

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 December, 2013 at
7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton;
Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor Andy Ellis and Councillor David Hindle.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Reverend Halliwell
13 members of the public

103. (13/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Nicholson (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council.

104. (13/14) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Peter Burton declared a personal interest in item 9 – Grant request for the over 60's party as his wife was involved in the event.

105. (13/14) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 November, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

106. (13/14) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray adjourned the meeting for public participation and as the police were not present at this evenings meeting, welcomed members of the public. She asked if there were any matters that people would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. A local resident explained about drainage issues she was having with sewage leaking through the manhole on her drive and her septic tank not working properly and this was allegedly due to the development at Silver Birches being connected to a system that could not cope with the additional outfall and did not have the required permissions. It was noted that United Utilities had said they were unable to help as this was a private system and that both the Environmental Health and Planning Departments at Preston City Council had been involved but a solution had not been found. It was further noted that legal advice was now being explored but this would have to be undertaken by the owner of the drainage system who was a local farmer on behalf of the residents affected. Pringle Homes who were the developers of Silver Birches were in contact with the local residents and had

offered some help but some facts had still not been established. The local resident wanted the Parish Council to be aware of the issues but not to do anything at the moment – she would keep the Parish Council informed of developments.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then asked if there were any further issues that members of the public wished to raise with the Parish Council. A number of residents had come along to raise their concerns about the revised Planning Application for Whitefriars. The Chairman gave them the opportunity to explain their concerns to the Parish Council but reminded all present that when the Planning Application would be discussed under item 5 then Standing Orders would be reinstated and only the Parish Councillors would be able to speak at that time.

One member of the public commented that the amended plans still did not address the ecological issues or drainage issues. Mr David Thomas who had leafleted residents about the Planning Application explained that there had been a great number of objections to this development and he questioned the reports on the planning system at Preston City – as he felt that some of the information was not factually correct. In particular he referred to the Parks report that stated the hedge was dead on the right of the proposed development but he was aware that the hedge was still alive. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained that it was not the role of the Parish Council to dispute the information provided by Preston City Council but to look at the facts relating to the revised application and to make a decision based on all available information. The Parish Council could raise questions and concerns if they felt that the information being provided by Preston City Council was incorrect.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked all the members of the public for attending the meeting and bringing their concerns to the Parish Council. She explained that they were welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting if they wished. She then reconvened the meeting.

107. (13/14) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Parish Council considered the following Planning Application:-

06/2013/0785 - Outline Planning Application for mixed use of development, including up to 220 residential units (Class C3), 929 sqm of commercial offices (Class B1), residential apartments with care (Class C2) access from Whittingham Road, public open space and associated works at Former Ridings Depot and land to north and south of Whittingham Road, Longridge, Preston PR3 2AD.

With regard to the above Planning Application, the Chairman explained that this was a similar application to one previously submitted to Preston City Council and which was subject to a forthcoming appeal. The Planning Application presented was a totally new application but the Parish Council may wish to consider objecting to this

application on the same grounds as the previous one ie on traffic/highway issues. This was discussed and the Parish Council agreed to object on traffic/highways issues. It was noted that in spite of proposed highway improvements and alterations to the Broughton roundabout the main route at present for all traffic commuting to and from Preston was the B6243 through Grimsargh Village. It was further noted that the bridge over the old railway was extremely narrow and long tail backs occurred at peak periods – this would increase if the proposed development went ahead.

The Parish Council also gave consideration to the revised application for 06/2013/0455 – Whitefriars Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh. This was for an amended site layout and amended landscape plan to show new hedge planted 2m from back of carriageway and vehicular sight lines to Plot 1 and pedestrian refuges. This was discussed and the Parish Council could see no reason to withdraw their previous objection to this Planning Application and agreed that their objection still stands as the amendments had not made any material changes to their original concerns. It was also noted that the Parish Council had received an apology from Preston City Council as they did not consult us on this Planning Application at the same time as the local residents.

The Parish Council had also received notification that Wainhome Developments were appealing against the decision of Preston City Council to refuse Planning Permission for Outline application for residential development (Class C3) of 4.5 hectares of land for up to 70 no dwellings with new highway access from Ribblesdale Drive, internal access road, landscaping and associated infrastructure in respect of Land Off Ribblesdale Drive, Grimsargh, Preston. The appeal was being dealt with by way of a public inquiry and all representations had to be received by 08/01/2014. It was noted that as per the usual procedure the Planning Inspectorate would receive a copy of our original objection. The Planning appeal reference was APP/N2345/A/13/2208445. The Parish Council agreed that they had no additional comments to make but that the Clerk should inform the Planning Inspectorate that the Parish Council would wish to be represented at the appeal hearing.

It was further reported that we had received notification from Ribble Valley Borough Council that their Core Strategy Independent Examination in Public would take place on 14 January 2014 at 9.30 am at Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices. The hearings would last from 14 January until 17 January and then Tuesday 21 January and Wednesday 22 January. The Parish Council had to inform Ribble Valley Borough Council if they wished to attend. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not wish to attend this Core Strategy Independent Examination.

Resolved

- 1) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2013/0785, that the Parish Council objects on highways/traffic issues as detailed above.
- 2) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2013/0455, that the Parish Council's original objection still stands but we have no additional comments to make to the amended application.

3) That with regard to the Planning Appeal APP/N2345/A/13/2208445 by Wainhome Developments for land off Ribblesdale Drive that the Planning Inspectorate is informed that the Parish Council would wish to be represented at the appeal hearing.

4) That with regard to the Ribble Valley Borough Council Core Strategy Independent Examination that details of the examination are noted but the Parish Council does not wish to attend.

108. (13/14) Report from the Finance Working Group including budget/precept setting for 2014

The Clerk presented the report from the Finance Working Group held on 21 November 2013 together with the current and projected budget. It was noted that the Finance Working Group was recommending that the precept for 2014/2015 should remain the same at £24,500. This would mean that the Parish Council may need to use some of their reserves for committed expenditure but it was felt that in the current climate this was the best way forward.

It was noted that each of the Parish Councillors present had a dispensation until 31 March 2015 to enable them to discuss and agree the precept, except for Councillor Dan Dewhurst who did not need one.

There was a general discussion about the budget and it was:-

Resolved

1) That the report from the Finance Working Group and the current and projected budgets are received and noted.

2) That the Parish Council gave consideration to their annual precept requirements for 2014/2015, taking into account the budget as presented above and agreed to keep the precept at the same level as last year at a cost of £24,500.

109. (13/14) Report of the Community Safety Working Group

Councillor Dan Dewhurst explained to the Parish Council that they had not held a recent meeting of the Community Safety Working Group as unfortunately Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer had been ill but he had met with PCSO David Reid to discuss funding opportunities for the CCTV. Councillor Dan Dewhurst was also hoping to meet with Goosnargh Parish Council to discuss their CCTV and how successful it had been. A further report would be presented to the January meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

110. (13/14) Preston Area Committee (PAC)/3Tier Forum

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a brief update on the Preston Area Committee and the 3 Tier Forum. She explained that the Preston Area Committee had agreed to submit a late item to the 3 Tier Forum regarding the question of having planned infrastructure in place when carrying out all the proposed development in North Preston and this had received warm support from the 3 Tier Forum.

It was reported that at the Preston Area Committee, Peter Bargh from Preston City Council had spoken about Dementia Awareness and was offering to run an awareness session free of charge for Parish Councils. The session would be open to residents to attend. All agreed that this was a good idea and the Parish Council agreed to pay for the hire of the Village Hall for the Dementia Awareness session. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said she would speak to Peter Bargh to arrange further details.

Resolved

- 1) That the report is received and noted.
- 2) That the Parish Council agrees to fund the hire of the Village Hall for the Dementia Awareness session being run by Preston City Council.

111. (13/14) Grant Request – Over 60's Party

Councillor Peter Burton declared a personal interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and decision.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann had circulated the grant request form on behalf of the Over 60's party and this was considered by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That a grant of £150 is given to the Over 60's party and that the cheque should be made payable to Grimsargh Village Hall preferably and not to an individual Parish Councillor.

112. (13/14) Feedback from the Annual Parish Council Conference/LALC AGM

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a verbal report on the Annual Parish Council Conference and the LALC AGM that had both been held on 9 November at County Hall, Preston. She said that Police and Crime Commissioner had attended the morning session and that the afternoon session (LALC AGM) had raised some interesting debate and resolutions.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

113. (13/14) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

As Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell was not present at the meeting there was no report from FoGG.

114. (13/14) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £27,576.71 in the bank as at 1 December 2013.

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

Adam Cooper – October 2013 - 27 hours @£12.25 per hour = £330.75 + VAT @ 20% (£66.15) = total £396.90. (Cheque no 661).

AVJ Design for printing of newsletters - £414.00 (Cheque no 664).

United Utilities Water Bill for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland for 14 August – 14 November 2013 - £14.78 (direct debit).

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment:-

- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 4 November, 11 November, 18 November and 25 November = 4 weeks at £92 per week = £368 (Cheque no 665).
- Adam Cooper – 43 hours at £12.25 = £526.75 + materials paint and padlock - £23.00 + VAT @ 20% £109.95 total = £659.70 (Cheque no 666).

2) It was agreed that four cheques should be signed in advance to pay the Lengthsman, Clerk and any committed expenditure over the Christmas period.

115. (13/14) Clerk's Report – for information only

It was noted that Councillor David Nicholson had resigned as he was moving out of the area. The Clerk had contacted Preston City Council to start the process for a replacement – as they had to produce the original notice giving the electors an opportunity to call an election. If no election was called then the Parish Council could proceed with co-opting a new Parish Councillor using our standard guidelines.

We had received a request from a local resident on Douglas Lane trying to find out who owns the field next to their property and the blocked stream which is full of debris and needs some maintenance work. They have tried Preston City Council and they have suggested the resident should contact the Land Registry. Members of the Parish Council were unable to help identify the owner of the land and they suggested the Clerk should contact Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and if she could not help then the resident should be directed to the Land Registry.

We had also received a request to attend our next meeting from Global Energy Systems Ltd basically wanting to promote their products - they wanted to give a presentation but the Clerk was not sure if this would be necessary or appropriate as we would have to allow other manufactures of the same products ie air source heat

pumps to attend our meetings. It was felt that the best way forward was for the company to engage with local farmers and hire the village hall as originally planned.

At the end of the meeting Councillor Andy Ellis tendered his resignation with immediate effect as he was also moving out of the area at the end of December.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray took the opportunity to thank both Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Andy Ellis for all their work they had given to the Parish Council and said they would be missed.

116. (13/14) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 9 January 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.