

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 December, 2014 at 7.30 pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; 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 David Reid
4 members of the public
John Turton/John Chorlton – Gladman Developments Ltd

86. (14/15) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann.

87. (14/15) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared an interest in Item 8 – Grant to Toddlers as a member of the GVCA Committee. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also declared an interest in the same item as she is related to the lady who had applied for the grant.

The Clerk also reported that she had received two written requests for dispensations from Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson and Councillor Keith Middlebrough, to enable them to consider the precept for 2015/2016, these were granted. All other members of the Parish Council had already been granted dispensations to consider the precept to cover the period up to 31 March 2015 except for Councillor Dan Dewhurst who did not require a dispensation.

88. (14/15) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 November, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89. (14/15) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed representatives from Gladman Developments Limited and members of the public to the meeting.

John Turton who worked in Project Management at Gladman Developments Limited and John Chorlton who worked in Planning Policy at the same Company

introduced themselves and gave the background to the planning application for land off Preston Road that had recently been submitted to Preston City Council. They explained that the application was for up to 150 houses and was waiting for validation by the City Council. A public consultation had been carried out in November at the village hall and approximately 15 people had attended. They were happy to answer questions about the proposed scheme. They stated that because Preston had not yet demonstrated their five year land supply then considerable weight was attached to sustainable development. Gladman Developments had placed boards on display in the room showing a schematic of their proposed plan.

A member of the public raised concerns about the amount of people attending the public consultation and that letters had not been received by residents in Elston Lane who were directly affected by this proposed development. John Turton said that the letters had been delivered by Royal Mail and he would speak to the member of the public outside the meeting.

A member of the public asked if the Old Orchard would be included in the proposed development and Gladman Developments Limited confirmed that it would be.

Gladman Developments Limited stated that there was a shortage of housing in Preston and not enough family homes. Their proposed development in Grimsargh was sustainable and close to employment. It was noted that 35% of the homes would be affordable. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson stated that people who lacked housing in Preston would not be helped by this development.

Councillor Neil Cartwright from Preston City Council stated that developers were currently working on 30 houses a year being built and that the Planning Inspector would rule on Preston's five year land supply shortly.

Gladman Developments Ltd confirmed that they were not the current owners of the land but would receive a percentage fee if the Planning Application was successful.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked Gladman Developments for their attendance and agreed to a five minute break to enable the boards to be removed before the police gave their report to the Parish Council.

PCSO David Reid informed the Parish Council that there had been a burglary at the hairdressers where a number of hair straighteners had been stolen. There had also been a number of burglaries in Grimsargh recently and these were being carried out by organised groups. It was important that people kept their homes and cars locked. It was noted that there had been a few issues with the 101 telephone number when people reporting issues had been directed to the wrong area. PCSO David Reid advised that if it was not an emergency then contact could also be made to Broughton Police Station.

PCSO David Reid also advised the Parish Council that he thought that CCTV in the village was a good idea and Councillor Dan Dewhurst asked if there had been any further word from the Police Commissioner with regard to the grant application and PCSO David Reid confirmed that there had been nothing further received. PCSO David Reid said he would find out if CCTV signs could be obtained from the police to warn people about cameras operating in the area.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said they would also put information on the Parish Council Facebook and Website pages asking people to be vigilant and to keep their property safe.

Councillor David Reid also informed the Parish Council about the safety initiative that the Police had recently carried out with schools called Safety Town, where electric cars had been used with school children to outline the dangers of crossing the road and wearing seatbelts etc when travelling in vehicles.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked PCSO David Reid for attending the meeting and then reconvened the meeting.

90. (14/15) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no new Planning Applications for consideration at the meeting. However the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reminded the Parish Council that we still had the opportunity to comment on the Preston City Centre Plan that had been deferred from the last meeting, but she explained that the consultation was based on the document being legal/sound and not about the detail. The Parish Council agreed not to make any comments on this City Centre Plan.

A brief discussion was held about the proposed Planning Application by Gladman Developments that had been discussed earlier at the meeting under Public Participation. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor Peter Burton and members of the Planning Sub-Committee as appropriate would work with local residents to formulate objections to this Planning Application. It was anticipated that the consultation letters from Preston City Council would be sent out shortly and it was noted that the Parish Council had already asked for additional time to consider this Planning Application and it would be discussed at our 8 January 2015 meeting.

Resolved

- 1) That with regard to the consultation on the Preston City Centre Plan the Parish Council has no comments to make on this plan.
- 2) That with regard to the proposed Planning Application by Gladman Developments Limited for land off Preston Road, Grimsargh that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor Peter Burton and members of the Planning Sub-Committee as appropriate work with local residents to formulate objections to this Planning Application. It was noted that this would be considered by the Parish Council at their meeting in January 2015.

91. (14/15) Report of the Community Safety Working Group

Councillor Dan Dewhurst presented the report from the Community Safety Working Group. It was noted that the Group had applied for funding for the CCTV from the Police Commissioner but as yet had not received a reply. It was further noted that it was proving difficult for the Parish Council to apply for funding for the CCTV and the Working Group were therefore asking for the cost of the CCTV to be included in the Parish Council's budget for 2015/2016.

There was a discussion about the benefits of CCTV for the village and it was highlighted that there were still a number of issues to be resolved. In particular where the CCTV would be located and who would have responsibility for viewing the CCTV and its maintenance/data protection etc.

It was agreed that the estimated cost of the CCTV which was £1,700 should be added to the Parish Council's budget for 2015/2016 but a further report covering all the outstanding issues would be presented to the Parish Council for approval.

Resolved

That the estimated cost of the CCTV (£1,700) should be added to the Parish Council's budget for 2015/2016 but a further report covering all the outstanding issues would be presented to the Parish Council for approval.

92. (14/15) Update from Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave an update to the Parish Council on the progress made on the Grimsargh Wetlands Project so far. This covered the meeting held between Councillor David Hindle, United Utilities and the tenant to discuss the final red edged plan for transfer to the Parish Council. The meeting between Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and James Fish the land agent with regard to progressing the dowry and various actions covering insurance, searches and the setting up of a charitable trust. This was noted by the Parish Council.

With regard to the various documents and information that had been provided to the Parish Council and after discussion with a number of experts, Councillor Mrs Murray explained to the Parish Council that it was becoming increasingly likely that the Parish Council would have to engage an engineer to carry out an updated engineers report to consider issues such as the missing stone sets and collapsed metal fencing as well as structural issues. It was noted that the Clerk had obtained a possible contact for carrying out this work and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had made an initial approach and it was likely that this would be in the region of £2,000. Further details would be presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

It was noted that Councillor David Hindle had offered to conduct a guided walk on the wetlands on Sunday 25 January at 10.30 am and all members of the Parish Council who were interested in joining the walk should inform Councillor David Hindle.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

93. (14/15) Grant Request – Grimsargh Toddlers

(Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson both declared an interest in this item and left the meeting for the determination of this grant application).

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council took the Chair for consideration of a grant request from the Grimsargh Toddlers for a safety gate to be installed at the village hall. It was noted that the Toddlers were seeking a grant of £100 and they had submitted an application form, details/costings of their gate and a copy of their bank statement. These were circulated to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that a grant of £100 should be made to Grimsargh Toddlers for the purchase of a safety gate for the village hall. It was felt that if Grimsargh Toddlers cease to operate then the gate should be left at the village hall rather than being removed.

Resolved

That a grant of £100 is awarded to Grimsargh Toddlers for the purchase of a safety gate at the village hall, and that the applicants should be asked to leave the gate at the village hall if they cease to operate.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson returned to the meeting.

94. (14/15) Feedback from LALC AGM/Training

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave feedback on the recent LALC AGM that she had attended at County Hall. She explained that there had been some interesting presentations on fracking and also by a representative from the Environment Agency on drainage. There had also been a long debate on membership fees resulting in an increase of fees for Parish Councils next year. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she had also found the networking to be useful and the opportunity to speak to Lancashire County Council officers about issues in the Parish area including an update on the cycle path.

With regard to the Chairmanship training this had also been a useful session and had been professionally run by Bill Whittle.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

95. (14/15) Financial Matters, approval of draft budget, banking and precept requirements for 2015/2016

It was noted that we had an estimated £37,041.56 in the bank as at 1 November 2014. (We were still awaiting the December bank statement).

The Parish Council gave consideration to the draft budget which had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that there was a proposed increase in expenditure due to additional projects such as the wetlands and the CCTV as agreed earlier in the meeting. With the addition of £1,700 for CCTV, the budget as presented was unanimously agreed.

After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray that the precept for 2015/2016 should be increased to £26,800 (9.6%) and this was seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer and unanimously agreed by all.

Resolved

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

i) AVJ Design invoice for December newsletter - £440. (Cheque no 707).

ii) Sue Whittam – Clerk – 3, 10, 17 and 24 November = 4 weeks at £169.40 per week = £677.60 (Cheque no 708).

iii) Adam Cooper – 55 hours at £12.25 per hour + materials £17 + VAT at 20% = £138.15 = total £828.90 (Cheque no 709).

iv) Grant to Grimsargh Toddlers £100 as agreed earlier at the meeting (Cheque no 710).

2) That the draft budget as now presented, subject to the addition of £1,700 for the CCTV is unanimously approved.

3) That the Parish Council gave consideration to their annual precept requirements for 2015/2016, taking into account the budget as presented above and agreed to increase the precept to £26,800.

96. (14/15) Feedback from Preston Area Committee (PAC)/Three Tier Forum

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave an update on the recent meetings of the Preston Area Committee and Three Tier Forum. An e mail had been circulated to the Parish Council outlining various issues including concerns about information put on Preston City Council's website about Planning Applications relating to resident's concerns. Preston Area Committee were going to ask Preston City Council to make all responses to planning applications available on their website, with names and addresses withheld), as was the practice in other neighbouring Local Authorities such as South Ribble and Wyre Borough Councils.

Concerns had also been raised about some of the debates at the LALC AGM and the representatives from PAC on the LALC Executive had been asked to raise this issue.

One of the items that would be raised with the Three Tier forum was the management of construction traffic during significant developments that are going to take place in Parish areas over the coming years.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

97. (14/15) Report from Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

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

98. (14/15) Clerk's Report – for information only

There was no further matters raised by the Clerk.

99. (14/15) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 8 January 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.