

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 7 April, 2011 at Grimsargh Village Hall, following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Mrs E Murray (Chairman); Councillors: Mrs J Chessell; A R Ellis; Mrs L McCann; Mrs P A Tucker; G T Swarbrick; R G Woollam

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor N Cartwright – Preston Rural East
Councillor T Davies – Preston Rural East

206. (10/11) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

207. (10/11) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Ridding, Councillor D Hindle and PC Banks.

208. (10/11) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 March, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

209. (10/11) Matters arising on the Minutes

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray informed the Parish Council that she had received a letter from Councillor Ridding explaining that he had stepped down from the Parish Council due to illness. She read the letter out to the Parish Council and reiterated her comments made at the Annual Parish Meeting that Councillor Ridding, Councillor Mrs Tucker and Councillor Swarbrick had made a wonderful contribution to the Parish Council and this was very much appreciated

Minute 189 (10/11) Matters arising on the Minutes – Councillor Mrs Chessell had raised the issue of the missing boundary sign at the Area Forum – but the Parish Council were still no nearer to finding the missing sign. The Clerk to pursue.

210. (10/11) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and an update on policing issues in the area. Although PC Banks could not be present for the meeting, the Clerk had received an update on police activities in the area.

The Clerk reported that there had only been 4 crimes since the last meeting:-

- 1) Attempt Burglary on Preston Road between 22:00 hours on 26/03/11 and 09:00 hours on 27/03/11 a blunt object was used to try to force a garage door. The offenders were unsuccessful and made away from the area empty handed.
- 2) The same night a garage on the same road was broken into and a racing bike worth £800 stolen. This was at 21:15 hours. CID is currently investigating both crimes.
- 3) Between 17:00 hours on 09/03/11 and 09:00 hours on 10/03/11 lead was removed from the roof of St Michaels school. It's unclear how much was taken but it is thought to be in the region of £100 worth.
- 4) Between 16:00 01/04/11 and 15:00 hours on 02/04/11 there was damage caused to a car on the Hills estate. It was scratched to the bodywork.

It was noted that AGM for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would be held at St Cuthbert's on 13 April.

It was further noted that the next two PACT meetings to be held in Grimsargh/Haighton would be on Thursday 12 May at 7.30 pm in Grimsargh Club and Thursday 14 July at 7.30 pm also in Grimsargh Club.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Neil Cartwright to the meeting who gave an update to the Parish Council on the meeting held on 21 March with the Parochial Church Council and various Preston and County Councillors to discuss the proposed cycle route behind the church. Councillor Cartwright explained that the Parochial Church Council wanted the cycle way to be visible and the County Council were going to help with the design. It was understood that the Parochial Church Council had funding available to progress this scheme.

Councillor Mrs Tucker informed the Parish Council that some of the houses near to the route were not happy that the height would be raised. All felt that it was important that all householders affected by the route are fully consulted and involved. There was also the issue of drainage from the houses affected as it was understood that all three properties had septic tanks that drained into the culvert near the route.

Councillor Mrs McCann proposed that there should be a meeting of all involved including the planners, residents, users and local councillors to consult on the proposals and to reach consensus. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should contact the Parochial Church Council to suggest this meeting as a way forward.

Councillor Cartwright also informed the Parish Council that a further meeting had been held with Ribble Valley Councillors to work together on how they could resist unwelcome development. Councillor Cartwright said it was important that Councillors work together as very often housing/industrial developments have repercussions for neighbouring areas. He explained that the County Council was very robust in dealing with traffic issues to look at wider implications. The message had gone out to all that further housing developments in Longridge would have an

effect on the roads in Grimsargh, Goosnargh and Broughton. A joint working protocol was being developed.

The Chairman also informed the Parish Council that she had met with Alan Walters to discuss the proposed Toucan crossing on Longridge Road, but it had been a firm “no” to moving the crossing nearer to The Hills and so benefit the local residents. She added that there did not seem to have been any consultation on the Guild Wheel. Councillor Cartwright suggested that the Chairman contact Councillor George Wilkins as it is merely a County Council scheme and it might be possible for some negotiation with regard to the crossing.

Councillor Ron Woollam took the opportunity to ask where all the money was coming from to fund the Guild Wheel. Councillor Cartwright explained that some funding had come from local businesses such as Barton Grange and some from the Countryside Commission and local councils. The Chairman said that the Guild Wheel was definitely going to happen, but how we were not sure how much benefit this would be to Grimsargh. It was agreed that an item on the Guild Wheel should be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

With the agreement of the Chairman and the Parish Council, item 12 Friends of Grimsargh Green was brought forward on the Agenda to be considered under public participation.

Councillor Mrs Chessell informed the Parish Council that the papers finalising the S106 monies agreement had been received by Preston City Council from Redrow and that they were being presented to the Cabinet Meeting last night. From the figures being presented to Cabinet it appeared that £78,000 was earmarked for the play equipment, £15,000 for landscaping, £7,000 for contingencies and £47,000 for ongoing maintenance. There was also £10,000 earmarked for the Architects Department. Councillor Mrs Chessell also explained that she had met with Councillor Hudson on 6 April to discuss how the project could be progressed and to discuss the funding issues. Councillor Mrs Chessell had taken all the paperwork with her to the meeting with Councillor Hudson and had referred to the promise that Officers from Preston City would apply for lottery funding and would help with the design of the play area.

Councillor Tom Davies said that the Parish Council had been criticised in the past for putting money towards the village hall that was earmarked for an all weather pitch. The Chairman explained that the village hall project had received an independent grant that was to be used only for the village hall. There seemed to be a lack of knowledge relating to the village hall and the history of the proposed play area. The Chairman suggested it was time to draw a line under all the history and misunderstandings and move forward now that the funding from Redrow had been agreed.

Councillor Davies agreed and suggested that the Parish Council meet with Councillor Anthony Gornall to discuss the finances and move things forward.

The Parish Council all agreed and was very appreciative of the work that Councillor Chessell and FOGG had done so far, so it was felt that the Chairman together with Councillor Chessell should meet with Councillor Gornall as soon as possible.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

211. (10/11) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The following planning application was presented:-

06/2011/0255 - 5A Fell View, Grimsargh, Preston, PR2 5LN. Erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling.

Resolved

That no observations be offered in respect of planning application 06/2011/0255.

It was further noted that the following planning permissions had been granted:-

06/2011/0089 - School House Farm, Preston Road, Grimsargh. Erection of 2no detached dwellings with attached garages and construction of new vehicular access (following demolition of existing dwelling).

06/2011/0073 - Rosemary Glen, Elston Lane, Grimsargh, PR2 5LE. Erection of two storey extension to side and single storey extensions to side and rear of dwelling (following demolition of existing car port, garage and utility room) (resubmission of planning application 06/2010/0643).

212. (10/11) Lancashire County Council/Delegated Services Pilot Projects – Public Rights of Way

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Jo Turton, the Executive Director for the Environment at Lancashire County Council (LCC) about the Parish and Town Council's Delegated Services Protocol and in particular relating to the Parish Lengthsman's Scheme.

In the letter it was explained that LCC was reviewing its funding of the Lengthsman's Scheme and as part of this process LCC was proposing to test new funding/operational arrangements through the development of three new pilots.

It was intended that both the review of the existing Parish Lengthsman Scheme and the pilot testing of new arrangements would be completed by the end of 2011, although the pilots would be allowed to continue until 31 March 2012.

It was noted that those Parish Council's interested in being part of a pilot for the Lengthsman should put forward their proposal to LCC by 29 April 2011.

The Parish Council gave consideration to this and

Resolved

That, Lancashire County Council is informed that Grimsargh Parish Council do not wish to be part of an initial pilot for the Lengthsman Scheme, but they support the suggested way forward and look forward to receiving information on the three chosen pilots and the outcome of these.

213. (10/11) Preston Area Committee

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Lancashire Association of Local Councils about the new Preston Area Committee. It was noted that Grimsargh Parish Council was entitled to appoint 3 representatives to the Preston Area Committee, one of which may be the Clerk. It was further noted that currently Councillor Mrs E Murray and Councillor P Tucker had already been appointed to this Committee and it was agreed that the Clerk should also be a representative.

The next meeting of the Preston Area Committee would be held on 13 April, 2011 at 7.30pm at Woodplumpton Parish Rooms. On the Agenda would be discussion about a representative to the three tier forum – this is the replacement for Lancashire Locals.

Resolved

That, the Clerk be appointed as a representative to the Preston Area Committee, and where possible all representatives should attend these meetings.

214. (10/11) Report from the Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Mrs Tucker presented the notes from the Community Engagement Working Group held on 23 March 2011.

In particular Councillor Mrs Tucker reported that the website was progressing well and that an item will be put on the next meeting of the Parish Council to see if it is necessary to consult the whole Parish Council about adding items to the website.

With regard to the Walks for Grimsargh – one walk had been put on the website and a shorter version of this would be ready shortly. The third walk was expected to be a “Heritage Walk” around the village incorporating the Old Railway Walk.

The Working Group was currently looking at how to engage with young people in Grimsargh. Councillor Chessell confirmed that she had done some work with the local schools. Councillor Mrs McCann had approached Longridge High School about a Youth Council. Councillor Ellis was going to liaise with Junior Schools to see if they could become more involved with the Nellie Carbis garden. Other possibilities were the adoption of a planter or a possible teen disco after the Field day.

With regard to the Grimsargh Broadband, it was noted that it would cost approximately £1.2m to put fibre into every home in the village. However, the

pressures for faster broadband had slightly eased now that wireless broadband was widely available from a local supplier.

The suggestion for a Councillor “surgery” was also discussed and the possibility of having a Councillor stall and surgery on Field day. It was agreed that this should go on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. A further suggestion had been a contact box in the Post Office for residents to contact Councillors – it was agreed that this should also be discussed at the next meeting.

There was a general discussion about having the Parish Council meeting available on webcam as this was something that the Parish Council may wish to do in the future.

Resolved

That, the report be received and noted.

215. (10/11) Annual Report and Parish Newsletter

It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the May meeting. Members were reminded to let the Clerk have items for the newsletter so that the draft can be available for the next meeting.

Resolved

That, the report be received and noted.

216. (10/11) Conservation Status for Grimsargh

Councillor Woollam informed the Parish Council that he had been speaking to Nigel Roberts at Lancashire County Council about the possibility of conservation status for Grimsargh. He referred to a new brochure by English Heritage which outlined the advantages of conservation status. At the moment only Inglewhite had a conservation area and Councillor Woollam felt that Grimsargh would benefit from becoming a conservation area.

It was noted that the whole village did not need to become a conservation area. You could pick specific parts of the village and these would of course be discussed fully with all local residents. Once the Parish Council had agreed in principle to going ahead with conservation status then Nigel Roberts from Lancashire County Council was happy to do some work with the Parish Council on this.

It was agreed that all Parish Councillors should have a look at the English Heritage document on “Understanding Place: Conservation Area, Designation, Appraisal and Management before the next meeting. This item could then be discussed at the meeting in May and Councillor Woollam was happy to pull together some appraisal work on what could be included in the village.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that consultation on this was vitally important and that residents affected by possible conservation status should have the final say.

It was further agreed that Councillor Woollam should prepare an item for the next Parish Council newsletter to ask people for their views on this.

It was also agreed that Nigel Roberts should be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That, an item on conservation status is placed on the next meeting of the Parish Council and that all members are asked to read the English Heritage publication as outlined above. In addition it was further agreed that Councillor Woollam would prepare an item for the next Parish Council newsletter to ask people's views on conservation status and that Councillor Woollam would also look at a provisional list of what could be included in the village as a conservation area.

217. (10/11) Friends of Grimsargh Green

Councillor Mrs Chessell reported that the main issues had been discussed earlier in the Agenda, but she just wanted to make the Parish Council aware that there were still problems with the car park. She also informed the Parish Council that Ribble Valley Church had done a marvellous job helping with the planting of hazel whips and holly.

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

218. (10/11) The Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland

Councillor Woollam confirmed that the bank accounts had now been located and that he and Councillor Hindle were in the process of changing the signatories on the Santander account.

Councillor Mrs Chessell had names/information on where to get additional funding as there was probably some work needed on the woodland. It was agreed that Councillor Woollam would put something in the next Parish newsletter as a reminder that the woodland is there.

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

219. (10/11) Use of Herbicide – Preston Road

Councillor Woollam reported that he had received a letter from Steve Hutson about the use of herbicide and he had been asked to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Preston City Council about the type of herbicide used and also to see what is used by the lengthsman.

220. (10/11) School House Farm, Grimsargh – Application for Listed Building Status

It was noted that a reply had now been received from English Heritage dated 7 March and they had given consideration to all representations made and had completed the assessment of School House Farm. They had decided that the building should not be listed. Although disappointed the Parish Council agreed with the findings.

It was agreed that the Clerk should chase the Listed Building Application for the Vicarage.

Resolved

That the report be received and noted.

221. (10/11) Parish & Town Council Charter Review

It was noted that a letter had been received from Councillor Mike Otter, the Parish and Town Council Champion asking for comments on the Parish and Town Charter. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would draft a response to the questionnaire which had to be returned to LCC by 16 May, 2011.

222. (10/11) Financial Matters and Precept

It was noted that we currently have around £1,800.00 in the bank. This included the reimbursement of the bus shelter from Preston City Council of £950.00. We were awaiting the VAT reimbursement of £1520.94 that Peter had submitted and should be credited to our bank account shortly. It was further noted that Peter was finishing off this year's accounts would then hand them over to the Clerk then a more accurate report could be produced for the next meeting.

It was reported that we were also waiting for the annual precept of £18,000. The Clerk had been assured that the precept will be transferred to the Parish Council bank account next week ie week beginning 11 April – and she would be chasing Preston City Council to make sure that this happens.

Resolved

That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- 1) Lancashire Association of Local Councils – Annual Subscription £372.38.
This will be paid when the precept is received from Preston City Council.
- 2) £200 grant to North West Air Ambulance as agreed at the last meeting.
- 3) £100 cheque to Grimsargh Toddlers Group as agreed at the last meeting.
- 4) £1,000 to Friends of Grimsargh Green as agreed at the last meeting and will be paid when the precept is received from Preston City Council.

- 5) Sue Whittam – Clerk pay for 7 March, 14 March, 21 March and 28 March – total £320.00.
- 6) Sue Whittam – Clerk reimbursement for Best Kept Village Competition Entry Fee - £20.00.
- 7) Adam Cooper – Lengthsman - 48 hours @ £11.50 per hour including vat at £110.40 – total £662.40

223. (10/11) Parish Council Consultative Forum

It was noted that this Forum was now being replaced by other Committees such as the Preston Area Committee and therefore would not be meeting again.

224. (10/11) Matters introduced by Members

Councillor Mrs L McCann

Asked when the pathway at the Parish office sub-station would be resurfaced as it was looking a mess. The Clerk to look into this.

She also mentioned that the flooding was still ongoing at The Hills as Persimmon Homes insisted that this was not their land.

Councillor Mrs P A Tucker

Asked if the Lengthsman could litter pick Elston Lane in particular the parking area near fork. The Clerk to ask Adam Cooper, the Lengthsman to look at this.

Councillor R G Woollam

Commented that he was willing to adopt two half barrel flower planters and look after these if no one else wanted to take these on.

Councillor Mrs J Chessell

Commented that the grass verge on Lindale Avenue needed cutting but she was unsure who now had responsibility for this. The Clerk to speak to Adam Cooper, the Lengthsman to look at this.

Councillor G Swarbrick

Commented on the dead trees alongside the Plough Car Park. The Clerk to write to the Plough to see if something can be done to replace the trees.

Councillor A E Ellis

Commented on the bridge road closure between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on 19-21 April for resurfacing works.

The Chairman

Mentioned a letter received about Armed Forces Day and that people are encouraged to fly a flag. She agreed to find out the cost of buying a flag to be discussed at the next meeting.

225. (10/11) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday, 12 May 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm