

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 June, 2022 held at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

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

16. (22/23) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer and Councillor Terry Cryer. 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.

17. (22/23) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 13 – Land close to Grimsargh Wetlands as Secretary to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

18. (22/23) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. (22/23) 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. It was noted that the member of public present had come along to observe the Parish Council meeting as she was interested in the vacancy on the Parish Council.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam mentioned the graffiti on the Village Green which was on the play equipment and on the trees. A local resident had taken a video of the young people who carried out the graffiti, which was criminal damage and this had been sent to the Police. The Clerk also said that she would report this to the Police and it was obvious from the footage that those who carried out the vandalism would be easily recognised.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also mentioned an idea by Keith Middlebrough relating to a public cinema/screening being held on the Village Green. Keith was looking into this and the Parish Council thought it was a great idea. However, it was noted that the Village Green was owned by Preston City Council and therefore their

permission would be needed, and a temporary events notice would have to be applied for.

Reference was also made to the field near the public footpath at The Plough having young heifers in there and there were concerns that this would discourage people using the public rights of way. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that as it was private land then the farmer was allowed to use it for cattle and that the public footpath was separated from the private land. The Clerk said she would ask Adam to check the signage for the public rights of way.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam asked if the Chairman could sign the letter for the resident's pack which was on drop box. The Chairman agreed.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

20. (22/23) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no Planning Applications for consideration at the meeting and no planning issues for discussion.

21. (22/23) Platinum Jubilee Working Group

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave a final update from the Platinum Jubilee Working Group for the picnic on the Village Green event to be held on Sunday 5th June. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the laminator had not arrived as ordered and she had subsequently received a refund. Likewise, the display boards could not be delivered on time so she had cancelled these and arranged alternative ones. She informed the Clerk that she had not cashed the original cheque for the expenditure outlined at the last meeting and that she would provide an update on expenditure in due course. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also informed the Parish Council that the potato tram had given backward so they had booked the mobile food van that was usually outside Grimsargh Club.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that volunteers were needed to help decorate the stage and set up on the day. It was noted that Lindsay Philipson had volunteered to help with the nostalgia tent and that members from the Field Day Committee had also volunteered to help.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also informed the Parish Council that she had purchased the prizes for adults and children for the Best Dressed Costume Competition. The total cost of the prizes was £33.95 and it was agreed to reimburse Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam for this expenditure. The Clerk and Councillor Steve Whittam would be judging the outfits, and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam gave the Clerk the Certificates to be handed out to the winners on the day. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell would be unveiling the new mural at 1.15 pm and all the entertainment had confirmed attendance.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton expressed his appreciation for all the work that had gone into planning the event and hoped that the weather would be good.

Resolved

- i) That, the report of the Platinum Jubilee Working Group is received and noted.
- ii) That, approval is given to the reimbursement of £33.95 to Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam for the prizes for the Best Dressed Costume Competition to be judged at the event.

22. (22/23) Grant Application for Summer family craft sessions

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant application from a lady wishing to set up summer family craft sessions at the Village Hall, copies of the grant application form had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted as this was a new group, the group did not currently have a bank account. The Parish Council were very supportive of the idea to help children and families develop some craft skills and have some fun activities during the summer months when they were holiday from school. After discussion the Parish Council agreed to pay the Village Hall hire fees to support the group and their summer family craft sessions at a total cost of £180. The Clerk would arrange to pay the room hire fees direct to the Village Hall.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also suggested that the group should also apply to the John Farrington Trust and the Boylton, Houghton and Farrington Charity to help with the purchase of craft materials. The Clerk agreed to include this information in the email to the lady setting up the group and encourage her to apply.

Resolved

- i) That, approval is given to a grant of up to £180 for the cost of hiring the Village Hall for summer family craft sessions, and that this would be paid directly to the Village Hall.
- ii) That, the organiser of the group is advised to apply to the John Farrington Trust and the Boylton, Houghton and Farrington Charity to help with the purchase of craft materials.

23. (22/23) Planters update

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that there had been a really positive response to people wanting to sponsor the new planters, and also by residents wanting to continue looking after the established planters. It was noted that two new three tier planters had been purchased costing £800 (instead of £500 for one), which had been excellent value as they had been delivered and included compost. The Parish Council ratified that this would be funded from CiL monies.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also informed the Parish Council that a number of planters had now been replanted and were looking very colourful and ready for the Best Kept Village Competition. She had purchased a number of plants from Asda which only cost £20.00 and it was agreed to reimburse Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam for this amount.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also informed that Parish Council that FOGG had also done a fabulous job replacing the plants in the larger planter on the Village Green and that Michelle from SO Plants had very kindly donated the plants for the "G" beds. FOGG were asking for reimbursement for the £106.47 spent on plants on the large bed. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell reminded the Parish Council that FOGG still had a bank account with some funds available. In particular the Parish Council had some time ago given FOGG £1,000 towards the drainage on the Village Green and this funding had not been used as the Parish Council had paid the money for drainage direct to Preston City Council. It was agreed that FOGG could use some of this money to pay for the recent purchase of plants.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that there needed to be a discussion about financing the planters etc and that this should be budgeted for and this was something that the Finance Working Group could take into consideration as part of the budget process. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that the only purchases this year had been the two new planters and the small cost for some new plants.

There was discussion about the voucher for the planter parents this year, and it was agreed to award each planter parent a gift voucher from SO Plants for £20.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also asked if the Lengthsman could put some compost on the Cricket Club planter. The Clerk said she would arrange this.

Resolved

- i) That, the Parish Council ratifies the decision to purchase two three tier planters at a total cost of £800 to be funded from CiL monies.
- ii) That, approval is given to the reimbursement of £20 to Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam for new plants.
- iii) That, FOGG is advised to use some of the money given by the Parish Council originally towards drainage to reimbursement the money paid for the plants for the large planter on the Village Green.
- iii) That, the Finance Working Group consider adding a suitable budget for the provision of planters and plants in the village.
- iv) That, approval is given for each planter parent to receive a voucher from SO Plants for £20.

24. (22/23) Christmas Extravaganza

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam had asked for this item to be on the Agenda so the Parish Council could start planning the events. It was noted that the Parish Council had provisionally agreed a date of 2 December for a combined event of Carols around the Crib and the Christmas Tree light switch on. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam suggested that the Parish Council should set up a Working Group similar to the one that had been established for the Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council thought this was an excellent idea and the Clerk stated that the Working Group

would also be able to co-opt residents and representatives from other groups such as the Field Day Committee onto the Working Group. This would be added to the Agenda for each meeting.

Resolved

That, the Parish Council establish a Christmas Events Working Group and that this will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council in July.

25. (22/23) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £159,945.33 in the Nat West bank as at 5 May 2022.

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

Cllr Mrs Joyce Chessell, reimbursement for Laminator £60.93; Gazebo £299.99; Display boards £331.19 = total £692.11 (Cheque no 1141).
Planters Ashleigh Nursery £800 (Cheque no 1142).
S Whittam, Clerk £1,173.50 (Cheque no 1143).
Raven fabrication final payment £1250 (note due to no local branch being close to Raven asked for two cheques so they could be paid electronically. Cheque 1 (ref 0144) for £1,000 and cheque 2 (ref 1145) for £250.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

- i) Clerk Salary £1,173.30 + £171.60 for newsletter distribution = total £1,344.90.
- ii) HMRC Q1 Tax and NI £716.78.
- ii) Adam Cooper Contractor (May) – to be confirmed.
- iii) Sandy Smith £300 and remainder of Platinum Jubilee providers to be confirmed.
- iv) Grimsargh Wetlands Trust Membership fee £100.

2) 2021 / 2022 End of year report and Annual Return.

The Clerk presented the end of year financial report which included the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). i) The Parish Council reflected on the effectiveness of the system of internal control and approved and completed the Annual Governance Statement. ii) The Parish Council then considered the end of year financial report and approved the Accounting Statements which were then signed and dated by the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton. It was further noted that the Clerk had arranged for the internal auditor to complete her audit it time for submission to the external auditor.

26. (22/23) Clerk's report – for information only

There were no further issues for the Clerk to report.

27. (22/23) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 7 July 2022 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Local Government Act 1972

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which is specified against the heading to each item, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

28. (22/23) Land close to Grimsargh Wetlands (para 3)

(Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as Secretary of the Wetlands Trust and left the meeting).

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Wetlands Trust had decided not to proceed with buying the land adjacent to the Wetlands. This was noted by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That, the decision by the Wetlands Trust is noted.