

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Present:- Councillor N F Ridding –Chairman

Councillors

R W Chapman	S G Sellers
Mrs J Chessell	G T Swarbrick
Mrs L McCann	Mrs P A Tucker
Mrs E M Murray	B G Woodburn

Also present was Councillor T Davies and one member of the public.

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

At the request of the Chairman, the Council stood in silence to remember those who died for the country in the World Wars and in other conflicts past and present.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations by Councillors of Personal or Prejudicial Interests relating to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1ST OCTOBER, 2009

It was noted that the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 15th September, 2009 should have been confirmed, subject to no formal decision having been reached about the acquisition of a 2 metre wide strip of land by Mr Calvert.

70. RESOLVED:- That, subject to the abovementioned amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 1st October, 2009 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

a) Councillor Mrs Tucker said that she had still not received a reply from Nigel Evans, MP, about Broadband Speeds, but BT had responded in some detail. The distance from exchanges was a major reason why speeds varied, and the large majority of Grimsargh was fed from Ribbleton exchange, some 4 miles distant. Longridge exchange was just over 2 miles distant and it was thought that it might be possible to press for Grimsargh subscribers to be moved to the Longridge exchange. However, not all Internet providers were available from all exchanges. Further information would be sought from Grimsargh residents through an article in the forthcoming Newsletter.

b) Councillor Mrs McCann commented that she had previously expressed her concern about the way that the various issues relating to Transition had been reported.

c) Councillor Mrs Tucker informed the Parish Council that the closing date for comments on the “Big Care Debate” was the 13th November, 2009

d) The Clerk reported that permanent repairs to the footway fronting Grimsargh Club, together with Preston Road east of Lindale Avenue had been placed in the County Council’s Small Improvements Programme. Councillor T Davies then announced that he had asked the County Council to install

bollards to the front of Grimsargh Club to prevent parking on the footway. Parish Councillors voiced their total opposition to this request and asked why he had not raised it with the Parish Council beforehand. Bollards to prevent parking were the worst possible option for Grimsargh. The Parish Council had previously raised issues of parking on this footway and had suggested other options, including the creation of a lay-by, which would keep the crossing visible to traffic. An approach would be made to the County Council to ask that the request of Councillor Davies be not acted on and that the County Council be again asked to look at providing a lay-by to the front of Grimsargh Club.

e) Councillor Mrs Murray reported that she and Councillor Mrs McCann had met with Rosie Green to discuss youth provision in the area.

REDROW - SECTION 106 APPLICATION AND GRIMSARGH VILLAGE GREEN – PLAY PROVISION

The Clerk reported that the “pegging out” of the land to the rear of the Village Hall had been completed and Councillors had been given the opportunity to view the pegged out line. The proposal from Preston City Council was for a boundary line with Fir Trees Farm approximately 1 metre into the football pitch from the pegged line to be created. This would allow for a better and more stable base for any fencing that would be installed. If this was agreed by the Parish Council, Preston would then be in a position to proceed with the planning application, including the S.106 Agreement, to be dealt with and this, in turn would lead to the release of funding to be used for the Village Green.

71. RESOLVED:- a) That Preston City Council be asked to proceed with the application from Redrow for the revision of the Section 106 Agreement; and

b) That the revised fence line to a maximum of 1 metre from the pegged out line into the play area, as now reported, be approved.

POLICING ISSUES

PC Ian Zanelli had submitted a report detailing incidents that had been reported during October, 2009. There had been 2 thefts, 1 case of criminal damage and 1 anti-social behaviour incident. He also reported that there were currently reduced staffing levels in the Division but, hopefully, they should be back to full strength soon. Councillor Mrs Chessell reported on a number of incidents on the Village Green in the Children’s Play area and the information she presented would be passed to PC Zanelli for attention.

72. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990

There were no planning applications to present.

ROAD SAFETY SCHEME – B.6243, GRIMSARGH/LONGRIDGE

A report giving details of the proposed speed limit reduction and traffic calming measures on Preston Road between Grimsargh and Longridge was presented. One item of concern was raised which related to street lighting, particularly towards Longridge, which was considered not be up to standard, bearing in mind that the majority of accidents happened at night. It was also noted that reflector signs had been removed from near to the junction with Back Lane. The scheme did, however, provide for the use of interactive speed signs to remind motorists of the speed limit which appeared to effective elsewhere.

It was agreed to place a item in the Newsletter to inform residents of the work that Parish Council had been doing over the years to get these changes put in place, plus the relocation of the Gatso speed camera. This had been suggested on numerous occasions since Redrow started work in Grimsargh.

Councillor Mrs McCann also repeated her concern about difficulties crossing Longridge Road to or from The Hills. Schoolchildren had to cross Longridge Road and an island refuge would make this much safer.

73. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received;
- b) That the County Council's detailed scheme for a reduction of the speed limit and various other traffic calming measures on Preston Road between Grimsargh and Longridge be fully supported; and;
 - c) That the County Council be asked to investigate the system of highway lighting on Preston Road, as now reported; and
 - d) That a full report on the proposed changes in the scheme be included in the forthcoming Parish Council Newsletter; and
 - e) That the County Council be asked to look again at the possibility of providing a Pedestrian Refuge on Longridge Road near to the junction with The Hills.

LANCASHIRE LOCALS – RATIONALE OF FIXED AND MOBILE SAFETY CAMERAS

A report setting out the rationale for fixed and mobile safety cameras was presented. This report had recently been approved by the Lancashire Locals (Preston) Committee. It was noted that the speed camera at Roman Way had never worked and it was felt that the speed camera opposite The Plough was in the wrong location and could be more effective elsewhere.

74. RESOLVED:- a) That information be sought from the County Council about criteria for the provision of speed cameras; and
- b) That the County Council be asked for operational information about the use of the speed cameras opposite The Plough and at Roman Way.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCILS

Details of what was required for a Parish Council to embark on acquiring Quality Parish Status were presented. A great deal of work was necessary and there were also likely cost implications for the Parish Council. It was questioned that, should the Parish Council acquire Quality Status, would it then be treated differently and would it have a greater voice. It would be a different direction for the Parish Council and there were some doubts whether it would be any of significant benefit for the Parish Council. Councillor Swarbrick expressed a view that the requirements covered Councils of all sizes and populations and he questioned whether Quality Status was necessary for Grimsargh. Councillor Chapman said that, in his view, there would be a significant additional workload on each and every Councillor and the Clerk this needed to be addressed in any consideration of Quality Status.

75. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
- b) That the discussion on Quality Parish Council be continued at the next meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Councillor Chapman briefly reported on the information he had obtained from the Training Course and also presented a summary of the issues covered. To ensure complete accuracy, it had been suggested that the wording of the resolution should be agreed by Councillors at the meeting.

76. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.

GRIMSARGH PARISH PLAN

A copy of the Parish Plan had been circulated for information. It was noted that several areas and recommendations in the Plan had not been progressed as originally envisaged, although it was accepted that a significant amount had also been taken forward from the Plan. It was felt that it was possibly now time to commence a review of the Parish Plan. It was also agreed that an item be included in the Newsletter setting out what had been achieved from the Parish Plan.

77. RESOLVED:- That the Grimsargh Parish Plan be revisited at the next meeting.

FRIENDS OF GRIMSARGH GREEN

Councillor Mrs Chessell reported that Mr M Kelly had accepted that he still had outstanding issues to answer. However, it was now likely that FOGG would have to contribute about £5,000 towards the car park. Discussions were ongoing about the type of lighting to be erected although it was hoped for some movement shortly. Half of the grant from the Climate Change Fund, £2,500. 00, had already been paid to FOGG. It was also probable that FOGG would be asking the Parish Council to make a further financial contribution in 2010/11.

78. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Parish Council was reminded that it usually made a grant each year to the GVCA to help with the cost of the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party. It was proposed and seconded that a grant of £150. 00 be made and this was unanimously agreed.

79. RESOLVED:- That a grant of £150. 00 be made to the GVCA to help with the cost of the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party, 2009.

NORTH WEST AIR AMBULANCE

A request for a grant towards the cost of running the North West Air Ambulance had been received. The Air Ambulance covered all the Lancashire area and was considered to be a valuable resource. It was proposed and seconded that a grant of £200. 00 be made and this was unanimously approved. They had also suggested that possible sites for Clothing Banks be considered and the Village Hall, Grimsargh Club and The Plough were suggested.

80. RESOLVED:- a) That a grant of £200. 00 be made to the North West Air Ambulance to help with ongoing running costs; and
b) That the Village Hall, Grimsargh Club and The Plough be approached as possible sites for Clothing Banks.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

There was nothing to report from Rosie Green. However, Councillor T Davies reported that a seat had been acquired and a suitable site adjacent to the Village Hall had been identified and it would be installed at an appropriate time.

81. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND NATIVITY CRIB

It was reported that the Carol Service around the Nativity Crib would take place on Friday, 11th December, 2009 at 6.30 p.m.

82. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That approval be given to the purchase of a suitable Christmas Tree to be illuminated over the Christmas period.

THE NELLIE CARBIS MILLENNIUM WOODLAND

It was reported that the Woodland A.G.M. was to be held in Grimsargh Club on the 23rd November, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

83. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

A copy of the Lengthsman's time sheet for October, 2009 was presented for information. It was reported that his accumulated hours were slightly down for the year at the present time.

84. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET, 2010/11

A Financial Statement was presented showing the current position of the Parish Council, the likely position at the 31st March, 2010, and details of known estimated expenditure for 2010/11. As far as was known at the present time, the County Council would be contributing the same amount of funding, £963. 00, towards the cost of the Lengthsman scheme and the 50% grant from Preston would probably remain for 2009/10. A request for funding for FOGG had also been provisionally raised, the actual amount to be requested had still not been decided by FOGG. It was agreed to continue discussions on the Budget at the next meeting.

85. RESOLVED:- That the Parish Council's Financial Requirements for the year 2010/11 be considered further at the December, 2009 meeting of the Parish Council.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

86. RESOLVED:- That the following account be approved for payment:-

Adam Cooper	-	£414. 00
(Payment to Lengthsman – October, 2009. 36 hours @ £10. 00 per hour. Includes £54. 00 V.A.T.)		

MATTERS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS

a) Councillor G T Swarbrick

Queried the use of "Matters Introduced by Members" at the end of meetings. This was felt to be a useful item but the Council had to take care that formal decisions on such items were not taken at the particular meeting, but must be taken as individual agenda items for future meetings.

b) Councillor Mrs L McCann

Reported that the open grassed area between The Hills and the former Railway line was badly flooded and was close to some gardens. Work was necessary to reduce the flooding problem and she would take this up with persimmon Homes.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman
3rd December, 2009