

Notice of Ordinary Meeting of  
Simonswood Parish Council 8th January 2026  
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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 19:00 pm 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 4<sup>th</sup> December 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

STOPGATE LANE

Your report, Ref 5148646 has been completed and our team have carried out the required work. If you have any further concerns please report these via Love Clean Streets as a new report. Currently cannot view clean street app

PLANNING

Ref. No: 2025/0727/LBC | PLANNING – Decision Refused

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. - Simonswood Hall Hall Lane Simonswood Liverpool Lancashire L33 4XX

2025/0768/FUL Olive view, Stopgate Lane

Planning has been refused but there is no written reason why on the planning website Clerk to write to Planning dept

SIMONSWOOD MOSS

Clerk has been advised by Mr Baldwin that there will be no planning application in January 2026, but he will let the council know when it will be.

From Abigayle Boardman BA (Hons) MCD MRTPI

SED Servies - Simonswood Moss

We write on behalf of SED Services to provide you with an update on progress in relation to the preparation of a Planning Application at Simonswood Moss, Kirkby.

As you are aware, we are seeking to submit an application that includes a significant restoration scheme in relation to the moss area, which has historically been worked for peat. We are now at advanced stages in finalising the restoration scheme, based on the advice of the appointed geologists and ecologists, in order to present a scheme that is most appropriate to the moss, as it stands today.

The restoration scheme will potentially be significant in cost, and it is proposed a 30-year legal agreement would be put in place, through the granting of planning permission for the management and maintenance of the moss, for current and future generations.

As you may be aware, the 'main operational' area of the Site, which is owned and occupied by SED Services Limited and utilised for the production of compost, is currently time-limited in its use to 2042. As such, the planning application to restore the moss will incorporate the proposed lifting of this 2042 deadline, which, if approved, would enable continued longevity of the operational site and the retention and safeguarding of existing and new jobs and business rates, beyond 2042.

It is felt that the safeguarding and retention of the established business is critical in generating the necessary funding for the restoration and future management of the moss for the next 30-years.

We understand you are in principle supportive of this application and have been involved with our earlier discussions on the Site. The Applicant is grateful for this support and your involvement to date.

So that we may provide you with a more comprehensive update, we wondered whether we could arrange a further meeting with you in January 2026, where we should hopefully have a more complete application and proposal to share with you. If you could respond to this email with some suggested dates, times and locations, we can co-ordinate with the Applicant.

Clerk has replied – happy to attend a meeting any day but Tuesday

#### SIMONSWOOD HALL

Clerk has written for an update and to inform them more building materials are being delivered to site.

#### INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Cllr Lewis has offered to hold a meeting at his property, prior to Environmental Agency meeting.

#### LALC

Clerk has written to LALC asking about remote meetings and voting

Reply from Debra at LALC

In England a Councillor needs to be present at a meeting to vote and we are not allowed proxy voting.

The matter of remote attendance and proxy voting was a subject recently of a Government consultation, response to this is here: [Remote attendance and proxy voting in local authorities: consultation results and government response - GOV.UK](#) So this may change in the future, but not soon.

In summary no, a Councillor has to be present at a meeting 'in person' to be able to vote.

The government is of the view that in-person authority meetings remain vital for local democracy, but that hybrid and remote attendance, and proxy voting, will enable local authorities in England to develop more modern, accessible, and flexible working practices.

We have carefully considered arguments for and against remote attendance and proxy voting, and we plan to legislate to support permanent provision in relation to both policies, when parliamentary time allows.

On remote attendance, we plan to permit local authorities to develop their own locally appropriate policies, if they decide to hold remote meetings.

On proxy voting, we plan to require principal (unitary, upper and second-tier) councils to implement proxy voting schemes, to provide consistency for members who are absent

when they become a new parent, or for serious or long-term illness. We plan for this requirement to apply to meetings of full council. For all other meetings, proxy voting may be used but will not be required, and substitute or pairing schemes may be more appropriate. We plan for other local authorities not listed above to be enabled but not required to implement proxy voting schemes, for any of their meetings, in the context of member absences for serious or long-term illness or becoming a new parent. We plan to work collaboratively with the sector to develop clear and supportive guidance in relation to both remote attendance and proxy voting policies.

PRECEPT

SIGNAGE

AOB

NEXT MEETING

5<sup>th</sup> February 2026