

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 July, 2019 at 7.00 pm, at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
2 members of the public

33. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; and Councillor Ian Liptrot. Apologies were also received from Councillor Ian Donnell; Councillor Harry Landless and Councillor Ron Woollam from Preston City Council and PCSO Julie Anyon and PCSO Vicky Shackleton. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

34. (19/20) Declarations of Interest

None.

35. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed representatives from Grimsargh Cricket Club to the meeting who had come along to provide further information to support their grant application. Bob Wallbank updated the Parish Council on the current drainage works being carried out on the Village Green. He also provided some further information with regard to the Cricket Club and their future aspirations. It was noted that the Cricket Club was also setting up a Ladies Team and were encouraging more younger children both boys and girls to be involved. It was noted that the English Cricket Board (ECB) standards for Cricket facilities were very high and the Club was looking to seek accreditation from the ECB. The Clerk confirmed that she had received all the requested receipts and information from the Cricket Club to enable the grant application to be given further consideration later at the meeting.

With regard to the lease for the Cricket Club, the Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with Mr Greenwood at Farley's Solicitors and would be seeing him

on Tuesday 9 July to discuss the Parish Council's Football Pitch Licence and also to start the process for the Cricket Club Lease. It was noted that Phil Brooks from the Cricket Club would be the contact for their Lease. The Clerk had also contacted Preston City Council to find out who would be dealing with the Cricket Club Lease on behalf of the local Authority and she when she obtained further information, she would pass the details onto Mr Greenwood and also Phil Brooks. Although the Lease was due to expire in August, the Clerk said there was nothing particular to worry about but it was important that the new lease was sorted as soon as practicable.

There was a general discussion about the Village Green and the Parish Council's future plans for the football pitch. The Parish Council were pleased to note that Bob Wallbank on behalf of the Cricket Club assured the Parish Council that there would be opportunities for both the Cricket and Football Clubs to work together to provide sports facilities for the benefit of Grimsargh. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that she thought the Cricket Club were doing a great job and this was supported by the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked the representatives of the Cricket Club for attending the meeting and advised them that the Clerk would inform them of the outcome of their grant application as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that although the Police could not attend our meeting this evening, they had provided a crime update. It was noted that there had been 11 recorded crimes for the period 1 June 2019 – 30 June 2019. These were 5 public order and nuisance crimes; 1 vehicle theft; 1 criminal damage; 2 harassment; 1 public order offence and 1 breach of injunction. It was further reported that the increase in crime figures was mainly due to an issue with youths in the area who were coming into Grimsargh and it had stemmed from a disagreement between two youths in particular. The Police had spoken to some of the youths and their schools and they were hopeful that the issues would be resolved.

It was further noted that the Police had been out and about in Grimsargh at every opportunity and they had been involved with Grimsargh Field Day which had been a great opportunity to meet more of the residents. It was likely there would be increased patrols in Grimsargh during July due to the Anti-Social Behaviour issues that had been happening in the village lately.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reconvened the meeting.

37. (19/20) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following Planning Application. It was noted that although this application was not in our Parish area we did ask to be consulted about the application. It was further noted that this application would be determined by Lancashire County Council: -

LCC/2019/0029 - Land at Red Scar, Energy recovery facility.

With regard to Planning Application LCC/2019/0029, it was noted that there was a tremendous amount of technical documentation that accompanied this Planning Application. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that she was concerned about possible pollution and in particular pollution spikes after the plant had been shut down for example following maintenance. She also had concerns about the traffic especially during the construction phase and she would also like to see the plant achieving optimum maximum benefits by use of a heat recovery CHP system.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she had significant concerns about the application and in particular with regard to traffic issues. During the construction phase which would take up to three years, there would be a massive increase in traffic in the area and she felt that this would also be significant when the plant was up and running.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson referred to the Transport Assessment Section 1.2.1. She said that the Transport Assessment stated that permitted development in both Longridge and Grimsargh had been taken into consideration as part of the Assessment, however this section only listed three developments and she questioned if all the significant developments that had recently been granted permission had been taken into consideration. If they had it was important to know what criteria had been used to formulate their transport assessment.

The Parish Council was also disappointed that the documents referred to producing enough electricity to power 89,000 homes. However, it was clear from the documentation that the electricity would be used for commercial organisations rather than residential.

Councillor David Hindle raised his concerns about the flora and fauna and that the proposed site was adjacent to a SSSI and an ancient woodland. Although it was noted that the application proposed mitigation measures to afford protection to these.

After discussion it was proposed that a formal objection be sent to Lancashire County Council in respect of this application. On being put to the vote, two Councillors voted in favour and two against. The Chairman therefore had a casting vote and voted against submitting a formal objection. However, the Parish Council agreed to respond with significant concerns about this application in particular with regard to the traffic issues both during construction and operation of the plant; in addition to this clarification regarding the Transport Assessment and whether all planned development in Grimsargh had been taken into account as part of the assessment; the possible pollution effects and spikes after the plant has been shut down for routine maintenance; the concerns that the Parish Council would like to see the maximum benefits from the site if it went ahead for example by the use of a heat recovery CHP system; the disappointment that the electricity generated would be used for commercial organisations only; and also the concerns that the site was adjacent to a SSSI and ancient woodland.

It was noted that individual Parish Councillors could also respond to the Planning Application directly if they wished to do so.

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

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Application LCC/2019/0029 in respect of the Energy Recovery Facility at Red Scar, that the Clerk responds to Lancashire County Council with the significant concerns raised by the Parish Council as outlined above.

38. (19/20) Grimsargh Wetlands – update

As Councillor Peter Burton was unable to attend this evening's meeting, the Chairman Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave a verbal report from the Wetlands Trust AGM held on Wednesday 3 July 2019. She said it had been a brilliant meeting and that David, Phil and Andy had all been re elected to the Wetlands Trust. The Officers had also been appointed at the AGM with David being re elected as Chairman, Lesley as Vice-Chairman/Treasurer and Jayne as Secretary. There were now around 40 members of the Trust. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that the Trust had done a fantastic job and that phase 2 of the planned works on the Wetlands were due to start next year.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also reported that representatives of the Wetlands Trust were due to meet with United Utilities again and that representatives from the Parish Council had also been invited to go along. The Parish Council had appointed Councillor Terry Cryer into the Liaison Role between the Wetlands Trust and the Parish Council, however, if he was unable to attend, Councillor Peter Burton was the substitute Parish Councillor. It was also agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson would attend this meeting together with Councillor Terry Cryer or Councillor Peter Burton.

Resolved

- i) That the update on Grimsargh Wetlands is received and noted.
- ii) That the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson together with Councillor Terry Cryer or Councillor Peter Burton should attend the proposed meeting between representatives of the Wetlands Trust, UU and the Parish Council.

39. (19/20) Report from Community Safety Working Group

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson presented the report from the Community Safety Working Group from their meeting held on 10 June. She informed the Parish Council that a number of issues had been discussed including the purchase of a laptop for use with the CCTV. The Community Safety Working Group were recommending that the laptop should be stored securely at the village hall and should be for the use of the Parish Council only. However, it was noted that the Police would be allowed to use the laptop and view images if they requested this as part of a police investigation. The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of a suitable laptop and three USB flash drives at a maximum cost of £1,000 and to be allocated from Parish Council CiL monies. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray agreed to source a suitable laptop on behalf of the Parish Council.

With regard to signage the Community Safety Working Group suggested that the three larger signs should be put in place as soon as possible. This was supported by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also gave consideration to the draft CCTV Policy as presented at Appendix 1 and Appendix A of the Community Safety Working Group report and this was approved.

With regard to the storage of the laptop at the village hall, the Community Safety Working Group recommended that a suitable key safe was purchased and installed outside the village hall. This would enable those who needed access to the laptop to look at the images to be given the code without the need for a number of keys to be circulated. The Parish Council agreed that this seemed sensible but were conscious that it would need the approval of the Village Hall Committee for the key safe to be installed on their property. The Parish Council therefore agreed to seek approval from the Village Hall Committee regarding the installation of a key safe at the village hall. If approval was given then a “police approved” key safe at an estimated cost of £60.00 would be purchased by the Clerk and she would claim this back as part of her expenses.

The Community Safety Working Group had also drafted out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was presented at Appendix 2 of the Community Safety Working Group report and this was approved.

A copy of the notes from the Community Safety Working Group are presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

i) That the report from the Community Safety Working Group from their meeting held on 10 June is received and noted.

ii) That approval is given to the purchase of a suitable laptop for use with the CCTV and three USB flash drives for the copying and storage of images, for use by the Parish Council at a maximum cost of £1,000 to be allocated from Parish Council CiL monies.

iii) That the draft CCTV Policy as presented at Appendix 1 and Appendix A of the Community Safety Working Group report is approved by the Parish Council.

iv) That approval is sought from the Village Hall Committee for the installation of a key safe at the village hall. If approval is given then a “police approved” key safe at an estimated cost of £60.00 would be purchased by the Clerk and she would claim this back as part of her expenses.

v) That the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as presented at Appendix 2 of the Community Safety Working Group report is approved by the Parish Council.

40. (19/20) Grant Application – Grimsargh Cricket Club

It was noted that this application had been deferred from the last meeting of the Parish Council as further information was needed from Grimsargh Cricket Club. As reported earlier at the meeting, the Clerk had confirmed that previous receipts and supporting information about the Cricket Club bank accounts had now been received. The Parish Council particularly welcomed the comments made by the Cricket Club regarding working with any football team on the village green for the good of Grimsargh.

There was a general discussion about the grant application and although the Parish Council would not normally consider a retrospective request, this was not stated in the Parish Council's Grants Policy which would now be rewritten to ensure that in future retrospective grants were not awarded. That being said, the Parish Council recognised the importance of the Cricket Club and teams to the village and their lack of funding. The Parish Council therefore agreed to award a grant of £2,250 towards the new mower and roller for the Cricket Club. They also asked if some positive recognition of the grant awarded from the Parish Council could be placed on the Cricket Club's Facebook Page. It was further agreed that the grant would be provided from the Parish Council's solar farm monies.

Resolved

That a grant of £2,250 is awarded to Grimsargh Cricket Club towards their new mower and roller and funded from the Parish Council solar farm monies.

41. (19/20) Neighbourhood Plan Vision & next steps

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that she had been working with Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and the Clerk to produce a draft vision for the Neighbourhood Plan. This had also been circulated to the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group for comments.

The Parish Council approved the following draft vision for the Neighbourhood Plan: -

Our vision is for Grimsargh to be a vibrant community that retains its identity as a village where everyone can feel included. We will do this by welcoming only limited development that meets the needs identified by our residents, for quality affordable homes.

We will work with our partners to help improve the quality of life for our residents by;

- Promoting green connectivity through the village.
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing by encouraging and enabling walking and cycling as the main modes of transport within Grimsargh; and, by improving outdoor exercise and sports facilities for all ages.

- Improving access to information so residents know where to go for help and are aware of what is available.
- Maintaining a safe environment.
- Enhancing our valued community assets, such as the Village Hall, the Village Green, the Wetlands and Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland.
- Improving our ecology by encouraging and preserving a rich and diverse variety of wildlife, trees and flowers.
- Supporting local businesses and community groups.

With regard to the next steps for the Neighbourhood Planning process, the Clerk reported that Barton Parish Council had recently engaged a Planner from Kirkwells to progress their plan and begin the process of policy writing. It was noted that we were at the same stage with regard to our plan and so the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk could contact Paula Fitzgerald from Kirkwells to arrange a meeting to discuss her involvement and how to progress our plan. The Parish Council would be able to apply for a further grant from Locality but would also have to contribute some of our own funds towards the use of a planning consultant. It was therefore agreed that Paula Fitzgerald would be invited to a meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group to discuss this further and to start moving our plan forward. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she would like to attend the meeting and it was therefore agreed that any Parish Councillor could also attend the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group.

Resolved

- i) That the draft vision for the Neighbourhood Plan as now presented is approved by the Parish Council.
- ii) That a meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group is arranged with Paula Fitzgerald from Kirkwells to discuss her involvement and how to progress our plan. In addition to this any Parish Councillor could also attend this meeting.

42. (19/20) Replacement benches for the Village Green

The Clerk reported that the City Council were unsure which benches needed replacing on the village green and had therefore asked the Parish Council to forward some pictures. Once these had been received then Preston City Council (PCC) would be able to provide costs for the replacement benches. This would be considered further by the Parish Council at their next meeting in September.

Resolved

That the replacement of the benches on the village green is considered further by the Parish Council at their September meeting once pictures have been provided to PCC and costings been given to the Parish Council.

43. (19/20) Planter Competition Prizes and Refreshments

The Parish Council agreed to authorise expenditure of up to £100 for the purchase of prizes for this year's planter competition and for refreshments for the winners. This was unanimously agreed. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson would make the arrangements for the purchase of the prizes and the refreshments as in previous years.

Resolved

That approval is given to the purchase of prizes and refreshments for this year's Planter Competition at a maximum expenditure of £100.

44. (19/20) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £85,621.21 in the Nat West bank as at 5 June 2019. This included the £1,205.42 in respect of the VAT return.

It was further noted that we had paid since the last meeting: -

Grimsargh Field Day – grant for bunting as agreed at the last meeting £500 (cheque no 975).

HDC for new signs £1,156.25 (cheque no 976).

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust for Annual Membership £50.00 (cheque no 977).

HMRC Q1 Tax and NI - £1,205.89 (cheque no 978).

It was also noted that we have paid £12.17 for water (water plus) for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland by Direct Debit.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam 15/7/19 - £934.01 (Cheque no 979).

ii) Donna Kidd for Internal Audit fee £60.00 (cheque no 980).

iii) B & D Print for newsletter £649.00 (including extra £100 for the pull-out map artwork) (cheque 981).

iv) Preston City Council for Parish Council elections £100.00 (cheque no 982).

iv) SRS Gorton (Bang the Drum) for website administration – 2 invoices covering November 2018 – April 2019 (£337.50) and May 2019 – June 2019 (£90.00) = total £427.50 (cheque no 983).

vi) Adam Cooper Lengthsman/Contractor – £977.50 wages + £36.00 materials = total £1,033.50 (cheque no 984).

2) Internal Audit Report

The Clerk reported that the annual accounts had now been submitted to PKF Littlejohn the external auditor. The Clerk also presented the Internal Audit Report as undertaken by Donna Kidd as follows: -

Grimsargh Parish Council Accounts 2018/2019 Audited by Donna Kidd

Cheque No 942 – receipts total £51.11 not £51.03

Cheque No 917 – observation – only credit card receipt for Littletown Farm Shop – would like to see itemised receipt

Cheque 946 – no receipt for £6 expenses – receipt for Land Registry now provided

Consistent details would help – ie Adam Cooper = Lengthsman or Contractor

No petty cash payments made all transactions made by cheque.

The Parish Council noted the report and agreed in future to provide more detailed itemised receipts as recommended by the internal auditor.

45. (19/20) Clerk's report - for information only

The Clerk reported that she had received an email request regarding the use of the new football pitch. As the drainage works were currently being carried out and the pitch would need a period of time to settle and grow and, also the Licence agreement with Preston City Council had not been finalised, the Clerk would reply to advise that it would be a while before the Parish Council were in a position to arrange usage of the new pitch.

The Clerk also reported that she had received an update from KT recycling and that no odour diaries had been completed. The Clerk would ask KT recycling to produce a newsletter for residents as promised to keep them up to date.

The Clerk had contacted John Gornall to carry out an annual inspection of the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland and would arrange for any works to be carried out before winter.

46. (19/20) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on **Thursday 12 September 2019** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.