

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 February, 2020 at 7.30 pm, at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Mark Bell; Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Ian Liptrot and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
1 member of the public present

112. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Cryer (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer and also from Councillor Harry Landless from Preston City Council. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also agreed to consider an Item of Urgent Business – Preston City Council Budget Consultation as a response was needed before the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

113. (19/20) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 – Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to Planning Application 06/2019/1448, as the application related to a house next door but one to her house. Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 – Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to Planning Application 06/2019/1358, as it was an application submitted by Grimsargh Wetlands Trust and he was Chairman of the Trust.

114. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

115. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation/Policing Issues and Planning

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and explained that there was no police report for this evening's meeting which was unusual but was probably due to operational reasons, she then welcomed the member of the public to the meeting and asked if she had anything to raise with the Parish Council. The member of the public explained that she had lived in the village since 2001 near to the Welcome to Grimsargh

sign and asked if the road close to her house could be included in the litter picks carried out by the Lengthsman as she understood that the litter picking stopped at The Hills. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reassured the member of the public that litter picking covered the whole village and was carried out by Preston City Council in the main, with the Lengthsman covering some additional litter picking as required. The member of the public also raised her concerns about KT Recycling still having their permit even though the Environment Agency had enforced the site to close down. She also raised her concerns about speeding through Grimsargh especially at the Longridge Road end and asked if a similar sign such as a temporary sign warning of community concern about speeding could be placed there. The Clerk agreed to contact Lancashire County Council about this and ask if a sign could be placed at the Longridge Road entrance to the village. It was noted that speeding was an ongoing issue in Grimsargh.

The member of the public also raised her concern about some unpleasant graffiti on the bus shelter at the Longridge Road end of the village which she had reported to Preston City Council and that she had also asked for a bin close to the bus stop but had been advised by Preston City Council that no more bins were currently being provided.

She also informed the Parish Council about a scam involving Amazon parcels, where someone would be asked to take in a parcel for a neighbour, and the result was that the neighbour had not ordered the parcel but then would be asked to pay for it. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked the member of the public for bringing these matters to our attention and also said she would warn people via our Facebook page about the parcel scam, and advise people not to accept parcels for neighbours.

Councillor Ron Woollam advised the Parish Council that the broken fence as raised at the last meeting was currently being replaced, so hopefully this matter was now resolved. He also advised that the ongoing problems with the drains and gully's especially close to the school needed further works which may involve temporary traffic lights being put in place. He also said that he had spoken to Story Homes regarding the mud on the highway and hopefully we should now see some improvements. With regard to the damaged man hole behind the Village Hall, Councillor Ron Woollam said that Preston City Council had dealt with this and had made the man hole safe and secure.

Councillor Mark Bell informed the Parish Council that the first meeting of the Young Persons Working Group had been held 3 February and that they had brainstormed some ideas for short and long term goals and had felt that the target age group should be aged between 13-17. One of the ideas was to do an online survey and to all involve the local Scout and Guide groups. It was suggested that the next Spotlight slot in the Newsletter should be on youth. A copy of the notes produced by the Working Group had been circulated to the Parish Council.

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

116. (19/20) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2019/1358 - 1no storage container for Grimsargh Wetlands
- 06/2019/1448 - 99 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5SD
1no dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.
- 06/2019/0989 - Park House Farm, Grimsargh, Preston PR2 5LH
Steel portal frame building, farm track to building and new farm track to join existing track to adjoining fields.
- 06/2020/0075 - Park House Farm, Whittingham Lane, Preston PR2 5SL
42no dwellings and associated works following demolition of existing agricultural buildings.

Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 06/2019/1358 and left the room for consideration of this application. With regard to Planning Application 06/2019/1358, the Parish Council welcomed the work being done on Grimsargh Wetlands by the Wetlands Trust and supported the application for a storage container on the Wetlands to store machinery and materials to help with the maintenance of the Wetlands. The Parish Council as owners of the site agreed to write a letter of support to the Planning Officer for this Planning Application. Councillor David Hindle returned to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 06/2019/1448 and left the room for consideration of this application. With regard to Planning Application 06/2019/1448, the Parish Council did have some concerns about this application, particularly with regard to the height and appearance in relation to the neighbouring properties and they also felt that it was not in keeping with other properties. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray returned to the meeting.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2019/0989, it was noted that the proposed steel portal frame building and farm track were actually in Haighton, under Haighton Parish Council and therefore the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/0075, it was noted that all the proposed five bedroomed homes had gone from this site and there had been an increase in two and three bedroom homes instead, which was welcomed. The Parish Council agreed not to comment on this application.

The Parish Council then gave consideration to the response on the consultation on the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options document. It was noted that

the closing date for comments was 14 February 2020. The Clerk went through the questionnaire for the consultation and the following was agreed: -

With regard to Question 5 of the consultation that the Local Plan should provide for the minimum number of homes need.

With regard to Question 6 - For villages development will typically be small scale and limited to appropriate infilling, conversion of buildings and proposals to meet local need, unless there are exceptional reasons for larger scale redevelopment schemes.

With regard to Question 16 - All primary school provision should be within reasonable walking distance of villages.

With regard to Question 29 - There should be more off-road dedicated cycle tracks and not shared spaces.

With regard to Question 36 – Charging points should be included in all new houses.

With regard to Question 37 – Secure locking places provided for bikes including in villages.

With regard to Question 42 and Question 43 – answer yes to both questions.

With regard to Question 44 - s106 monies should be used to improve existing homes and remove all gas boilers etc and make our houses better insulated.

With regard to Question 52 - Limit the removal of trees especially mature ones and also hedgerows.

With regard to the individual sites listed the following was agreed: -

Site 19P001 – This site has already been approved for development so no further comments.

Site 19P017 – This site was included in the original call for sites in 2010 and was refused at that time. It lies in the current area of separation and there are access issues. Concerns raised by the Parish Council about traffic, the area of separation and the projected lack of primary school places in the village.

Site 19P018 – This land has been subject to two previous planning applications, two appeals and one High Court challenge all resulting in refusal for development of this site. It is in the area of separation between Grimsargh and Preston and would have a severe impact on it. Additional concerns are traffic issues, lack of school places and the view from the footpath would destroy the iconic view of St Michael's Church if development was permitted here. Object to this site being used for housing.

Site 19P022 – This site abuts the SSSI and would have a detrimental ecological impact. It also impacts on the area of separation and there are issues with traffic. The projected lack of primary school places would relate to all possible potential sites in the village. Object to this site being used for housing.

Site 19P029 – This site has been put forward by Grimsargh Parish Council as a small-scale development in the village which would replace a deserted and redundant care home, and is therefore supported for housing.

Site 19P127 – The main part of this proposed site is in Houghton Parish. However, Grimsargh Parish Council are concerned about the effect of this development. There are also no pavements or lighting currently. The lack of public transport, traffic issues and drainage problems at this site are of concern, also the projected lack of primary school places. The site also has Savick Brook running through it and therefore the Parish Council would not wish housing to be built on this site.

Site 19P264p and Site 19P261p – same site two different references. The Parish Council also submitted this land as an area for protection, and supports this.

Site 19P254 – The Parish Council is concerned about building in gardens and there should be a presumption that no new development should be in residential gardens. This site is also in an area of Open Countryside. The Parish Council objects to this site.

Site 19P082 – Although not in Grimsargh it is close to Grimsargh and it is currently agricultural land. If it is changed to employment/industrial there would be a huge increase in traffic in Grimsargh. Highways England has recently stated that Bluebell roundabout which is close to the village was at capacity, so there should be no additional employment land in the area due to traffic issues.

Site 19P141 – Same comments as per site 19P082.

Site 19P142 – Although in Ribbleton, it is close to Grimsargh. The Parish Council has concerns that a large extension to this industrial unit would impact on the traffic in and around Grimsargh. As referred to above under 19P082 the Highways England comments also apply in relation to this site and there should be no additional employment land in this area due to traffic issues.

In addition to the above the Parish Council also agreed to submit a map showing potential areas of separation between Grimsargh and Preston and also between Grimsargh and Longridge, and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray agreed to produce the plan. The Parish Council also agreed to make the following comments: -

Grimsargh has had a number of major planning applications passed over the past few years and is reaching saturation point. The original Area of Separation between Grimsargh and Preston has been reduced due to housing being passed mainly due to the lack of five-year supply. We still need a distinct Area of Separation between Preston and Grimsargh and we have attached a plan which indicates our preferred Areas of Separation, which have been substantially reduced. Grimsargh Parish Council would also like to see an Area of Separation between Grimsargh and Longridge and although only around half a field in size and marked on the attached map, it is important to have a distinct separation between Grimsargh and Longridge/Ribble Valley. Going forward Grimsargh should only have small scale/ infill development that protects the rural distinctiveness of Grimsargh.

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

Resolved

i) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2019/1358, the Parish Council welcomed the work being done on Grimsargh Wetlands by the Wetlands Trust and supported the application for a storage container on the Wetlands to store machinery and materials to help with the maintenance of the Wetlands. The Parish Council as owners of the site agreed to write a letter of support to the Planning Officer for this Planning Application.

ii) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2019/1448, the Parish Council had some concerns about this application, particularly with regard to the height and appearance in relation to the neighbouring properties and they also felt that it was not in keeping with other properties.

iii) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2019/0989, it was noted that the proposed steel portal frame building and farm track were actually in Houghton, under Houghton Parish Council and therefore the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

iv) With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/0075, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

ii) That with regard to the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation, that the response to the Consultation as presented above is forwarded on line by the Clerk on behalf of Grimsargh Parish Council.

117. (19/20) Bike Racks

It was reported that the Village Hall Committee, Grimsargh Wetlands Trust and FOGG had kindly accepted the Parish Council's offer to purchase bike racks for the Village Hall, the Wetlands and the Village Green. The Clerk had consulted with Preston City Council regarding the bike rack for the Village Green as they owned the Green and no objections had been received. It was therefore agreed to buy three bike racks at an estimated cost of £300 per rack (£240 per rack + £60 for fixing) from Parish Council CiL monies.

Resolved

That the Parish Council purchases three bike racks for the Village Hall, Grimsargh Wetlands and Grimsargh Village Green at an estimated cost of £900 including fixing from Parish Council CiL monies.

118. (19/20) New Residents' Letter

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson had updated the new residents' letter and this had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Parish Council approved the updated letter and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the updated new residents' letter and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

119. (19/20) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FOGG) - update

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work currently being undertaken by FOGG. She explained that Tony would carry out some maintenance on the willow arbour and that concerns had been raised at a recent FOGG meeting regarding the new drainage works on the Village Green. In particular they were unsure if the drains were working satisfactorily. The Clerk said that apparently the contractors for the football pitch drainage were only dealing with those drains relating to the pitch but there were other drains on site. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said it would be useful to know where all the drains were on the Village Green and she had walked on the Green and the part where the football pitch was located was definitely drier than the rest of the Green. Ultimately it was the responsibility of Preston City Council to look into the issues on the Green as owners of the site.

Reference was also made to the new picnic tables that had been ordered from Dig In. It was agreed that these would need to be treated and stained once they had been placed on the Village Green and this was a job that the Lengthsman would be able to do.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell for the update.

120. (19/20) Football Pitch – update

It was reported that there had been some interest shown in using the football pitch on the Village Green and this had been from Myerscough College. The Clerk would arrange a meeting with those interested involving Steve Daley from Preston City Council Parks Department. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell expressed a wish to be involved in the meeting and the Clerk confirmed that she would notify all Parish Councillors about the meeting once it had been arranged.

121. (19/20) Lancashire County Council – budget consultation 2020/2021 and item of Urgent Business – Preston City Council budget consultation.

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Lancashire County Council budget consultation and after discussion agreed not to forward any comments on this consultation.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson agreed for the Item of Urgent Business, the consultation on the Preston City Council budget to be considered under this item. After discussion it was agreed not to forward any comments on this consultation.

Resolved

That with regard to the budget consultations for both Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council that the Parish Council agreed not to forward any comments on these consultations.

122. (19/20) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £37,033.97 in the Nat West bank as at 3 January 2020. There were no additional invoices paid since the last meeting.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

- i) Paula Fitzgerald for attending January Parish Council Meeting £250 (cheque no 1016).
- ii) Sue Whittam 15/02/20 - £934.01 (Cheque no 1017).
- iii) Adam Cooper Contractor - £867.25 (Cheque no 1018).

2) The Parish Council approved the appointment of Donna Kidd as the Internal Auditor for Accounts for year end 31 March 2020 at a cost of £60.

123. (19/20) Cross Boundary Partnership Meeting – update for information only

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that unfortunately neither her or the Clerk had been able to attend the last meeting. However, Councillor Ron Woollam had attended the meeting and informed the Parish Council that the Ribble Valley Economic Plan had been discussed and it was likely that the Parish Council would be asked to become involved.

124. (19/20) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported that Preston City Council would be carrying out some “dip sampling” on Parish Councillors Register of Interest forms and the Clerk reminded them to make sure their forms are up to date.

The Clerk also reported that we had received notification from the Post Office about restoring Post Office services to Grimsargh. It was noted that the Postmaster for Longridge would provide an outreach service at Grimsargh Club from Tuesday 3 March and would operate every Tuesday between 1pm – 3pm and every Friday between 9.30 am - 11.30 am.

It was also reported that a Best Kept Village Competition information event would be held on Monday 24th February at 7.30 pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall.

125. (19/20) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on Thursday 5 March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.