

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 7 April, 2016 in the Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson – Chairman

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
PCSO Sarah Catterall

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Burton and Councillor David Hindle.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2 April 2015

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 2 April, 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman

3. Chairman's Report 2015/2016

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave her report on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months. The Chairman said it had been a very busy year for her second year as a member of the Parish Council and her first as Chairman.

The Chairman referred to last year's elections in May when we said farewell to Councillors Daniel Dewhurst and Lynn McCann, and she thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the village for so long. The Chairman said we were fortunate in September to be able to co-opt Terry Cryer into one of the two vacancies. Terry's vast and varied work and voluntary sector experience had already proved invaluable and he had been instrumental in moving on the CCTV installation in the village, which had all but stalled until he took it under his wing, and was now nearing completion.

In September we had a very successful afternoon tea and presentation for our Best Planter competition, hosted by Michelle Unsworth of So Plants, our independent judge. For the first year we were able to present a proper trophy and it went to Grimsargh Gardening Club. The Chairman said it made up somewhat for our disappointing 6th place in the Lancashire Best kept Village competition, although congratulations went to St Michaels School as runner up in the schools section.

At our September meeting we established a new Projects Working Group whose remit was to look at ways of engaging the village in future projects that we may be able to help fund through the Community Infrastructure Levy and a voluntary contribution from the Solar Farm. One such project was the extending of Old Railway Walk under Skew Bridge right up to St Michaels School, thereby avoiding children walking along the

narrow main road – joint funded with Longridge and North Preston Rotary Club, who are undertaking all the work and are almost finished. What an asset this will be.

The Chairman stated that much of the year seemed to have been taken up with planning issues. In November we were devastated when Preston City Council refused the application from United Utilities that would have assured the safety of the Wetlands and brought three years of hard work, consultation, and negotiations to a conclusion. Nevertheless, the Chairman said we remained undaunted and had already begun our campaign in support of the recently re-submitted planning application.

January was Gladman month. The appeal by Gladman Developments against Preston City Councils refusal to grant planning permission for a 150 home development off Elston Lane meant a huge amount of documentation to read and digest, a report to write and deliver and a week spent attending the appeal and listening to the arguments and counter arguments from the barristers and consultants for both sides; we still awaited the Inspectors decision.

The Chairman said our communications continued to improve; the twice yearly newsletter gets bigger and better, our Website is full of up to date information and our Facebook page has increased in following from 142 to 225 over the year. We continue to be active in regular Preston Area Committee (PAC) meetings and had attended Local Association of Local Councils (LALC) Conferences and Annual meetings – this kept us up to date with local and national issues.

Finally, the Chairman said a huge thankyou to all those without whose support our job would be so much more difficult:- our City Councillors Tom Davies and Neil Cartwright, always there to intervene on our behalf; the local police, PC Chris Banks and PCSOs Sarah Catterall and Dave Reid, who attend our meetings as often as they are able and give us vital information in helping to keep the village safe.

The Chairman also thanked her fellow Councillors, who were always ready to step up to the mark and help with last minute urgent tasks; and last but by no means least, the best Parish Clerk in the country, Sue Whittam who, the Chairman said had given her so much support and advice this year, guiding her through all her new responsibilities. The Chairman said that we really were fortunate to have such a strong team.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for all her hard work and dedication given to the Parish Council during the year. This was unanimously supported by all present.

Councillor Neil Cartwright took the opportunity to say that the Parish Council did a good job and was highly regarded.

4. Matters raised by the Electors

There were no matters raised by the Electors but the Chairman welcomed PCSO Sarah Catterall to the meeting who had come along to provide an update on Police activities in our Parish. PCSO Sarah Catterall informed the Parish Council that there had been two recent burglaries in the village during daylight hours and reminded people to be vigilant and to keep their property secure. There had also been problems with mini motos at The Hills.

With regard to the CCTV project for the village, PCSO Sarah Catterall said that PCSO David Reid had asked if a fourth camera could be installed near to Old Railway Walk. The Parish Council agreed they could consider this once the original cameras had been installed in the village. Councillor Terry Cryer confirmed that he had now received the

signage from PCSO David Reid and brackets would need to be purchased for these. It was agreed this could be discussed further under the Ordinary part of the meeting.

Finally PCSO Sarah Catterall informed the Parish Council that this would be her last attendance at our Parish Council meeting as she had been accepted to start training as a Police Officer. The Chairman thanked Sarah for attending and wished her well in her future role.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

Chairman Grimsargh Parish Council