

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th July, 2024 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor David Hindle; 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
3 members of the public

29. (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.

There were no apologies for absence.

30. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

None.

31. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th June 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32. (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.

A member of the public had come along to discuss the potential community orchard that the Parish Council were looking at establishing on their land next to the Wetlands. He explained that he had a great deal of experience in dealing with orchards and was willing to help the Parish Council with advice and practical help. He had looked at involving the Woodland Trust but it appeared that they only dealt with woodlands and not community orchards. However, he had nurtured a number of fruit trees over the last few years and had grown some on Old Railway Walk so he was happy to share the benefit of his expertise. He was also happy to donate a few trees to get the orchard established. The member of the public also explained that the best time to plant the fruit trees was from November onwards, and the best trees to grow where Apples, plums and pears. It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton and the Clerk would meet with the member of the public on site and discuss the amount of variety of trees that would be suitable. The Chairman,

Councillor Peter Burton thanked the member of the public for offering to help with this project, and said that the Clerk would be in touch to arrange the meeting as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that the initial findings from the Air Quality monitors showed that there was not a problem with poor air quality in Grimsargh, and it was noted that the monitors would remain in place for another year.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also informed the Parish Council that Grimsargh Wetlands Trust had been successful in their bid to the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) for the replacement fencing which was fantastic news. The Clerk signed the paperwork on behalf of the Parish Council and a cheque for £1,210 to cover the match funding was given to Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam as Secretary of the Wetlands Trust.

Councillor Stephen Whittam informed the Parish Council that he was still awaiting a start date from Preston City Council on when the works to the pond and fencing on Redrow would be started.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

33. (24/25) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2024/0677 - North of Church House Barn, Preston Road Grimsargh
3no dwellings (pursuant to 06/2023/1154 to seek
variation of condition no.1 approved plans).

With regard to Planning Application 06/2024/0677 the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

It was also noted that the application for a temporary agricultural track that the Parish Council had objected to, (Planning Application 06/2024/0090) had been refused by Preston City Council.

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

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Application 06/2024/0677, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

34. (24/25) Community Orchard

It was noted that the Parish Council had recently included an item in their June newsletter regarding their intention that the land adjacent to the Wetlands purchased by the Parish Council would be used as a Community Orchard. The resident who had approached the Parish Council to help with this project had seen the item in the newsletter.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that they would wish to progress with establishing the land as a Community Orchard. The Clerk advised that there was a new grants scheme for Community Orchards and she would put in an application on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed that a mixture of apple trees and plum trees would probably be a good start to the orchard. It was further noted that the maximum number of trees that could be applied for under the Community Orchard grants was for 25 trees. The Clerk would also arrange a site visit with the Chairman and the resident to look at the site.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agree to establish a Community Orchard on their land adjacent to the Wetlands and that the Clerk is authorised to apply for a grant from the Community Orchards grant scheme.

35. (24/25) Neighbourhood Plan Update

It was noted that the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, and the Clerk had met in Grimsargh with our planner Peter Black and had walked around the village looking at the issues. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said there was quite a lot of work needed on the plan to bring it up to date, but due to the recent change in Government it was not sure if this would involve any changes to the neighbourhood planning, as the Government had already stated that they would be changing the planning system. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue with the work on the plan.

The Clerk reported that she had checked with the Planning Policy Manager at Preston City Council and she had advised that a redesignation of our Neighbourhood Plan area (the Parish Council boundary), was not needed as the original approval was still valid. The next step was to carry out a mini consultation with residents to see if the information gathered from our comprehensive questionnaire carried out in Autumn 2017 was still valid. The Clerk would look at the previous results of our questionnaire and draft out a small survey to be discussed at our September meeting. She would also contact Locality to see if any grants were still available to help with our Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved

That, the Clerk looks at devising a small questionnaire based on our original Neighbourhood Plan survey for discussion at the September meeting of the Parish Council, and also contacts Locality to see if any grants are available for help with the plan.

36. (24/25) Road Safety update

The Clerk reported that she had received a response from the Highways Officer regarding the recommendations made by the Parish Council with respect to road safety on Whittingham Lane.

The Parish Council had been advised to follow the procedure as set down in the Lancashire County Council (LCC) SPID Policy and Procedure document and liaise directly with the Officer who dealt with SPID's. It was noted that the Parish Council had been in contact directly with the Officer and had advised that they would wish to install an Evolis Vision Solar SPID which was able to capture speed data for vehicles travelling in both directions. Councillor Trevor Haines had supplied photographs of the suggested location and these had been forwarded to the Officer at LCC to action.

LCC had advised that they would not grant the request for a vehicle activated sign at this time. Vehicle activated signs should only be considered where there is an accident problem associated with inappropriate speed and where other conventional measures have not been effective. They were also intended to supplement rather than replace the traditional signs and are aimed at addressing specific road safety problems.

LCC had also advised that they would not at present consider a request for a footpath extension as part of a safety scheme. It was noted that this could potentially be considered by a developer as a possible section 278 scheme relating to the Orchard Manor Estate, however this would be for the developer and Preston City Council as the Local Planning Authority to agree. LCC had noted that the Parish Council was looking at how to fund a footpath, but they advised that the cost would be significant and it would still need LCC approval as it would be an amendment to the highway.

Resolved

That the Road Safety update is received and noted.

37. (24/25) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £230,752.56 in the Nat West bank as at 5 June 2024. It was further noted that the precept (£43,000) had been credited to our account on 24 May 2024.

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

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 June £1,266.53 + newsletter delivery £171.60 = total £1,438.13. (Cheque no 1268).

Donna Kidd Internal Auditor fee £70.00 (Cheque no 1269).

Euroshel bus cleaning £648.00 (Cheque no 1270).

Grimsargh Cricket Club Grant as agreed in October 2022 - £10,500 for lanes + £20,000 for nets = total £30,500. (Cheque no 1271).

We have been advised that bank charges for 4 May to 31 May were £3.85. Direct debits paid were Nest Pension Clerk 8 May £48.88, Water bill for Nellie Carbis £19.52.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) HMRC Q1 Tax and NI £879.91.

ii) JRB x 2 invoices for bin bags £260.52.

iii) Clerks Salary 15 July £1,258.17 + ink, stationery and zoom for 12 months from June 2023 – June 2024 = total £414.21 = total £1,672.38.

2) Internal Audit report

The Clerk reported that the internal auditor had no comments to make, everything was totally in order, and the accounts had now been submitted to the external auditor.

38. (24/25) Clerk's report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

39. (24/25) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 5th September at 7.30pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.