

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1
December, 2011 at Grimsargh Village Hall, at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Ron Woollam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors P Burton; Mrs J Chessell; Mrs L Cryer; A R Ellis; D Hindle (part of meeting); Mrs L McCann and D Nicholson.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
PC Chris Banks
Councillor N Cartwright – Preston City Council
Mr Nigel Roberts – Preston City Council
Diane Vaughton – Preston City Council
Alf Clempson – Press Agent/Researcher to Ben Wallace MP (part of meeting).
3 Members of the public

100. (11/12) Consideration of the Planning Application 06/2011/0882 – Land North of The Hills, Longridge Road, Grimsargh, Preston.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the first part of this evening's meeting would be solely to discuss Planning Application 06/2011/0882 – Land North of The Hills, Longridge Road, Grimsargh, Preston. There was a general discussion about planning policies – current and emerging ones and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray informed the Parish Council that this Planning Application was likely to go before the Planning Committee at Preston City Council in February – this had been confirmed by Mr Chris Hayward, (Assistant Director) City Planning Officer.

It was noted that the notices placed on lamp posts stated that objections needed to be received by Preston City Council by 8 December and the consultation letter also gave this deadline date. The Parish Council were unsure how many houses in the vicinity had received the consultation letter – it appeared from general discussions with residents that only those houses with a physical border to the proposed site had received a letter. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should put a letter through all the local resident's houses on The Hills and Preston Road to advise residents about this Planning Application and to ask them, if they wished to object, to put a holding objection into Preston City Council by 8 December. It was further agreed that a public meeting should be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 4 January at 7.30pm. At this meeting further information would be available to help residents formulate their full objections to the Planning Application if they wished. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Murray agreed to draft out the letter to the residents and to arrange for these to be posted through residents doors within the next couple of days.

There was a general discussion about the Planning Application and it was agreed that, from initial observations it is clear Hallam were basing their application on an assertion that their development would represent an extension of the Preston urban area. The Parish Council considered the site to be plainly within Grimsargh.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should also put in a “holding objection” to this Planning Application explaining that our full reasons for objection would be forwarded to Preston City Council by the third week in January 2012. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk should contact Chris Hayward to check if this proposed way forward would be acceptable to the City Council.

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer also suggested that a flyer about the public meeting should be put in the Newsletter and this was agreed. Information would also be shared on our website and facebook pages.

The Chairman asked if anyone knew a legal expert who could help the Parish Council to prepare their objection against this Planning Application. Councillor Neil Cartwright agreed to send the Chairman details of a possible contact and Councillor Ron Woollam agreed to speak to a couple of local people who may be able to help.

It was further agreed to produce a simple poster for people to download from the website and display in their windows. After discussion it was agreed to use “NO to 200 houses here” as the basis for the poster.

Councillors Mrs Eileen Murray, Peter Burton and Ron Woollam all agreed to look at a third each of the Planning Policies to help prepare our objection.

It was noted that all members of the Parish Council should encourage local people to get involved and submit individual objections to Preston City Council. Alf Clempson explained that Ben Wallace MP was very supportive of keeping green land, green and asked to be kept informed of the Parish Council’s progress with this objection.

The Chairman then proposed a five minute break to enable the presentation from Preston City Council to be set up. This was agreed.

101. (11/12) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in item 5 – proposed cycleway/footway at St Michaels Church car park/St Michaels School. (Ref 06/2011/0867) as a person affected by this proposed development. Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Ron Woollam both declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in item 5 – proposed cycleway/footway at St Michaels Church car park/St Michaels School (Ref 06/2011/0867 as a member of the Parochial Church Council and related to a member of the Parochial Church Council respectively.

Councillor Andy Ellis declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in item 10 – Grant Request for Grimsargh Toddlers as his child attended the Group.

102. (11/12) Apologies for Absence

None.

103. (11/12) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Councillor Joyce Chessell asked for the grant request from FoGG to be added to the Minutes.

Resolved

That, in addition to the above, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 November, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

104. (11/12) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks to the meeting. PC Banks gave an update on police activities in the area and reported that there had been a recent accident in the village that was caused by someone drink/driving. It was fortunate that no one had been seriously hurt and even the driver who had been drinking was not injured and spent the night in custody.

PC Banks explained that the Farm Watch Scheme was going well and they now had 250 farms linked together to prevent crime in rural areas. They had asked Grimsargh Parish Council to support the scheme by purchasing some signs at a cost of £40 and the Chairman confirmed that this would be discussed later on the Agenda. PC Banks also informed the Parish Council that they had received a request from a resident on Cow Hill who wanted to be included in the Neighbourhood Watch Campaign.

PC Banks also informed the Parish Council about a care and repair scheme that was being funded through LANPAC. This was to provide door bolts/window locks to the elderly with Trades people agreeing to put them in for free.

PC Banks also mentioned that Broughton Police station was still to remain in use after the recent public consultation as there had been a lot of support for this.

The Chairman thanked PC Banks for his update and then welcomed Nigel Roberts and Diane Vaughton to the meeting who were here to discuss conservation areas. Diane gave a short presentation on conservation areas – she explained that a conservation area is to preserve what is special and significant. It was important to understand our heritage and that if any changes needed to be made then they had to be reasonable, transparent and consistent. It was the responsibility of the local Planning Authority to designate conservation status following full consultation with local residents.

Diane explained that conservation status introduces controls about demolition and reduces permitted development rights. There were additional controls over alterations/extensions and trees also had additional measures and the Planning Authority must be consulted for pruning or lopping of trees.

The Town and Country (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and Planning Policy Statement 5 were the relevant documents relating to conservation areas. It was noted that in conservation areas properties are classed as heritage assets and these need to be preserved and not harmed in any way.

The Chairman thanked Diane for her presentation and asked if anyone had any questions. Councillor David Hindle asked what were the advantages of conservation status for a village such as Grimsargh. Diane explained that if a conservation area was identified in Grimsargh then there would be more control over demolition. If it was accepted that some buildings had to be demolished in a conservation area then the Planning Authority could tighten up on what was being built in its place. The controls over demolition were quite strict.

Councillor Peter Burton asked if the Parish Council should look at the whole village as a conservation area or just important bits. Diane explained that you can include properties and thoroughfares also infrastructure, fields and hedges etc.

Diane gave the example of the conservation area in Fulwood where Councillor Cartwright lives. She explained that there are historic buildings in the area but there are also some buildings that although in a conservation area, did not need the same protection ie more modern. She explained that the Planning Authority would adopt a slightly more relaxed attitude to works on these more modern types of properties.

Councillor Cartwright explained that conservation status was really capturing the area at the moment and saying from this moment on we will keep properties at this standard and not let them change. It was noted that firm action would be taken against people who disregard conservation status.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray asked if there were a percentage of residents who had to agree with conservation status for it to go ahead. Councillor Cartwright explained that a report would go to Cabinet at Preston City Council and a majority of people supporting conservation status was what was needed for it to be approved.

Any costs associated with conservation status would be met by Preston City Council but the support of the Parish Council with regard to local knowledge would be needed.

A member of the public asked about the protection of fields and buildings. Nigel Roberts explained that conservation status would take into account historic field patterns and development adjacent to a conservation area.

Councillor Ron Woollam explained that the Parish Council had set up a Working Group to look at potential ideas for a conservation area but asked what Preston City Council would do to help with the process. Diane explained that once the Parish Council had identified areas they think is suitable then the City Council would carry out a character assessment – this is a lengthy process and could take several months. There would be an opportunity to comment on the draft appraisal.

It was felt that a colour coded boundary map was a good first step forward. Councillor Hindle said he had a lot of historical information and he would forward this to Diane.

It was agreed that Diane would forward a copy of her slides to the Clerk and if anyone had any further questions on conservation areas these could be sent to the Clerk who would contact Diane/Nigel for answers.

The Chairman thanked Nigel and Diane for attending the meeting and helping the Parish Council understand about conservation status.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann asked if a discussion could be held at the next meeting on the bollards outside the post office and what could be done to improve them as they looked an eyesore.

Councillor Ron Woollam asked about Chipping Boys Club using the football pitch at Redrow. It was suggested that the football pitch on the green may be a better option but that the football club would have to speak to Preston City Council about the green or Redrow about their pitch as these did not belong to the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Lancashire County Council regarding the diversion of footpath no 7 around Salisbury Farm, Grimsargh. It was agreed that the Chairman would reply to this on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then reconvened the meeting.

105. (11/12) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

(Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Ron Woollam all declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 06/2011/0867 and left the room for the debate and decision).

In accordance with paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct – Councillors Mrs Murray, Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Ron Woollam were allowed to make a personal statement on this planning application before leaving the room.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that a letter of objection to this Planning Application had been received from a local resident and this was circulated by the Clerk. A member of the public was also given the opportunity to speak on this matter and raised their concerns that the infilling was unnecessary. There was then a general discussion about this planning application. All agreed and fully supported that a footpath for the children was needed, however concerns about this planning application were raised.

The concerns were that the level of the infilling was excessive and the risk of flooding/drainage problems caused by the slope. The Parish Council were also aware that local residents have septic tanks at the rear of their properties and felt that adequate attention has not been given to this. The proposals as presented would cause loss of amenity for the local people whose houses would look onto this proposed pathway. If the pathway was at ground level then the effect on the residents would be minimal.

The width for the proposed path was far too wide and the Parish Council was also concerned that Lancashire County Council referred in their e mail to Preston City Council to illumination on the pathway. The Parish Council strongly felt that this

should be looked at in detail - as this would have a detrimental effect on the local residents and could possibly be intrusive.

The Parish Council were also concerned about the *proposed pathway" and agreed to suggest that the pathway at the Church end should be moved away from the local houses and actually be placed nearer to the church - as the end house would basically be surrounded by pathways.

It was noted that there had been no consultation with the Parish Council on this matter and it was felt a lot of these issues could have possibly been resolved earlier with consultation.

Resolved

That Grimsargh Parish Council objects to Planning Application 06/2011/0867 - proposed cycleway/footway at St Michaels Church car park/St Michaels School for the reasons as outlined above. However, the Clerk should inform Preston City Council that the Parish Council fully supports a footpath for the children but feels that the Planning Application as presented is not the correct way forward.

It was noted that Preston City Council had approved the following Planning Application:-

06/2011/0786 - Silver Birches Whittingham Lane Grimsargh PR2 5LH. Change to house types (plots 2 to 6) as Previously approved under outline approval 06/2009/0088.

106. (11/12) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. A copy of the latest FoGG report had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that FoGG had not secured the lottery funding towards the mosaic for Preston Guild and this was disappointing. However FoGG were confident that the project could still go ahead.

With regard to the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field, Councillor Mrs Chessell explained that she had spoken to Preston City Council and they were looking to put the village green forward for QEII status but this would be subject to a Cabinet decision by Preston City Council.

It was noted that a lovely letter had been received from Norman Ridding with regard to the hedge laying work done by FoGG.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

107. (11/12) Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Andy Ellis as Co-ordinator of the Community Engagement Working Group gave an update on the meeting held on 16 November, 2011. The notes of the meeting had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11 January, 2012.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

108. (11/12) Finance Working Group/Budget approval 2012/2013

The notes of the Finance Working Group held on 9 November, 2011 had been circulated to the Parish Council and where presented at the meeting for approval. The Finance Working Group had drafted their terms of reference as follows:-

- Review and update Grimsargh Parish Council's Financial rules and regulations.
- Review and make recommendations on the budget provision to ensure it is adequate for the Parish Council's needs for 2012/2013.
- Review and report on the Fidelity Guarantee to make sure the Parish Council is adequately covered.
- Provide a written report from its meetings and report back to the Parish Council with recommendations for action.

It was noted that the Finance Working Group had also reviewed the Financial Rules and Regulations and these were presented for adoption by the Parish Council. A copy of the Financial Rules and Regulations are presented in the Minute Book as Appendix "A".

With regard to the annual budget the Finance Working Group had reviewed the budget provision for 2012/2013 to ensure it was adequate for the Parish Council's needs. It was noted that the Group had discussed each budget heading and added provision for the resurfacing of the paths outside the Parish Council's office/store, and the inclusion of the renewal of the Waste Carriers Licence for the Lengthsman – these need budgeting for but may need further discussion. It was felt that a Parish Plan would cost around £2,000 - £3,000. It was recommended that grants awarded in 2012/2013 should be within a budget of £2,000. A copy of the draft budget was circulated to the Parish Council and is presented in the Minute Book as Appendix "B".

With regard to the Fidelity Guarantee it was noted that the Fidelity Guarantee was currently set at £15,000. It was noted that the Parish Council may need to consider increasing this in line with the level of precept. A Fidelity Guarantee should cover the maximum held in the bank by the Parish Council at any one time.

Resolved

- 1) That the notes of the Finance Working Group held on 9 November, 2011 are noted and that the terms of reference for the Finance Working Group as now presented are approved.
- 2) That the updated Financial Rules and Regulations as presented are approved.
- 3) That the draft budget for 2012/2013 as now presented is approved.

109. (11/12) Update on Residents Association

Councillor David Nicholson gave an update on the Redrow Residents Association from their meeting held on 17 November. A copy of the notes had been circulated to the Parish Council. Councillor David Nicholson informed the Parish Council that the constitution of the Residents Association had now been finalised and this would hopefully be adopted at their next meeting to be held on 12 January.

With regard to issues on the pond area it was noted that a meeting had been held with Dominic Rigby, Environmental Projects Officer for Lancashire County Council, and the following points were discussed:- The need to establish responsibilities, Redrow or Preston City Council. Funding on offer starts from about £500 for a cleanup of the area to as much as £10000 depending on which agencies give support.

The need to decide what the pond should look like e.g. Marshland with improved planting or maybe fully landscaped with open water.

The Parish Council were fully supportive of the Residents Association and their plans to improve the pond area for local residents.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

110. (11/12) Grant request for Grimsargh Toddlers

(Councillor Andy Ellis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and resolution).

The Clerk had circulated a request received from Grimsargh Toddlers for a donation towards their Christmas activities. Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer proposed that a grant of £50 should be given to Grimsargh Toddlers towards their Christmas events and this was seconded by Councillor Ron Woollam.

Resolved

That a grant of £50 is given to Grimsargh Toddlers for their Christmas event.

Councillor Andy Ellis returned to the meeting.

111. (11/12) Grant request towards Farm Watch Scheme

The Clerk had circulated a request received from PCSO Gemma Duxbury for a contribution towards signage for the Farm Watch Scheme. The amount requested was £40.00 and it was noted that other local parish councils had agreed to contribute

to the scheme. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray that a grant of £40.00 should be given towards signage for the Farm Watch Scheme. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell.

Resolved

That a grant of £40 is given towards signage for the Farm Watch Scheme.

112. (11/12) Parish Council Newsletter

A quick update was given by the Clerk on which items had been received for the newsletter. Councillor Mrs Murray kindly agreed to pull the newsletter together and reminded all to submit their items urgently. Councillor Mrs Murray would then circulate the draft letter to all for approval before printing. The newsletter distribution list was also agreed.

113. (11/12) Purchase of Flag/Flag Pole

Councillor David Nicholson had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda then the Parish Council could decide if they wished to go ahead with the purchase of a flag and flag pole.

It was noted that there were different flags and flag poles that could be purchased and the quality of these varied. Councillor David Nicholson suggested that if the Parish Council wished to go ahead then he would suggest a more robust type. The approximate cost of a flagpole and flag of the recommended quality, (supplied, delivered and installed) was £657.60 (Including VAT). There was a general discussion about this and the Parish Council agreed that they could not justify spending this amount on a flag and flagpole at this present time.

Resolved

That the Parish Council does not go ahead with the purchase of a flag and flagpole at this present time.

114. (11/12) Financial Matters and Banking

It was noted that we currently had estimated £9,840.49 in the bank as at 1 December 2011.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Adam Cooper 54 hours at £11.50 - £621.00 + VAT @20% - £124.20 – total £745.20
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 7 November, 14 November, 21 November and 28 November = 4 weeks – total £320

- LALC training costs for 22 October – 50% of costs = £200. Farington PC to pay 50% of costs = £200.
- Grimsargh Village Community Association – room hire for 22 October training and refreshments costs = £88.50.
- LALC book for Clerk as agreed - £19.95.
- Water bill – Nellie Carbis £16.09 (United Utilities).

115. (11/12) Policy Consultation – Technical Reforms of Council Tax

The Clerk had circulated a Policy Consultation on the Technical Reforms of Council Tax. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should respond to this consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

116. (11/12) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

Boundary sign

Lancashire County Council has confirmed that the boundary sign has now been ordered and will be put in place as soon as possible.

Bins

Preston City Council confirmed that the cost of a new bin for the ginnel near the reservoirs was £210. However a new dog bin is needed on the village green. Therefore I have spoken to Preston City Council and if we give our old dog bin to Preston City for the village green then they will provide our bin for free. Adam will put both bins in place and assume responsibility for emptying them.

Lease of Life Award

I have been informed that the decision on this grant is expected in December.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5 January, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Local Government Act 1972

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item, because, if members of the public were present, it is likely that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

117. (11/12) Parish Council Precept

Discussion took place with regard to the Annual Precept for 2012/2013 taking into account planned and committed expenditure and the need for prudent reserves and to ensure that contingencies were in place for Guild activities for 2012. The Parish Council were mindful of the current economic climate but recognised that the precept would need to be increased. A copy of the full draft budget is in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That Preston City Council be informed that the Total Parish Requirement for 2012/2013 be increased from £18,000 to £24,500.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 pm.