

Simonswood Parish Council
"Growing from Strength to Strength"

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 19:00hrs in Four Lane Ends Mission Hall, Skelmersdale Rd, Bickerstaffe L39 0EZ.

PRESENT

Parish Councillors: Cllr Mercer, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Rimmer and Cllr Shaw

WLBC Councillor: Cllr Rigby

Clerk: S Smith

Residents 6

APOLOGIES – None

Cllr Mercer welcomed everyone to the meeting

Meeting started at 19:03 hrs

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th December 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Meeting was adjourned for a period of public participation,

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Residents stated the estate is not improving.

Cllr Rigby explained about the Simonswood Round Table Meetings which include LCC planning Jonathan Haine and Jonathan Edwards.

The police will be contacted as they have not attended the recent round table meetings.

Fewer complaints last month (dust), this may be due to the weather.

Windmill Services are not compliant with tonnage reduction

Kealshaw seem to be more compliant. LEL civils are not compliant and a cease to trade notice has been issued and may lead to a possible prosecution.

The Environment Agency will also be visiting Drapers.

A dust monitor loaded onto a trailer is hoped to be placed close to the Industrial estate and it will be monitored for 12 mths. Cllr Shaw stated that it could be located at her property on Stopgate Lane.

Next Environment Agency public meeting 12th January 2026

Clerk to send details to Cllr Shaw so it can be displayed on the web site, Clerk will send an email out reminding residents also local parish councils.

Clerk to book appointment for Cllr Mercer and Rimmer

Cllr Rigby will try to get a one to one meeting with Knowsley MP Anneliese Midgley.

New build on Industrial estate should have a wheel washer to minimise the dust

Clerk to write to Clean streets re the lack of footpaths and the state of the roads and the entrance into the caravan park

Clerk to write to DFDS to write to Clean streets re the roads that numerous employees have to walk to reach work. Request a site meeting as no pavements, petition from firms and workers Clean streets if Clean streets if accident will hold them to blame if there is an accident will hold them to blame.

Simonswood Moss

Cllr Rigby has contacted Eric Knowles for a Prof Pertaine's (unsure of spelling) he will contact Cllr Rigby when he has sought advice from his insurers regarding Personal Indemnity Insurance.

Meeting reconvened.

1040 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1041 STOPGATE LANE

1042 From Clean Streets, Ref 5148646 has been completed and our team have carried out the
1043 required work. If you have any further concerns please report these via Love Clean Streets
1044 as a new report.

1045

1046 PLANNING

1047 App 2025/0727/LBC PLANNING – Decision Refused

1048 Listed Building Consent - Repointing of eroded cement joints with lime mortar.

1049 Replacement of external lighting with traditional-style fittings, failed rooflight with VELUX

1050 GGL Heritage Conservation Rooflight, Urgent replacement of top chimney stone,

1051 Repair/replacement of plastic RWGs with cast iron-effect PVCu downpipes, Door, Hooks

1052 and Window Glazing Repairs. - Simonswood Hall Hall Lane Simonswood Liverpool

1053 Lancashire L33 4XX -

1054

1055 App 2025/0768/FUL Olive view, Stopgate Lane

1056 Planning has been refused but there is no written reason why on the planning website

1057 Clerk to write to Planning dept. now on website

1058 RECOMMENDATION That the application should be REFUSED for the following reasons:

1059 The proposed development represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt

1060 insofar as the first floor side extension, when considered alongside existing nonoriginal

1061 extensions to the host building, would result in a significant increase in volume of the

1062 original dwelling. There are no very special circumstances to outweigh the harm caused

1063 by inappropriate development. The proposal is therefore contrary to the National

1064 Planning Policy Framework and Policy GN1 of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012 - 2027.

1065

1066 SIMONSWOOD MOSS

1067 Clerk has been advised by Mr Baldwin that there will be no planning application in

1068 January 2026, but he will let the council know when it will be.

1069 From Abigayle Boardman BA (Hons) MCD MRTPI

1070 SED Servies - Simonswood Moss

1071 We write on behalf of SED Services to provide you with an update on progress in relation

1072 to the preparation of a Planning Application at Simonswood Moss, Kirkby.

1073 As you are aware, we are seeking to submit an application that includes a significant

1074 restoration scheme in relation to the moss area, which has historically been worked for

1075 peat. We are now at advanced stages in finalising the restoration scheme, based on

1076 the advice of the appointed geologists and ecologists, in order to present a scheme that

1077 is most appropriate to the moss, as it stands today.

1078 The restoration scheme will potentially be significant in cost, and it is proposed a 30-year

1079 legal agreement would be put in place, through the granting of planning permission for

1080 the management and maintenance of the moss, for current and future generations.

1081 As you may be aware, the 'main operational' area of the Site, which is owned and

1082 occupied by SED Services Limited and utilised for the production of compost, is currently

1083 time-limited in its use to 2042. As such, the planning application to restore the moss will

1084 incorporate the proposed lifting of this 2042 deadline, which, if approved, would enable

1085 continued longevity of the operational site and the retention and safeguarding of existing

1086 and new jobs and business rates, beyond 2042.

1087 It is felt that the safeguarding and retention of the established business is critical in

1088 generating the necessary funding for the restoration and future management of the moss

1089 for the next 30-years.

1090 We understand you are in principle supportive of this application and have been involved

1091 with our earlier discussions on the Site. The Applicant is grateful for this support and your

1092 involvement to date.

1093 So that we may provide you with a more comprehensive update, we wondered whether

1094 we could arrange a further meeting with you in January 2026, where we should hopefully

1095 have a more complete application and proposal to share with you. If you could respond

1096 to this email with some suggested dates, times and locations, we can co-ordinate with the
1097 Applicant.
1098 Clerk has replied – happy to attend a meeting any day but Tuesday
1099
1100 SIMONSWOOD HALL
1101 Clerk has written for an update and to inform them more building materials are being
1102 delivered to site.
1103
1104 INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
1105 Cllr Lewis has offered to hold a meeting at his property, prior to Environmental Agency
1106 meeting if required.
1107
1108 LALC
1109 Clerk has written to LALC asking about remote meetings and voting
1110 Reply from Debra at LALC
1111 In England a Councillor needs to be present at a meeting to vote and we are not allowed
1112 proxy voting.
1113 The matter of remote attendance and proxy voting was a subject recently of a
1114 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
1115 change in the future, but not soon.
1116
1117 In summary no, a Councillor has to be present at a meeting 'in person' to be able to vote.
1118 The government is of the view that in-person authority meetings remain vital for local
1119 democracy, but that hybrid and remote attendance, and proxy voting, will enable local
1120 authorities in England to develop more modern, accessible, and flexible working
1121 practices.
1122 We have carefully considered arguments for and against remote attendance and proxy
1123 voting, and we plan to legislate to support permanent provision in relation to both policies,
1124 when parliamentary time allows.
1125 On remote attendance, we plan to permit local authorities to develop their own locally
1126 appropriate policies, if they decide to hold remote meetings.
1127 On proxy voting, we plan to require principal (unitary, upper and second-tier) councils to
1128 implement proxy voting schemes, to provide consistency for members who are absent
1129 when they become a new parent, or for serious or long-term illness. We plan for this
1130 requirement to apply to meetings of full council. For all other meetings, proxy voting may
1131 be used but will not be required, and substitute or pairing schemes may be more
1132 appropriate. We plan for other local authorities not listed above to be enabled but not
1133 required to implement proxy voting schemes, for any of their meetings, in the context of
1134 member absences for serious or long-term illness or becoming a new parent.
1135 We plan to work collaboratively with the sector to develop clear and supportive guidance
1136 in relation to both remote attendance and proxy voting policies.
1137
1138 PRECEPT
1139 To be discussed – held over to February Agenda as ran out of time
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1141 SIGNAGE
1142 To be discussed – held over to February Agenda as ran out of time
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1144 AOB
1145 From Bickerstaffe Parish Council.
1146 The details of the drop-in sessions with the Environment Agency Officers. This item has
1147 been added to the agenda for the next Bickerstaffe Parish Council meeting and has been
1148 published on the BPC Website and Facebook.
1149
1150 HIGHWAYS
1151 Cllr Lewis would like to discuss a draft letter.
1152 All councillors agreed to send the letter to LCC highways

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1154 NEXT MEETING
1155 5th February 2026