

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 March, 2020 at 7.30 pm,
at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Mark Bell;
Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Ian Liptrot.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
2 members of the public
Geoff Carefoot – Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

126. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

127. (19/20) Declarations of Interest

Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 17 – Grimsargh Wetlands encroachment/issues as the Chairman of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

128. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

129. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She informed the Parish Council that she had not received a police report from the police and as they were not present at the meeting there was no update on recent crime figures. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she would contact PCSO Julie Anyon to see if everything was alright. She also referred to VE day celebrations and said that Grimsargh Club would be putting on an event.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then welcomed two members of the public to the meeting whose properties backed on to Grimsargh Wetlands and had come along to discuss some issues relating to this. One lady explained that she thought the Wetlands was a great facility and she had seen the work progressing behind her house for the last few months. She did have some concerns when she saw a digger working close to her property and that a deep

hollow had been dug and then a path and ramp had been created. Due to the recent heavy rainfall and storms over the past few weeks her garden had become ankle deep in water as the water was filling up the hollowed out area and overrunning into her garden. This was the same issue for her neighbour. The members of the public explained that since moving into the properties around two years ago, this had not happened before and although they recognised that the weather had been extraordinary wet, they felt that the creation of the path and ramp had contributed to the surface water run-off into their properties. One of the ladies had spoken to Councillor David Hindle as Chairman of the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust and he had helped alleviate their concerns regarding the work going on behind their properties. They did feel that they would like to be kept informed about ongoing and proposed works and they would be happy to act as a conduit for other neighbours backing onto the Wetlands.

Geoff Carefoot as a Trustee on Grimsargh Wetlands Trust had come along to the meeting as an observer but he indicated that he was happy to give some background to the Wetlands Trust and discuss the flooding issues. Geoff explained that the site was owned by Grimsargh Parish Council and was leased on a 25 year basis to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust. He explained about the maintenance works on the Wetlands and the volunteers who were helping to carry out this important work. The latest works involved having a compound where a container would be sited, well away from the neighbouring properties to store tools for the maintenance works and act as a shelter for volunteer days. He also explained about the proposed wildflower meadow that the Trust was hoping to be in place soon. With regard to the flooding, Geoff said that a possible solution was to provide an earth bund at the boundary of their properties to prevent any surface water running into their gardens. He was happy to try and find a suitable solution for all of them that would alleviate the flooding.

It was noted that in hindsight there should have been closer communication between the Trust and neighbouring properties and Councillor David Hindle as Chairman of the Wetlands Trust agreed that communication would be improved going forward. The ladies whose properties backed onto the Wetlands were very grateful for this and just wanted to be aware of what was happening and what was planned on the Wetlands. They were also happy to be involved.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked all of them for attending the meeting and having a very open and positive discussion. She recognised that communication was key here and she had every faith that this would be improved going forward. She then asked if anyone else had any issues to raise under public participation.

Councillor Ron Woollam explained that the fence being replaced on the Redrow estate was partially completed but he would speak to Mark Taylor at Preston City Council to find out when this would be completed. He also reported that a boulder had been put in place on Douglas Lane to stop vehicles reversing onto the grass verges. With regard to the drains, Councillor Ron Woollam reported that they had been cleared this week by Lancashire County Council so hopefully this should alleviate the flooding issues near the school.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

130. (19/20) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2020/0156 - 2 Wood Top Avenue, Grimsargh PR2 5TT
Erection of front bay window.

- 06/2020/0178 - 9 Wood Top Avenue, Grimsargh PR2 5TT
Porch to front.

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2020/0156 and 06/2020/0178 the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

The Parish Council had also received notification about a consultation on the draft Stoneygate Regeneration Masterplan. It was noted that the closing date for comments was 23 March 2020. The Parish Council had no comments to make on the Consultation but individual Councillors could respond directly to the Consultation if they so wished.

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

Resolved

- i) That with regard to Planning Applications 06/2020/0156 and 06/2020/0178 the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.
- ii) That with regard to the Consultation on the Stoneygate Regeneration Masterplan, the Parish Council had no comments to make on the Consultation but individual Councillors could respond directly to the Consultation if they so wished.

131. (19/20) Best Kept Village Competition 2020

The Parish Council gave consideration to entering this year's Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £30.00. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to entering this year's competition.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Parish Council to enter this year's Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £30.00.

132. (19/20) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to possible items for the June Parish Council newsletter. It was suggested that the spotlight feature should be on youth. Other items suggested were: -

Field Day
Neighbourhood Planning
Parish Council Grants Scheme
Grimsargh Flower, Produce and Handicraft Show
Best Kept Village
Village Hall – to check with EM first
Grimsargh Wetlands
Heritage Corner – Nellie Carbis
Post Office
New residents.

It was noted that the items for the newsletter would be signed off at the May meeting and printed in time for circulation before Field Day.

133. (19/20) LALC Spring Conference – 25 April 2020

The Parish Council was asked to consider attending the LALC Spring Conference to be held on Saturday 25 April at the Hallmark Leyland Hotel between 9.30 am and 4.45 pm at a cost of £35 per person. There was no one at the meeting able to attend but the Parish Council agreed that if any member of the Parish Council was able to attend, they should contact the Clerk for her to book a place for them on the Conference.

Resolved

That if any member of the Parish Council wishes to attend the LALC Conference on 25 April 2020 they should contact the Clerk for her to book a place on the Conference.

134. (19/20) Broadband at The Hills/Flooding at The Hills

Councillor Mark Bell had asked for these items to be on the Agenda. With regard to Broadband, it was acknowledged that the Broadband speed at The Hills was particularly slow. Councillor Mark Bell had contacted Openreach about providing fibre Broadband for The Hills as there was a Community Fibre Partnership which was funded 50% by Openreach and 50% by the local community. Councillor Mark Bell said that he had received an initial quote from Openreach and this was for £28,000. However, there appeared to be some confusion as this was for individual fibre connections to each property, which was not really required. Councillor Mark Bell was going to contact Openreach again and obtain further information and if necessary, bring this back to the Parish Council.

With regard to flooding at The Hills, Councillor Mark Bell reported that this had been particularly bad over the last few weeks. It was noted that the land was in the ownership of Persimmon Homes and the Clerk agreed to send the contact details for their Customer Care Department to Councillor Mark Bell.

135. (19/20) Young Persons Working Group

Councillor Mark Bell reported that the Young Persons Working Group had met with the personal trainer to see if there was anything he could do to help young people in the village. Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do at the present time but this

could be considered again in the future. The Working Group were going to meet with some young people from the Scouts, Guides and the Church, and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson suggested that the Cricket Club would be a useful contact and to go through their FB page to start a dialogue about involving some of their young people. The Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of the small room at the Village Hall for the first meeting to take place. The Clerk reminded the Working Group that they needed to produce some draft Terms of Reference for the Group which would then need approval from the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to fund the cost of the small room at the Village Hall for a meeting of the Young Persons Working Group involving young people in the village.

136. (19/20) Church Access Path

Councillor Mark Bell had asked for this item to be on the Agenda. Councillor Mark Bell suggested that walking/cycling connectivity could be significantly improved if the small length of fence blocking the original path from the church car park to the school and the newer path constructed by Rotary extending from Old Railway Walk, was removed. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave the background to the second path and the involvement with Rotary but said the fence in question was owned by the Church so it was really their decision whether a gate could be put there instead. Councillor Mark Bell agreed to contact the church for a discussion about this.

136. (19/20) Village Volunteer Register

Councillor Peter Burton had asked for this item to be on the Agenda, as he was aware that some groups were struggling to find volunteers to help with projects and events in the village. In particular he referred to the Grimsargh, Flower Produce and Handicraft Show, and said that maybe some people did not want to be involved all the time but maybe would like to help out on an occasional basis so he was suggesting a central register of volunteers. A couple of concerns were raised regarding data protection and who should hold the information and be responsible for it. It was therefore agreed that an item should be included in the June newsletter asking if anyone wanted to be involved on an occasional basis to help with the Flower, Produce and Handicraft Show.

137. (19/20) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £31,510.18 in the Nat West bank as at 3 February 2020. It was noted that this included the Groundwork UK grant of £3,960 received towards the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

- i) Best Kept Village Competition entry fee £30.00 (Cheque no 1019).
- ii) Sue Whittam 15/03/20 – salary £934.21 + £100.99 postage and stationery = total £1,035.20 (Cheque no 1020).
- iii) HMRC for tax and NI – Q4 £1,205.89 (Cheque no 1021).
- iv) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed at the April meeting.

2) It was noted that the Parish Council had paid the Clerk's NEST pension on 6 January and 5 February (£49.49) direct debits.

138. (19/20) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she would shortly be arranging a meeting with Steve Daley from the Parks Department at Preston City Council and the football teams interested in using the new pitch on the Village Green. However, she also informed the Parish Council that the License/Lease for the pitch had not progressed and our Solicitor was chasing Preston City Council for a response.

The Clerk also reported that she had not ordered the bike racks as yet due to Preston City Council informing her that they may have some spare bike racks for the Village Green.

139. (19/20) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 2 April 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, this would be followed by an ordinary meeting of the Council.

Local Government Act 1972

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following items 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.

140. (19/20) CCTV (Para 2)

The Clerk reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had previously been agreed by the Parish Council and she was now looking at putting this agreement in place. As part of the MOU the Parish Council would pay each host £25 per annum for the CCTV being on their property. The Parish Council agreed to backdate this from when the CCTV was installed.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to put the MOU in place and the hosts of the CCTV camera/system and to pay each host £25 per annum and backdated from when the CCTV was installed.

With the agreement of the Chairman and all present the order of the following two Agenda items was changed.

141. (19/20) Christmas Tree/works (Para 3)

The Clerk explained to the Parish Council the background to the installation of the electricity on the Village Green for the Christmas tree and the reasons for the increase in the total cost. A breakdown of the costs was presented to the Parish Council. Although the Parish Council were unhappy with the cost which had more than doubled, they accepted that the City Council were willing to reduce their labour costs by 50%. The Parish Council felt that they had no choice but to pay the bill for the Christmas tree and associated works which totalled £5,456.58 + £1,091.32 VAT which was a total of £6,547.90. The Parish Council agreed to pay this out of their CIL monies.

Resolved

That approval is given to pay for the Christmas tree and associated works at a cost of £6,547.90 to be paid out of Parish Council CIL monies.

Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item as Chairman of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust and left the meeting.

142. (19/20) Grimsargh Wetlands encroachment/issues (Para 1)

The issues relating to neighbours' properties had been discussed earlier at the meeting and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reiterated that this had been beneficial to both the residents concerned and the Wetlands Trust and that ongoing communication was critical between them all. The Parish Council had every faith in the Wetlands Trust and totally supported the wonderful work they did. After discussion the Parish Council felt that all these issues raised by local residents could be dealt with directly by the Wetlands Trust and that the Parish Council would provide support and advice in the event that issues could not be dealt with by the Trust and that they needed escalating to the Parish Council. This should only be when all avenues of discussion have been exhausted and the problems could not be resolved. However, it was noted that if any issues related to legal matters then the Trust should contact their Solicitor as appropriate.

With regard to the encroachment issues, it was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson would contact the Secretary of the Trust to arrange a visit to the Wetlands to see if the issues of encroachment were still a problem as it was not clear that this was still the case.

The Parish Council also noted that under the Terms of the Lease between the Parish Council and the Wetlands Trust, the Trust needed to erect appropriate signage showing the name, telephone number and the address and/or an email address for contacting the Wetlands Trust. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to remind the Trust that this needed to be put in place as soon as possible as this was important information and would also help people know who to contact at the Trust.

Resolved

- i) That the Clerk contacts the Secretary of the Wetlands Trust regarding the encroachment/issues on the Wetlands and confirms that the Parish Council totally supports the work of the Trust and had every faith that they could deal with any current and future issues directly and, in the event that issues could not be dealt with by the Trust, they could be escalated to the Parish Council. It was agreed that this should only be when all avenues of discussion had been exhausted and the problems could not be resolved, and any legal matters should be referred by the Trust to their Solicitor as appropriate.
- ii) With regard to the encroachment issues, it was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson would contact the Secretary of the Trust to arrange a visit to the Wetlands to see if the issues of encroachment were still a problem as it was not clear that this was still the case.
- iii) The Clerk would also advise the Trust that under the Terms of the Lease between the Parish Council and the Wetlands Trust, that the Trust needed to erect appropriate signage showing the name, telephone number and the address and/or an email address for contacting the Wetlands Trust, and that this should be put in place as soon as possible.