

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 3 April, 2014 in the Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Mrs E Murray – Chairman

Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman).

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Dewhurst, Councillor David Hindle, Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and Reverend Halliwell.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 April 2013

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 4 April, 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman

3. Chairman's Report 2013/2014

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave her report on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months.

She said that in terms of continuing to improve engagement with the community, it was pleasing that our proposal for a Grimsargh "Hub" had been met with enthusiasm and had now grown legs and it was hoped that this co-ordinating group would soon be giving clear visibility of all the event dates in the village, together with knowledge and sharing of skills and other resources.

With regard to planning this continued to be a dominant feature of our activities. The year started with a bit of a surprise as Hallam decided to contest their first Appeal dismissal in the High Court. They lost this, together with the second planning application and subsequent Appeal, making the total now 2 refused planning applications, 2 dismissed appeals and one failed High Court challenge. The Chairman said that Wainhomes was the next significant proposal and we were currently working on our defence case for the Appeal.

As last year, applications for our Small Grants scheme had been low, but we had been able to support the Field Day Committee, Friends of Grimsargh Green and the Over 60s Christmas Party.

Our Newsletters had been well-received again and thanks to everyone for your contributions to those. We're delighted to have now moved to using a local printer for these and even better was their very reasonable quote for the compilation layout of future publications.

The Chairman said our website had been given a fresh new look and our Facebook Page continued to be a useful informal communication link into our residents.

The Nellie Carbis Garden had a real boost with the new relationship with Probation Services and thanks are again given to Councillor Lynda Cryer for establishing those links. We hope and believe that this could be a very fruitful partnership which could even be extended into other projects.

The Chairman also said that it looked as though there are to be definite moves on the Grimsargh Wetlands front, though we did not as yet have any firm detail on what these might be. It would be great to be able to, in some way find a way to guarantee the future for that valuable wildlife habitat, as an asset to the village and surrounding area.

We continued to be supported excellently by our local police team. An unusual spate of relatively small crimes had occurred, but much of it had been exacerbated by our own residents' leaving cars and premises open. Hopefully the message was getting around and the newly formed Community Safety Working Group would be able to further improve matters with better awareness and possibly the introduction of CCTV in targeted areas of the village.

The Chairman said we were very sorry to lose Andy Ellis and David Nicholson, both of whom had contributed greatly during their time with us. However, we were delighted to welcome Dan Dewhurst into our ranks as one of the region's youngest ever Parish Councillors. We hoped to fill our current vacancies in the very (very) near future and we were anticipating some interesting fresh skills and viewpoints to add to the team mix.

We continued to play an active role in the Preston Area Committee and Three Tier Forum and these bodies in turn continue to provide valuable links into and have some level of influence with the respective Councils.

The Chairman said she would like to thank Neil and Tom, our Preston City Councillors for their support, not only to the residents, their constituents, but also directly to us.

We were surprised and delighted to learn that there was now a Lord Horam of Grimsargh and it was lovely to be able to meet John Horam, who we hoped to maintain links and contact with into the future.

Adam, our lengthsman continued to keep the village looking neat and tidy, within the scope of his role. The Parish Council planters had once again provided delightful splashes of colour and thanks to Councillor Lynda Cryer for the liaison with the various groups, organising the judging and laying on the Strawberry Tea last summer.

The Chairman said that as usual what she had outlined only covered a small amount of the work that we had done over the past year Our roles on Grimsargh Parish Council, while interested and varied, can at times be quite arduous and carry a significant level of responsibility. As Councillors you do all of that on a voluntary basis and so I thank you for all your efforts over the past 12 months. I also thank Sue, our Clerk for all her hard work and dedication, often going above and beyond the role's requirements and I would like to say particular thanks for her personal support and advice to me in my role as Chairman.

4. Matters raised by the Electors

Councillor Tom Davies raised the issue of the police carrying out a road side census in different areas and that PC Banks had been covering Tag Lane. He felt that the police should concentrate on their own area. He also mentioned a recent initiative by Preston City Council dog wardens where fluorescent dog jackets had been given to dogs to encourage local people to become canine volunteers.

There being no further business raised the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20 pm.

Chairman Grimsargh Parish Council