is to stop any further waste coming onto site and a second is to remove the waste currently on site within a given timescale. Last month, the EA have confirmed that they are currently actively monitoring these activities and compliance with its notices.

Reply from EA
Please see below response to your questions
1/ Can I ask what enforcements have been placed on the company and for how long, as work has started on the mounds.
On the 24 March 2025 the Environment Agency served a suspension notice on the company. The suspension notice prevents the acceptance of waste until specific steps have been taken. We want the operator to remove some specific non-compliant waste from the site and demonstrate that it has been done so legally. In addition, a regulatory enforcement notice remains in place that aims to reduce the volume of waste on the site. That notice has been in place since November 2024 with monthly deadline dates up to the final deadline of 30 November 2025.
2/Do the employees have the correct protection ?
It is the company's responsibility to manage their own employee's health and safety however our staff when conducting inspections on site have felt safe with the correct personal protective equipment on areas of the site which are accessible. The lead authority to assess safety on site is the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who can be contacted if someone thinks a workplace could be a serious health and safety issue, here is the direct link and further information: Tell us about a health and safety issue - Contact HSE The Environment Agency can confirm that we have visited sites and observed unsafe working practices, these have been highlighted to the operator and we have made direct referrals to the HSE.
Please refer to the Open Government Licence which explains the permitted use of this information.
Smell is still coming from mounds. Cllr Mercer will contact Ian Gaskill (KMBC)

HALL LANE
Clerk contacted Croppers they think the agent was Frank Marshall estate agency. Estate agency due to data protection act will not give owners name but I have asked if they would pass a message to new owner. Hedges have been cut.

MONTHLY MEETING
Resident emailed to say, hopefully some of them will be in the virtual environment and in the evening, or even at the weekend.
Clerk has written to Bickerstaffe
Do you have a timetable for the use of the Mission Hall. We are looking into how we could switch some of our meetings to an evening as requested by our parishioners at our open meeting.
Reply The only free evenings are Friday, which are only used occasionally for the Mission Bingo or quiz night.
CIL
Clerk wrote to CIL
We have just received monies from yourselves. Can we use it for paying for the expense of setting up a Gov web page and Microsoft 365. Also, can we use it to pay for Simonswood

signs on our boundaries. Can we try to obtain grants to pay for some of the cost alongside the CIL payment.
REPLY Thank you for your email. Unfortunately you will not be able to use the monies to pay for the expense of setting up a .gov web page and the purchase of Microsoft 365 as these items do not meet the CIL spending criteria for parishes, which is:
CIL monies can be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing demands that development places on an area.
The use of Neighbourhood CIL on the provision of signs is acceptable in principle but further details would be needed, such as would this work be carried out on highways land and do you have the relevant consent of the landowners, and what is the detail to be provided on the sign? This would prevent you from going to the expense of purchasing and installing signs which may be later removed if they are unauthorised.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS
Clerk has written to our insurance company to see if we are currently covered for any gatherings.
Reply I can confirm that your policy automatically covers for events up to 2000 attendees at any one time under Public Liability. Will Percival Digital Trading Team

STOPGATE LANE
Traffic Problem, scheduled works. Signs moved to the end of road to save people turning round.

WEED SPRAYING
Email from Cllr Adrian Owens
I have been pursuing the matter of weed spraying and weed control recently.
I attach the response I received on Tuesday. I was not satisfied and pressed the Deputy Leader of the County Council this morning at a meeting with him. I was told that weed spraying will commence next week.
Q. does the weeds in Simonswood get sprayed? Not Hall lane Simonswood, nor Stopgate lane please supply photos if poss

HALL LANE
Cllr Lewis – suggested to formally make a request to LCC Highways to install practical traffic calming measures to reduce traffic speeds predominantly on Stopgate Lane and Hall Lane. The current Speed Limit signs are not working and our residents lives are now in danger on a daily basis. More so since the influx of Electric Cars which you cannot hear approaching the danger is obvious regarding our Senior Citizens.
SPC would be willing to meet on site with your Highways Officers to resolve this matter without any further delay.
Positive methods to reduce speeding traffic are urgently required to protect our residents lives and well being. LCC's objective surely must be Prevention rather than death or injury .
Noise coming from individual car, waking children who are a problem to settle. Banging exhaust. Souped up. And on bridge straight road. Speed humps.
Resolved write to LCC, Flo Churchill, Cllr Owens and Police Commissioner Grimshaw.

MEETING WITH RESIDENTS
The Council acknowledges that the initiative to provide residents with an opportunity to meet with councillors privately outside of monthly meetings has been positively received by some residents. The first meeting took place in August, and it is our hope that there will be increased uptake in the future.
Cllr Shaw and Cllr Lewis met with a resident on 26th August 2025.

NEWSLETTER
Quarterly newsletter.
Parish Council agreed to 4 newsletters.

FINANCE
TO PAY
Hire of hall July not yet paid £28.00
Hire of hall August meeting £14.00
Hire of Hall September meeting £28.00
Quick books as already agreed, had a bargain offer so gone for it. £1.92
Councillors agreed on payments

Southport and Ormskirk hospitals
NEXT MEETING
2nd October 2025