

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 May, 2021 held at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor David Hindle (Chairman); Councillor Mark Bell (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Graham Jolliffe – Preston City Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
Inspector Emma Walker – Lancashire Constabulary
4 members of the public

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

1. (21/22) Appointment of Chairman for 2021/2022

The Clerk reported that there had been one nomination for Chairman and that was Councillor David Hindle. Councillor David Hindle said he would be delighted to continue as Chairman and this was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle signed the Chairman's Acceptance of Office.

Resolved

That Councillor David Hindle is appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2021/2022.

2. (21/22) Appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2021/2022

The Clerk reported that there had been one nomination for Vice-Chairman and that was Councillor Mark Bell. It was therefore unanimously agreed that Councillor Mark Bell be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2021.2022.

Resolved

That Councillor Mark Bell is appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2021/2022.

3. (21/22) Apologies for Absence

None.

4. (21/22) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 – Parish Council vacancy as he was related to Jayne Woollam who had expressed an interest on being co-opted onto the Parish Council.

5. (21/22) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the remote Parish Council Meeting held on 1 April 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. (21/22) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Inspector Emma Walker and local residents to the meeting. The residents had come along to the meeting to raise their concerns about the use of off-road motorbikes on the village green, possible drug use and youth nuisance. They also wished to discuss speeding on Whittingham Lane. Inspector Emma Walker informed the Parish Council that there had only been 4 reported incidents in the last two months and not all of these related to the Village Green. She asked residents to report any incidents to enable the Police to target resources into the area and tackle any issues. With regard to the speeding issues, it was noted that the Parish Council were currently looking at funding four fixed SPiDs in the village and these would be placed at suitable points at the entrance/exit points, they would be static and record information regarding speed. The Chairman, David Hindle said that the SPiDs would be discussed later on the Agenda, but it was useful for the Police to know that the Parish Council were looking at how they could gather evidence of speeding in Grimsargh.

Councillor Mrs Chessell said that the Road Safety Working Group had looked at speeding issues particularly on Whittingham Lane and had contacted County Councillor Keith Iddon the current Cabinet Member for Highways. It appeared that there was no recent speeding data for the area and the last data had been collected in 2015. One resident referred to a recent incident where a car had gone through a hedge and another resident had placed safety chains outside their property due to their concerns about speeding vehicles losing control and ending up on their garden. Inspector Emma Walker said that the Police would work with residents and the Parish Council to look at targeting speeding in the village and would make sure that any enforcement work would be carried out at the most appropriate time to maximise results.

There was a general discussion regarding the new homes that had been approved by the City Council but the developments had not yet started. This would also significantly increase traffic on Whittingham Lane and through the village. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the lack of lighting and footpaths was also an issue and especially when further houses were built as the number of pedestrians and vehicles would increase. It was felt that this would be dangerous especially during the winter months when pedestrians would need to walk on the road to reach home. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also reminded residents that a copy of the Working Group report on Whittingham Lane was available from her if anyone required one.

Councillor Ron Woollam confirmed that he had met with local residents and Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell to discuss all the issues raised tonight. He had also had a further meeting with PC Garcia to highlight the issues and had been assured that the police will increase patrols if required.

Councillor Peter Burton said that there had been a history of speeding and using Brabiner Lane as a rat run through to Longridge. The speed had been reduced coming into Grimsargh from 40 mph to 30 mph but cars were still taking no notice of the speed limit.

Inspector Emma Walker said that through “In the Know” the Police could conduct surveys and they could also arrange for speed checks to be done. Some residents felt that the width of the road was an issue, as it was a rural road and not designed for the volume or speed of traffic. However, this was out of our control and it was unlikely that the road could be widened.

Councillor Graham Jolliffe said that as a former Chairman of Barton Parish Council they had faced similar issues and it was important to gather evidence and work closely with Lancashire County Council. Reference was also made to using the Parish Council CCTV system. However, the system did not cover Whittingham Lane and it was probably not appropriate for this system to be used.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle also referred to vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the Wetlands. He said that he would speak to the Police Inspector outside of the meeting to see what could be done.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle thanked everyone for coming along and discussing these important issues and then reconvened the meeting.

7. (21/22) Whittingham Lane/Village Green Issues/Road Safety Working Group

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that we had just heard a lot of comments from residents and the Police this evening and these were welcomed. There were obviously concerns regarding speeding, parking and the lack of a footpath. She said that Grimsargh Village Green was not technically registered as a green but was a QEII field and had been provided for the residents of Grimsargh. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also said the lighting and footpaths on what was once a rural road needed to be considered as the village had expanded and it was important that pedestrians including children should be able to walk safely. With regard to the speeding vehicles, Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said in addition to those measures mentioned such as SPiDs then consideration should also be given to signage, which would possibly show a bend and encourage vehicles to slow down. She also said it was important that the Planning Department at Preston City Council listened to the Parish and that the Parish Council needed to put forward their views on Planning Applications very strongly when it came to the safety of residents.

Councillor Peter Burton also said that he agreed with Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and that street lights would show that vehicles were entering a residential area and would encourage a slower speed.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the issues discussed this evening were part of an ongoing process of ensuring that the village was safe for all. She welcomed the comments made by the residents and the Police and agreed to include an item in the next Parish Council newsletter as an update for all.

8. (21/22) Parish Council Vacancy

(The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial in this item and left the room for the discussion and resolution.) (City Councillor Ron Woollam also declared a personal interest and left the meeting).

Councillor Mark Bell, Vice-Chairman took the Chair for this item. Councillor Mark Bell explained to the Parish Council that our usual procedures asked that interested people in the Parish Council vacancies attend at least two meetings of the Parish Council, which would enable them to meet the Parish Council and understand the role. He explained that Jayne Woollam had attended a number of Parish Council meetings and she had confirmed to the Clerk that she was interested in one of the Parish Council vacancies. The Chairman, Councillor Mark Bell asked Jayne to say a few words about herself and why she wished to become a member of the Parish Council. Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that she was a local resident and a retired English teacher. She had been involved in a number of community/Grimsargh events including Field Day, the forthcoming Whit Walks, Secretary to the Wetlands Trust and an active member of St Michael's Church. She also had experience of applying for funding bids to the Lancashire Environmental Fund and hoped her knowledge and wealth of experience could contribute to the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mark Bell thanked Jayne for her excellent and informative presentation and then asked the Parish Council to vote on the co-option of Jayne Woollam to the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed and Jayne Woollam was appointed as a co-opted member of the Parish Council with immediate effect. Councillor Jayne Woollam signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Resolved

That Jayne Woollam is appointed as a co-opted member of Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle and City Councillor Ron Woollam returned to the meeting.

9. (21/22) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following Planning Application: -

06/2021/0580 - 138 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JQ
First floor extension to side and rear.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2021/0580, there was a discussion regarding the details of the application. However, it was noted that the parking as requested by the Parish Council remained the same, as did the footprint of the actual building but a number of changes had been made. The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application.

The Parish Council also noted the following Planning Application which was not subject to consultation and was for information only: -

06/2021/0560 - St Michael's Church, Preston Road, Grimsargh
Ecclesiastical Exemption Notification for proposed
extension of churchyard.

There were no further planning issues for discussion at the meeting.

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2021/080, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

ii) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2021/0560 the Parish Council noted this application as it was for information only.

10. (21/22) Appointment of representatives to outside bodies, Sub-Committees and Working Groups

The Parish Council gave consideration to the appointment of representatives to outside bodies, Sub Committees and Working Groups. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson indicated that she would be happy to serve on the Planning Committee to fill one of the two outstanding vacancies. This was agreed. It was noted that there were a number of vacancies on the Working Groups due to having originally two vacancies on the Parish Council. As Councillor Jayne Woollam had only been appointed to the Parish Council this evening, it was agreed that the Appointment of representatives to outside bodies, Sub-Committees and Working Groups should be deferred until next meeting to allow Councillor Jayne Woollam to look at the vacancies and ask for further information as necessary. In addition, all members of the Parish Council were asked to look at the vacancies and let the Clerk know if they wished to be considered for any of these or if they wished to make any changes to their existing representation. The final appointments would be agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the appointment of representative to outside bodies, Sub-committees and Working Groups would be updated and approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council in line with the above.

11. (21/22) Grant Application for Way Markers for Grimsargh Walks

The Clerk reported that following last months meeting, she had spoken to the lady organising the book about ten walks from Grimsargh and they had agreed that the best way forward was for her to apply for the funding for the waymarkers rather than the printing of the book. In this way the money could be paid directly to the provider of the waymarkers, rather than an individual which would then comply with our grant procedures. It was noted that the cost of the waymarkers would be £400. The Parish Council unanimously supported this project and agreed to fund the cost of the waymarkers at £400 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. In addition, they agreed that they would put an item in the next Parish Council newsletter to support the book and the walks. The Parish Council agreed that this was an excellent project

and fully supported this project which would encourage health and wellbeing in the village.

Resolved

- i) That, the Parish Council agree to fund the cost of the waymarkers to compliment the ten walks from Grimsargh book at a cost of £400, to be funded from CiL monies.
- ii) That, an article to support the book and the waymarkers is included in the next Parish Council newsletter to be published in June.

12. (21/22) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to items for the next Parish Council newsletter to be published in June. The final items were agreed as follows : -

Publicity for Village Hall and other local businesses – we are open after lockdown item. (Councillor Peter Burton). (Mrs Eileen Murray for Village Hall item).

Best Kept Village. (Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson).

Focus/spotlight on Cricket Club/Myerscough Football Team. (Sue in conjunction with the Clubs).

Heritage item on Grimsargh – the origin of Grimsargh. (Councillor David Hindle), including a photograph by Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson of the Viking warriors.

Wetlands Trust item – including information on their new website. (Wetlands Trust).

Item on Festival of Angels (Jayne Woollam).

Item on Boylton, Houghton and Farrington Trust (City Councillor Ron Woollam).

Item on Scarecrow Competition – (Councillor Jayne Woollam).

Ten Walks from Grimsargh/waymarkers – Ruth Buckley.

Precept/grants/Council contacts. (Sue).

Parish Council changes. (Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson).

Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland. (Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson).

Update on speeding Whittingham Lane and anti social behaviour village green. (Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell).

13. (21/22) Speeding Indicator Devices (SPiDs)

The Clerk had circulated to the Parish Council a report from the Alan Cox the Road Safety Manager at Lancashire County Council regarding the possible sites for three SPiDs in Grimsargh. The Parish Council considered the report and agreed that with regard to the entrance into the village from Preston, location 1B was preferred. With regard to the entrance into the village from Preston, there was only one suggested location and the Parish Council were happy with the suggested location. With regard to the suggested location on Whittingham Lane, the Parish Council felt that the SPiD should be placed further up the Lane towards Houghton, close to the 30 MPH either just before or just after the bend. This was an alternative location, and was different to the suggested 3A and 3B put forward by the Road Safety Manager. It was noted that this may need the permission/support of Houghton Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk agreed to forward the preferred locations to the Road Safety Manager and she informed the Parish Council that the next stage would

be for the Highways Engineer at Lancashire County Council to consider the final locations.

Resolved

That, the Clerk responds to the Road Safety Manager at Lancashire County Council with the preferred locations for the installation of static SPiDs in Grimsargh, in line with the above.

14. (21/22) Parish Council Insurance

The Parish Council gave consideration to their annual insurance. It was noted that the Parish Council had entered into a three-year deal with Zurich Municipal and that the premium for this year £848.27. The Parish Council agreed that the insurance was adequate for the Parish Council's needs and authorised the Clerk to make the payment.

Resolved

That approval is given to the payment of the annual insurance premium of £848.27 to Zurich Municipal and that the Parish Council agrees that the insurance adequately covers the Parish Council's requirements.

15. (20/21) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £35,909.77 in the Nat West bank as at 1 April 2021. It was further noted that the Parish Council would receive a CiL payment of £49,821.09 and this should appear on our next bank statement. The Parish Council were also awaiting the payment of the precept.

It was also noted that the following invoices had been paid since last meeting: -

Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition entry fee £30.00. (Cheque no 1080).

HMRC Q4 Tax and NI - £1,470.23. (Cheque no 1074).

Clerk's Salary 15 April 2021 - £951.48. (Cheque no 1075).

Clerk's expenses as agreed at the last meeting £210.11. (Cheque no 1076).

LALC Annual Subscription £480.00. (Cheque no 1077).

SRS Gorton for website admin £135.00. (Cheque no 1078).

Adam Cooper Contractor for March 2021 – 37 hours @£14.25 = £527.25 + Digger hire for Nellie Carbis paths £250.00 + base stone £49.00 to trailer hire £20.00 = total £846.25. (Cheque no 1079).

Adam Cooper Contractor for April 2021 – 36 hours @ £14.25 = £513.00 + stone £60.00, trailer hire £20.00 and wacker hire £20.00 = total £613.00. (Cheque no 1080).

Resolved

- 1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -
- i) Green Spaces Contribution to Preston City Council £3,190.00.
 - ii) Sue Whittam 15/05/21 - £951.48.
 - iii) Parish Council insurance – Zurich Municipal £848.27.

16. (20/21) Clerk’s report – for information only

The Clerk reported that after lengthy negotiations the lease costs between the Cricket Club and Preston City Council had been finally agreed at a cost of £4,300 and this would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. Our Solicitor was currently awaiting the final copy of the lease for signature.

The Clerk also confirmed that the Nellie Carbis Millennium pond had been tested for newts as part of the Planning conditions relating to the Seddon Homes application and it had been confirmed that no newts were present.

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

17. (20/21) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday 2 June at 7.30 pm in the large room at the Village Hall.