

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2025 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver; Councillor Simon Rusling and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

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

90. (24/25) Apologies for Absence

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

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

91. (24/25) Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations

The Clerk confirmed that written requests for dispensation had been received from all present in order for them to consider the precept up to the 31 March 2027 in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no further declarations of interest.

92. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th December 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

93. (24/25) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver asked if there had been any progress with the cleaning of the pond and the works scheduled to be carried out on the Redrow estate by Preston City Council. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that Preston City Council were still having issues with an appointment of a contractor to carry out the works, he had suggested some alternative contractors but had not heard anything back. Preston City Council had also said that the works to remove the dip in the land was a large job. Councillor Stephen Whittam had also asked if the Director of Parks could attend a Parish Council meeting and he was chasing this up again with Preston City Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked everyone who had been involved in the Christmas events which had been a great success. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that Reverend Andy Williams had asked her to raise the lack of consultation with the Churches on the change of date from the Friday to the Sunday due to the predicted terrible weather. Councillor Trevor Haines said that it was a Parish Council event and that the Parish Council had taken the decision due to Health and Safety reasons which was a sensible approach. Information had gone out on FB to advise the change of date due to the weather and the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton had stood on the Village Green on the Friday in case anyone turned up. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also said that she had been asked if there could be stalls at the future events. The Parish Council agreed that this was not an event for stalls but a community event to switch on the Christmas lights, bless the crib and have a visit from Father Christmas. It was noted that a lot of positive feedback had been received about the Christmas events. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam reported that the left-over selection boxes had gone to the foodbank. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also reported that the events had been well within the £300 budget set by the Parish Council and this had covered all the refreshments and the selection boxes.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed the member of the public who had come along to discuss the Community Orchard and provide some expertise on the trees which was very much appreciated by the Parish Council. The Clerk said that she was still awaiting the date for when the trees would be delivered and then the Parish Council could arrange to have a planting day. The Clerk also explained that the grant money should be credited to the Parish Council bank account at the end of January, and that as part of the grant conditions there had to be an acknowledgement of the grant funder and also pictures of the trees and planting event.

Councillor Trevor Haines said that we would need to consider our response to a resident at Cow Hill as well as others regarding the footway and also the Parish Council's intention to extend a footpath through the village green. The Clerk said she could look at putting this on our FB page and also it may be worth putting an article in the next Parish Council newsletter as there may have been some progress with the proposals for the village green by then.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton reconvened the meeting.

94. (24/25) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

06/2024/1260 - Land at Roman Road Farm, Longridge Road Preston PR2 5SB.
Reserved matters application (namely appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline planning permission 06/2022/0745 for 2 no industrial units (Class B2/B8), service yard, parking and infrastructure and associated enabling works.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2024/1260 concerns were raised about the Transport Study referred to in the application and on particular the potential effect on traffic in Grimsargh, which had been terrible lately. The proposed industrial estate indicated that there would be no adverse impact on the traffic situation, but the Parish Council believed that this would not be the case, as the increase in vehicles using the site would ultimately increase the traffic in Grimsargh. The Clerk agreed to submit these concerns to the Planning Officer.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Grimsargh Cricket Club had been in touch to say that their application (reference 06/2024/1003) was going to Planning Committee in February, this was due to receiving one objection and the land being owned by Preston City Council. The application was for the replacement nets that were being funded by the Parish Council. The Cricket Club had asked if the Parish Council could send a letter of support for their application, and this was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

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

Resolved

i) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2024/1260 concerns were raised about the Transport Study referred to in the application and on particular the potential effect on traffic in Grimsargh, which had been terrible lately. The proposed industrial estate indicated that there would be no adverse impact on the traffic situation, but the Parish Council believed that this would not be the case, as the increase in vehicles using the site would ultimately increase the traffic in Grimsargh. The Clerk agreed to submit these concerns to the Planning Officer.

ii) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2024/1003 relating to the replacement nets at Grimsargh Cricket Club, that the Parish Council sends a letter of support for their application to Preston City Council.

95. (24/25) Community Orchard update

As discussed earlier under public participation, the Parish Council were awaiting a date when the trees could be delivered and then a planting event would be held, and the local community would be invited to get involved.

It was noted that the Community Orchard Grant of £996.25 should be credited to the Parish Council's bank account by the end of January 2025.

Resolved

That the update on the Community Orchard is received and noted.

96. (24/25) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £176,169.66 in the Nat West bank as at 5 December 2024.

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

Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Jayne Woollam for key cutting for notice board £20.00. (Cheque no 1295).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 November £1,611.86 including back pay for 8 months at new rate of £17.79 per month as agreed by NALC + Newsletter distribution reimbursement £171.60 = total £1,783.46. (Cheque no 1296).

SLCC Membership fee £150 (Cheque no 1297).

Q3 Tax and NI £1,078.83. (Cheque no 1298).

We had been advised that bank charges from 2 November to 29 November were £3.85. Direct debit Nest Pension Clerk, 12 November and 5 December £67.71; Water Plus for Nellie Carbis £20.14.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Reimbursement to Grimsargh Field Day for Christmas Events refreshments £113.65.

ii) Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 January 2025 £1,297.21.

2) The Parish Council considered the draft budget for 2025/2026, which had been previously circulated for any further additional items to be added. There were no further additional items suggested, but it was noted that the draft budget was showing that the Parish Council would need £52,778 for projected expenditure for 2025/26. The Parish Council unanimously approved the budget for 2025/26 as presented.

3) The Parish Council considered the precept for 2025/26 taking into account the budget as approved above. There was a general discussion about this and the Parish Council were mindful that they did not want to raise the precept too high. Councillor Trevor Haines proposed that the precept was increased to £45,000 for 2025/26 which was an increase of £2,000 and that the Parish Council would need to use some of their reserves to cover any shortfall. This was seconded by the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

97. (24/25) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the Parish Lengthsman, Adam Cooper would be leaving the Parish Council in May after 20 years' service. The Clerk said that Adam was very flexible with the exact leaving date dependent on when a replacement Lengthsman was appointed. This was appreciated by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton together with the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines and the Clerk should be responsible for the process to replace the Lengthsman including the advert, selection and interviews. The final decision on appointment would need the full approval of the Parish Council.

98. (24/25) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.