

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 March, 2016
held at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
Reverend Chris Halliwell

129. (15/16) Apologies for Absence/ Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer and Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

130. (15/16) Declarations of Interest

None.

131. (15/16) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

132. (15/16) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Councillor Tom Davies and Reverend Chris Halliwell to the meeting. Councillor Tom Davies informed the Parish Council that he had contacted Preston City Council about a number of lights not working on Old Railway Walk – the Engineer had implied in an email to Councillor Davies that there was a lack of resources available for dealing with the lighting problem, however, Councillor Davies said he would continue to try and get the lights repaired.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson advised that another bin was now missing on the Old Railway Walk and the Clerk agreed to speak to the Lengthsman about this and also the City Council who provided some of the bins about a replacement. With regard to the Parish Council missing bin it was thought that a dual purpose bin would be more appropriate than just a dog bin and the Clerk agreed to look into this and obtain a price.

Councillor Tom Davies also informed the Parish Council that the City Council had agreed in their budget to charge for brown bins. It was noted that those residents who wished to have their brown bins emptied would have to pay the charge in advance for the year and then would have a sticker placed on their bin. The collection wagons would have an up to date list of those bins that needed emptying. Reverend Halliwell asked if there would be some official confirmation and publicity about the brown bin charge. Councillor Tom Davies said it was hoped that this would be communicated shortly.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then reconvened the meeting.

133. (15/16) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Parish Council considered the following Planning Applications:-

- 06/2015/1048 - Fell View Farm Preston Road Grimsargh Preston Variation on Condition no1 "Approved Plans" attached to planning permission 06/2015/0218, comprising of amendment to layout and size of buildings and removal of CCTV (Phase 1).
- 06/2015/1049 - Fell View Farm Preston Road Grimsargh Preston Variation on Condition no1 "Approved Plans" attached to planning permission 06/2015/0288, comprising of amendment to layout and size of buildings and removal of CCTV (Phase 2).
- 06/2016/0162 - 297 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JR. Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling following demolition of existing outrigger.

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2015/1048 and 06/2015/1049, the Clerk reported the Parish Council had considered these at their meeting in January. The applications were for an amendment to the layout and size of the buildings and, after discussion with the Planning Officer the Clerk reported that the size of the solar farm was being reduced.

As agreed at the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the new owners of the solar farm site, Anesco regarding their offer of a one off payment to the Parish Council of £25k. This was based on the size of the solar farm of 2.9MW and as per the original agreement this would mean an annual payment of £2,900 for the next 10 years (£29k in total). After negotiation with Anesco, the Clerk reported that they were now prepared to make a final offer of £27,500 and after discussion with the Chairman this had now been accepted on behalf of the Parish Council. It was felt that this was the best possible outcome bearing in mind that the original agreement with the previous owners had not been signed by TGC Renewables.

With regard to the restoration of the above sites once the solar farm had finished, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that in the earlier applications it was stated that

the land would revert to agricultural land after the solar farm had finished and the Clerk agreed to double check with the Planning Officer that this was still the case.

With regard to the Planning Application for the Wetlands it was reported that United Utilities (UU) had now submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate and they would also be resubmitting their original application to Preston City Council shortly. UU had contacted the Parish Council to see how they should proceed with informing the local residents. It was agreed that UU should contact those directly affected by letter, as they did with the original application, and also inform the local Ward Councillors and MP. The Parish Council would produce a flyer for circulation in the village and would also encourage letters of support through our Facebook Page and Website.

Councillor David Hindle informed the Parish Council that over 500 Curlews had been counted on the Wetlands site and this was a remarkable story as Curlews were currently on the Red List and were one of the most threatened birds. This demonstrated the importance of the Wetlands and why they should be preserved. Councillor David Hindle would contact Longridge News about this and would use his contacts to inform people about this good news story and to emphasise why the Wetlands were an important asset for Grimsargh.

Resolved

- 1) That with regard to Planning Applications 06/2015/1048 and 06/2015/1049 the Parish Council has no comments to make but the Clerk will check with the Planning Officer that the land will revert back to agricultural land once the solar powered farm has finished.
- 2) That with regard to the Deed of Community Benefit and the final offer of £27,500 from Anesco to the Parish Council that this is agreed.
- 3) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2016/0162 the Parish Council has no comments to make on this application.
- 4) With regard to the Wetlands, that United Utilities (UU) is asked to consult those residents who are directly affected by the proposals and had been originally consulted for the previous application. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would produce a flyer for the village about the application and we would also use our Facebook Page and Website to encourage support for the application.

134. (15/16) Review of Financial Risk Assessment

A copy of the Financial Risk Assessment had been circulated to the Parish Council and this needed to be reviewed in line with current financial regulations.

A copy of the Financial Risk Assessment is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That the Financial Risk Assessment as now presented is agreed as being up to date and appropriate for the Parish Council's needs.

135. (15/16) Chain of Office for Grimsargh Parish Council

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had asked this to be put on the Agenda as she had recently attended an event with the Clerk and it was noticed that almost all Parish Councils had Chains of Office that they wore for special occasions. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of providing a Chain of Office for Grimsargh but it was felt that this should not be pursued at present as it would be a "nice to have" item but not particular necessary in this current financial climate.

136. (15/16) Financial Matters and Banking

It was noted that we had an estimated £39,974.32 in the bank as at 1 February 2016. We were still awaiting the March bank statement.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment:-

i) Best Kept Village Entry Fee - £25 (Cheque no 767).

ii) Clerk, Sue Whittam, Salary 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 February 2016 (5 weeks £847 – tax and NI = £662.36 + £23.48 ink, £35.00 (Information Commissioners Office Fee for Data Protection), £35.10 postage total of expenses = £93.58 so total of salary and expenses = £755.94 (Cheque no 768).

iii) Adam Cooper Lengthsman's wages – 48 hours at £13 per hour = £624.00 (Cheque no 769).

2) That Donna Kidd is approved as the Internal Auditor as per last year, at a cost of £60.00.

137. (15/16) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters:-

The Lengthsman was currently looking at replacing the doors on the Parish Council store as agreed in the budget – it was noted that all three doors on the store would be replaced.

An email had been received about dog fouling in the village. It was agreed that a further item would be placed in the June newsletter and that local residents would be advised to report dog fouling to Preston City Council either online using the dedicated form or by telephone.

It was noted that there were ongoing issues with flooding at the Wainhomes site and Councillor Tom Davies and Councillor Neil Cartwright from Preston City Council were also pursuing this with the Enforcement Officer on behalf of the Parish Council.

138. (15/16) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 7 April at 7.00 pm this would be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.