

Grimsargh Parish Council - Annual Report and Accounts 2012

Chairman's Report April 2012

This year had been another one of significant change on the Council with the very welcome arrival of three new Councillors in the persons of Peter Burton, David Nicholson and Lynda Cryer. They were co-opted early in the year and are bringing valuable new views and input to Parish Council operations.

A considerable amount of time and effort has been given to the proposal by Hallam Land Management for a major development on land north of The Hills. The latest news is that Hallam had reduced the scale of their proposals. This, combined with the just emerging information on the Preferred Options Paper meant that we perhaps have many more hours ahead of studying proposals and policies.

A new Working Group was been established to define and evaluate the possibilities and implications for certain sections of the Village to acquire Conservation Area Status. It was early days yet, as this is a complex issue, but more information will be forthcoming though our Newsletters, as available.

We are developing proposals for establishing a new "Parish Plan" and looking at this against the new Neighbourhood Planning system. The latter is a very new government initiative, still undergoing pilot studies, but might enable some increased level of local determination on certain aspects of planning.

There were a number of new schemes that had recently been implemented to encourage residents into communications with the Parish Council: a suggestion box in the Village Store, surgeries before each Parish Council meeting and free internet drop-in sessions at the Village Hall to enable people to be able to browse websites – including ours. So far these initiatives had seen little take-up. We hope that residents will make the most of these facilities as they are designed to increase awareness of what we do and encourage more feedback and communication with us.

A marvellous amount of effort and support has been given by the Guild Working Group this last year and prior to that. The resultant programme of activities looks wonderfully varied and packed full of things to provide interest across all ages and interests. We are particularly grateful to Patricia Tucker who continued in the role of Co-ordinator, despite stepping down from the Parish Council last year and has done a great job of pulling everything together.

It was a delight to see the play area on the Green being built and the feedback from parents and grandparents shows that is being greatly appreciated. We are pleased to see the drainage work taking place just recently and we hope that the grass around the area will soon recover. There just remains now the car park for some remedial work, which Preston City Councillors have advised will be completed shortly.

Our Best Kept Village results which were a bit of a triumph, coming third in our class, considering where we used to get placed a couple of years or so ago. A challenge for us for 2012 is to win?!

The Nellie Carbis Millennium woodland continues to be a charming and valuable asset to the Village and we shall be placing a new bench in there shortly, in memory of former Parish Councillor Sam Sellers.

A new Residents Association has been formed for the Redrow estate, arising out of an initial meeting called by Preston City and Grimsargh Parish Councils. They have already had a number of positive results with the Redrow developers who are still responsible for public elements of the estate – getting grass cut and ponds maintained and we wish the group continued success.

Some residents may have noticed that the precept (the amount in your Council Tax for the Village) had been raised significantly this year. We did forewarn about this in our January Newsletter. In percentage terms it looks like a huge increase, but in cash terms it amounts to an average of just £6 per household over the year. There were four elements contributing to the increase: a) we have been advised by a third party that our reserves are below what is considered prudent; b) a sum has been included as contingency to cover the Guild festivities; c) an amount has been budgeted to cover initial work on a new Parish Plan and d) the cancellation of the Lengthsman's Scheme payment from Lancashire County Council which has reduced our income. Items a) and d) are somewhat out of our hands and we hope that you will agree with the other two activities.

We thank those groups and individuals who came forward to adopt our planters which have provided wonderful splashes of colour throughout the year. We are looking forward to what they are planning for this summer of Guild 2012!

Thanks also to the members of the Friends of Grimsargh Green who organised the hedge laying activity and other works that have brought about delightful changes to the western side of the green. We look forward also to the results of their project for a mosaic on the Green, in celebration of Preston Guild.

It is noted that there was currently a spate of crime in the rural areas. We continue to have excellent relationships with our local police with Chris Banks and David Reid regular attendees at our Parish Council meetings. We hope to meet the new recruit PCSO Ashley Lawton soon. We heartily support their new Neighbourhood Watch initiative, which gives email alerts to everyone signed up so you can be aware of the latest news on the crimes and suspicious incidents that have just occurred and can perhaps have the chance to help in their resolution.

There had been a myriad of other matters the Parish Council have given time to, considered and dealt with over the past year – far too numerous to mention and I give my sincere thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their hard work and diligence in the application of their duties with Grimsargh Parish Council through 2011-12.

Eileen Murray
Chairman – Grimsargh parish Council

GRIMSARGH PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, 2011/12

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 31ST MARCH, 2012

	(2011/12)	(2010/11)
Total Receipts	28,993.90	(27,491. 36)
Total Payments	18,749.51	(20,118. 16)
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	10,244.39	(7,373. 20)
plus N.S.B. Interest	11. 06	(11.04)
plus Unpresented Cheques at Year End	327.40	(260.00)
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	10,582.85	(7,644.24)
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MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:-

Current A/c	100. 00	(100. 00)
Reserve A/c	4,941.63	(2,014.08)
N.S.B. Investment	5,541.22	(5,5530.16)
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	10,582.85	(7,644.24)
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Signed (Responsible Financial Officer)

..... (Chairman of the Parish Council)

Approved by the Grimsargh Parish Council on the 7 June 2012

GRIMSARGH PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - 31ST MARCH, 2012

	(2011/12)	(2010/11)
Balance carried forward at 1 st April, 2011	7,644.24	(8,432.85)
Plus Total Receipts	21,349.66	(19,058.51)
Plus N.S.B. Interest	11.06	(11.04)
Less Total Payments	18,749.51	(20,118.16)
Plus Unpresented Cheques	327.40	(260.00)
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	10,582.85	(7,644.24)
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These funds are held as follows:-

Current A/c	100.00	(100.00)
Reserve A/c	4,941.63	(2,014.08)
N.S.B. Investment	5,541.22	(5,530.16)
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	10,582.85	(7,644.24)
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V.A.T. STATEMENT

V.A.T. Refund due 1 st April, 2011	1,520.94	(1,141.41)
Plus V.A.T. paid during the year	1,514.58	(1,520.94)
Less V.A.T. received during the year	1,520.94	(1,141.41)
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	1,514.58	(1,520.94)
Less V.A.T. charged during the year	-	(--)
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V.A.T. Debtor at the 31 st March, 2012	1,514.58	(1,520.94)
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Signed (Responsible Financial Officer)

..... (Chairman of the Parish Council)

Approved by the Grimsargh Parish Council on the 7 June, 2012.

GRIMSARGH PARISH COUNCIL

Supporting Statement

The information contained in this statement is presented to support the Receipts and Payments Account of the Parish Council for the year ending the 31st March, 2012:-

1. Assets

As at the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council held assets as set out below, to the estimated cost values as shown:-

The Old School Garden	Community Value
Former Electricity Sub-Station (Parish Council Store)	Community Value
5 Timber Bus Shelters (total value)	6,836.17
Parish Council Notice-Boards (Two)	1,240.11
Village Green Information Signs	1,109.38
Willow Weaving Structures	2,618.75
7 Dog Waste Bins and Mounting Posts	1,150.00
Nativity Crib	450.00
Nativity Crib Figures	2,165.07
Kalamazoo Minute Book and Binders (replacement value approx)	250.00
Nellie Carbis Bench	295.00
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TOTAL	£16,114.48
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2. Borrowings

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council did not have any borrowings.

3. Leases

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council had not entered into any leases.

4. Debts Outstanding

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council did not have any outstanding debts.

5. Capital Reserves

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council did not have any reserves specifically allocated for capital schemes.

6. Earmarked Reserves

During the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council had not specifically earmarked funding for any particular schemes.

7. Tenancies

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council did not hold any tenancies.

8. Section 137 Payments

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council had made the following payment under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

North West Air Ambulance - £200

9. Agency Work

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council had not undertaken any agency work on behalf of other authorities.

10. Advertising and Publicity

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council had not undertaken any advertising during the year.

11. Contingent Liabilities

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council had not deemed it necessary to include an amount in the accounts to cater for contingent loss or costs.

12. Pensions

At the year ending the 31st March, 2012, the Parish Council was not responsible for the pension contributions of any of its employees.

Signed (Responsible Financial Officer)

..... (Chairman of the Parish Council)

Approved by the Grimsargh Parish Council on the 7 June 2012.