

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 8th OCTOBER, 2010**

Present:- Councillor Mrs P A Tucker –Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

Mrs J Chessell Mrs L McCann
A R Ellis G T Swarbrick

Also present were Councillors N F Cartwright and T Davies.

85. (10/11) DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Personal and/or Prejudicial interest.

86. (10/11) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E M Murray and N F Ridding.

87. (10/11) VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported that Councillors S G Sellers and B G Woodburn had both resigned from the Parish Council. Letters had been sent to them expressing the appreciation and thanks of the Parish Council for the work that they had each carried out over the past years whilst they had been Parish Councillors.

Notice of the Vacancies had been published at the Elections Office at the Town Hall and no request for an election had been received and it was, therefore, a matter for the Parish Council to co-opt two replacement Councillors. Expressions of interest to become Parish Councillors had been received from David Hindle and Ronald G Woollam and the Parish Council agreed to co-opt them on to the Council as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:- That David Hindle and Ronald G Woollam be co-opted as members of the Parish Council as soon as possible.

88. (10/11) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

It was noted that the reference to offloading at Browns garage was made by Councillor Mrs P A Tucker and not by Councillor Mrs J Chessell as minuted.

RESOLVED:- That, subject to the aforementioned correction, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 2nd September, 2010 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

89. (10/11) MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

a) The Clerk reported that nothing further had been heard from Mr D Lemmings about the BMX/Skateboard Park and a further letter would be sent to him.

b) The Clerk reported that Mrs L Norris, Chief Executive, Preston City Council had thanked the Parish Council for the comments made about the “Free Fun Friday” events held during the summer.

c) It was reported that a letter had been sent to Dr Rossall about the overgrown hedge along Preston Road but nothing further had been heard.

d) It was noted that the Police and Community Support Officers had largely resolved the parking problems near to St Michael's School. However, this had led to publicity about road safety issues for parents taking children to school along the narrow footway. The delay regarding the link from the Church Car Park to the School was caused by the County Council not taking action to move the matter forward.

e) The grass to the front of Rough Hey Trading Estate had still not been cut and the area remained unsightly. It had been reported to Preston's Estates Group.

f) The Clerk reported that the grass around the perimeter of the Church Car Park had now been cut.

90. (10/11) CLERK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council discussed the wording of a draft advertisement for the Clerk of the Parish Council and various amendments were suggested. It was felt that there were too many considerations to be taken into account at this meeting and a separate meeting would be appropriate.

RESOLVED:- a) That a Special Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Thursday, 21st October, 2010 at 7.30 p.m. to continue discussions about to the appointment of a Clerk to the Parish Council; and
b) That information about the vacancy be placed in the Grimsargh Church Magazine, the Grimsargh and Goosnargh Guide, the Parish Council website, Parish Council notice boards and that a formal advertisement be placed in the local press.

91. (10/11) POLICING ISSUES

The Clerk reported that there had been 2 reported incidents in the area during September, 2010. It was also noted that the next PACT meeting was to be held on the 11th November, 2010. The Chairman commented that, at the previous PACT meeting, she had been informed of a change of shift patterns that would affect policing in Grimsargh

RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

92. (10/11) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990

The undermentioned planning application was presented:-

006/2010/0703	-	3 Mile Cross Farm Longridge Road Grimsargh	-	Erection of single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling (following demolition of existing porch to rear)
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The Clerk presented details of the application.

RESOLVED:- a) That no observations be offered in respect of planning application no. 006/2010/0703.

93. (10/11) RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH - PLANNING CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

It was reported that the Citizenzone vehicle had visited Grimsargh on the 21st September, 2010 with information about the Ribble Valley Planning Core Strategy and particularly regarding the three

Planning Options for Longridge. Officers from Ribble Valley had also been in attendance. There had been a slow but steady stream of visitors. After due discussion, the Parish Council agreed that the major implications for Grimsargh principally related to traffic arising from any new development and this would apply whichever option was adopted. In addition, although the plan was to cover a 5 year period, it was felt that the traffic implications should be considered as if the development was to take place as a single scheme. A Traffic Impact Survey should, therefore, take place prior to any development commencing.

RESOLVED:- That the report be received and the views of the Parish Council regarding a Traffic Impact Study, as now reported, be passed to Ribble Valley Borough Council by way of a formal response to the Planning Core Strategy.

94. (10/11) LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DELEGATED SERVICES

A report outlining the proposed local delivery arrangements for the LCC Delegated Services Protocol was presented. This was something that was of interest to the Parish Council, although it was felt that most of the arising workload would be with the Clerk and there might, therefore, be consequential issues arising.

RESOLVED:- a) That, in principle, the Parish Council agrees to support the LCC Delegated Services Protocol; and
b) That the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.

95. (10/11) NHS AVONDALE UNIT CLOSURE CONSULTATION

A Press Release was discussed regarding the Consultation Exercise into the closure of the Avondale Unit at Royal Preston Hospital. The general view was that the Avondale Unit was out of date and was not now fit for purpose. It was felt that a Purpose Built Unit was necessary and that any closure should wait until that had been provided.

RESOLVED:- That the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust be informed that any closure of the Avondale Unit should wait until a purpose built unit had been provided in its place.

96. (10/11) BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION, 2010

The results of the Best Kept Village Competition, 2010 were presented and it was noted that Grimsargh had been placed fifth in its class. This was a great improvement over 2009. It was also noted that the Cricket Ground had been one of the finalists in its class, but had not then been placed.

RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr R E Wallbank for all his work to keep the Cricket Ground in a first class condition.

97. (10/11) PARISH NEWSLETTER

A draft of the newsletter was presented. There was still space available for additional items. It was agreed that articles on the Best Kept Village Competition, Field Day, Changes on the Council and Broadband would be prepared.

RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

98. (10/11) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It was noted that the Village Hall Open Day had been well supported, in spite of the inclement weather. The Garden Club had suggested planting wildflowers on verges such as Elston Lane and Old Railway Walk. There was a comment that the land might be unsuitable and Councillor Mrs Chessell referred to a Training Course run by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust about creating Wildflower Areas (iwright@lancswt.org.uk) in November.

Councillor A Ellis reported that Ribble Valley Borough was preparing a Strategy on Broadband in Rural Communities. He also reported on a local company dealing with Rural Broadband that was looking for funding to put connectivity on to Longridge Fell and then move broadband into rural areas at 10mb speeds. He then referred to initiatives in villages in other areas trying to “deal” with broadband and he felt that this was an example where joint working would be beneficial.

RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

99 (10/11) PRESTON GUILD

Councillor Mrs P A Tucker reported that a meeting had been held with P Walsh from Preston City Council about the Preston Guild. This had been attended by a variety of representatives from organisations in the village. The next meeting had still to be arranged. Councillor Ellis reported, for information, that he had been asked to identify a number of Brass Bands for the Guild and there was a possibility of a Brass Band Competition.

RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

100. (10/11) FRIENDS OF GRIMSARGH GREEN

Councillor Mrs Chessell said that there had been no action by Preston on the S.106 funding, the progress of the Play Area or the change to the planning permission relating to the Solar Lights despite regular requests for action or information. She then reported that FOGG had been awarded £200 for seating through Green Partnership Grants. Problems had arisen with the surface of the new Car park where there was flooding in two areas and this had been referred to Preston for attention.

RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

101. (10/11) COMMUNITY PROJECTS

There was nothing to report on this item

102. (10/11) THE NELLIE CARBIS MILLENNIUM WOODLAND

The Clerk reported that the management of the Woodland would now need to be addressed with the resignation of Sam Sellers and Brian Woodburn, although there was no urgency at the present time.

RESOLVED:- That the management of the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland be discussed at the next meeting.

103. (10/11) PARISH LENGTHSMAN

The Lengthsman’s timesheet for September, 2010 was presented. Reference was made to some rotten wood in the Bus Shelter near to Lindale Avenue which would be referred to the Lengthsman for attention.

RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

104. (10/11) AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2010

A report was presented from the Auditors which showed that the Accounts for 2009/10 were considered to be satisfactory. However, the Auditors had presented a report on one arising issue that the level of the Fidelity Guarantee, currently set at £15,000. 00, was considered by them to be too low. After due consideration, the Council felt that this level of cover was adequate, particularly as only Councillors could authorise the withdrawal of monies and cheques for payment could only be approved for payment at Council meetings.

RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That the Annual Return of the Auditors for the year ending the 31st March, 2010 be approved and accepted; and
c) That the level of Fidelity Guarantee be considered to be satisfactory and should remain at the current level of £15,000. 00

105. (10/11) PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET, 2011/12

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that it needed to begin its consideration of the Budget for 2011/12 as Preston would need to be informed of the Parish Council's Financial Requirement in early January, 2011. A half-yearly Statement of Account would be presented to the next meeting to assist the Council.

RESOLVED:- That the Parish Council's Financial Requirements for the year 2011/12 be considered in detail at the November, 2010 meeting of the Parish Council.

106. (10/11) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:- That the undermentioned accounts be approved for payment:-

a)	Adam Cooper (Payment to Lengthsman – September, 2010. 40 hours @ £11. 50 per hour. Includes £80. 50 V.A.T. @ 17.5%)	-	£540. 50
b)	Peter J Croft (Purchase of 350 Winter Flowering Rosebud Primroses for Parish Planters)	-	£52. 94
c)	BDO LLP (Fees for the Audit of the Parish Council Accounts for year ended 31 st March, 2010. Inc £23. 63 V.A.T.)	-	£158. 63
d)	Adam Cooper (Repairs to Post Office Notice Board - Glazing Beads, Replacement Perspex and Sealant Inc £7. 00 V.A.T.)	-	£47. 00

84. (10/11) MATTERS INTRODUCED BY MEMBER

a) Councillor Mrs L McCann

- i) Commented on a traffic survey taking place on Longridge Road near to The Hills. Nothing was known about this and further information would be sought.
- ii) Reported that the fly tipping at the car park on The Hills had been removed very quickly.
- iii) Reported on the deteriorating condition of the Church Car Park. The Parochial Church Council would be asked what progress was being made to provide a proper surface.
- iv) Reported that, following the Police asking parents not to park on Preston Road near to School, a campaign had been launched about road safety in relation to access across the bridge. A petition was being launched in this regard.

b) Councillor A R Ellis

Referred to the lack of highway lighting on Whittingham Lane, particularly towards Grimsargh Manor. It was reported that S.106 funding arising from the Silver Birches development had been asked for to enable the lighting to be extended.

c) Councillor G T Swarbrick

Commented on the amount of weeds, overgrowth, etc., from the base of various hedgerows. The Lengthsman would now be asked to attend to this during the winter months.

d) Mrs J Chessell

i) Commented on the proposed resurfacing of Preston Road from Lindale Avenue to the boundary. The Clerk said he would ask the County Council if there was any progress.

ii) Reported that the County Council was carrying out a survey of Primary School provision in Preston. Capacities were being investigated and there was a possibility of some schools being closed and, therefore, there might be implications for St Michael's or Alston Lane Primary Schools.

iii) Reported that the path across the Causeway on the reservoirs was becoming overgrown. She had visited the site with Lancashire Wildlife Trust and there was an interest in them managing the site in the future. United Utilities would be asked to clear the overgrowth and give the Parish Council their comments about the future of the reservoirs. The matter would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

c) Councillor Mrs P A Tucker

i) Reported that she had attended an "Old People's Event" when issues relating to Housing for the Elderly had been discussed.

ii) Asked for the Six-Monthly Review of items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman

4th November, 2010