

Notice of Ordinary Meeting of
Simonswood Parish Council 4th December 2025
Growing from strength to strength

To Members of the Council

I hereby give notice that a meeting of Simonswood Parish Council will be held on Thursday 4th December 2025 at 7pm in Four Lane Ends Mission Hall, Skelmersdale Rd, Bickerstaffe L39 0EZ.

THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING IS BELOW.

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider the Minutes of the last meeting 6th November 2025 and to approve them as a true and accurate record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- i to receive any changes to the current register of interests,
- ii to receive any Declarations of Interest for any item on this agenda,
- iii dispensations.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

- i to adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation,
- ii to reconvene the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

SIMONSWOOD HALL

Enforcement CS0257672 query

Thanks for getting in touch, Simonswood hall is a grade II* listed building, you can find the list description at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1343471>

With regard to any unauthorised works, it is the local council's responsibility to carry out any necessary enforcement action. If retrospective consent has been applied for then this would normally be decided before proceeding with any further enforcement.

I'd advise you get back to West Lancs borough council if works are still being carried on without consent. You may find it useful to contact local councillors for the area as well.

<https://democracy.westlancs.gov.uk/mqMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

Kind regards, Linda Calvert (she/her), Business Officer, North West Region, Historic England
Police Log LC'20251125'0659

PLANNING

2025/0768/FUL Decision: Planning Permission REFUSED

First floor extension at side and garage conversion. Olive View, Stopgate Lane, Simonswood, Liverpool, Lancashire, L33 4YB

SIMONSWOOD ROUND TABLE

Clerk has written to Flo Churchill

I believe a zoom meeting was held in October and the next one is due in November can a representative of the parish council attend?

The clerk has previously emailed one of the EA members, so has now written asking for inclusion.

SIGNAGE

From Kevin Parkinson

Simonswood Parish Council
30th November 2025

As with all highway signage, boundary signs are subject to the limitations contained in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. Whilst there are some variations allowed, e.g. the addition of a "Please drive carefully" message for non-30 mph locations and inclusion of an image representative of the city, town, village or area, this is very limited as per the Bretherton ancient stone example below. The exact layout for any particular location will depend on available space and the presence of any similar signage, which may be supplemented to include the additional message.

In terms of future damage or degradation, the installation cost will include a future maintenance element, and the county council will undertake this work. Obviously, where damage is the result of a road traffic incident, we will endeavour to reclaim any costs involved via the driver/s insurance.

Clerk to email Insurance company to find out if the parish council are insured for repairs on a damage sign.

HALL LANE POT HOLES

Resident advised that they had reported potholes on the bend in Hall Lane.

Cllr Mercer asked clerk to report the potholes as they are dangerous

Ref 5148646 Road pothole - 40mm to 99mm depth

Resident also advised that a speed monitoring machine has been fitted on lamp post just before bend heading into Kirkby.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Clerk has written to EA, asking about enforcements on the industrial estate as I cannot find any on their list

SPEEDING

Highways Enquiries Team have written to Councillor Owens

CF2382 - Simonswood Delay in promised speed control measures

Thank you for your further enquiry dated 10 July 2025, on behalf of Mr Cropper, regarding his traffic concerns on Hall Lane.

I am sorry to hear that [redacted] was unhappy with our previous response. I will address his concerns in the order raised, and I hope it will clarify our position.

As the Highway Authority, we set and assess local traffic restrictions, but it is the police who are responsible for enforcing them. Only they have the powers to act against those drivers who contravene the weight restriction on Hall Lane. We note that [redacted] has contacted the police on several occasions without success. Regrettably, we are unable to offer any further assistance. This issue falls outside our remit.

We are aware that there is an environmental weight restriction for the southern section of Hall Lane. However, we have no record of a structural weight limit for the Simonswood Brook bridge. Although the bridge exists outside the county boundary, we would expect to have received a request from Knowsley Council for the installation of additional approach signage to indicate the nearest suitable route for non-compliant vehicles.

In this case, we have received no such request. Therefore, we have contacted Knowsley Council for further information on the referred to limit and its duration. We will then assess whether any additional signage is needed.

We can confirm that we did grant BT Openreach a permit to undertake necessary work on their underground assets beginning 3 June 2025. We will monitor their work and conduct site inspections to ensure that they meet the conditions of their permit. The appropriate traffic management will be in place to ensure site is safe for all highway users.

We deployed temporary signage between April 2025 and June 2025 to remind drivers to be mindful of their speed. We will re-erect this sign between October 2025 and December 2025 to maximise the effect of this message. The type of sign used does not require prior approval before deployment as it is lightweight. However the Speed Indicator Device (SpID) does require approval. As such, we will deploy the SpID in due course subject to an on site evaluation. I am sorry that our previous response was not clear and for any confusion this has caused.

These signs are designed to reduce the average speed that vehicles travel during their deployment period, and their effect can differ from area to area. We have no control over the small number of individuals who choose to ignore the message and continue to travel above the speed limit. It is incidents such as this where the police should be contacted, as the relevant enforcement authority. Highway users should continue to report their concerns by calling the non-emergency number: 101.

It is worth noting that our Road Safety team are currently conducting a study of effectiveness of all temporary road safety signs. We expect to complete this assessment by the end of the year.

We would only introduce permanent traffic calming measures if we identify a specific problem based on reported traffic incidents. We may also install one as part of a new development, but only if this would result in significant changes to pedestrian activity.

Our current priority is to target those locations where we can have a demonstrable impact on reducing casualty figures, or to schemes which contribute towards improving the wider highway network.

After reviewing the casualty data for Hall Lane, we cannot support the introduction of speed bumps or chicanes. When considered along side this road's good road safety record in terms of reported injury collisions, we would be remiss to prioritise Hall Lane for new road safety measures ahead of those sites with an evidence road safety issue.

I hope this information is helpful. Highways Enquiries Team

Cllr Owens states SpID has been installed

PRECEPT

FINANCES

To pay hire of Hall for December