

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held remotely on Thursday 4 March, 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor David Hindle (Chairman); Councillor Mark Bell (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

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

70. (20/21) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle welcomed everyone to this month's remote Parish Council meeting.

71. (20/21) Apologies for Absence

None.

72. (20/21) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 12 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust as Chairman of the Trust.

73. (20/21) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the remote Parish Council Meeting held on 4 February 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the next face to face Council meeting in accordance with LGA 1972 sch. 12 Part VI para 41 (1).

74. (20/21) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Ron Woollam referred to a Planning Application which the Parish Council discussed at their last meeting regarding the land at Preston East between Bluebell Way and Cow Hill. He informed the Parish Council that a local resident had raised concerns about the hub and residents did not wish to see an access through from Whittingham Lane to the proposed employment hub. He was aware of a petition regarding this.

There was nothing further to report under this item, so the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle then reconvened the meeting.

75. (20/21) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2021/0110 - 28 Ribblesdale Drive, Grimsargh
Two storey rear extension and first floor windows to side elevations following demolition of existing rear extension.
- 06/2021/0225 - Elston Grange, Elston Lane, Grimsargh
Reserved matters application (namely appearance, layout and scale) pursuant to outline planning permission 06/2018/0921 for 2no. dwellings.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2021/0110, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2021/0225, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application but did note that the development had been reduced from 3 dwellings to 2 dwellings.

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

Resolved

That, with regard to Planning Applications 06/2021/0110 and 06/2021/0225, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

76. (20/21) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to items for the next Parish Council newsletter to be published in June. The following items were suggested: -

Publicity for Village Hall and other local businesses – we are open after lockdown item.

Best Kept Village.

Focus/spotlight on Cricket Club/Myerscough Football Team.

Heritage item on Grimsargh – the origin of Grimsargh.

Neighbourhood Plan update.

Planning update.

Wetlands Trust item – including information on their new website.

77. (20/21) Preston Road to Wood Top Farm – new public footpath

The Parish Council had received an email and some supporting information from a local resident regarding the possibility of a new public footpath in Grimsargh from Preston Road to Wood Top Farm. The Parish Council agreed that although it would make sense to extend the current public footpath, the land was actually privately owned. It was suggested that the Clerk asks the resident to contact the landowner to see if they would support the new public footpath and if so, this would need to be

pursued through Lancashire County Council's Public Rights of Way Team. The Parish Council also wanted to be kept informed of any progress on this matter.

Resolved

That the Clerk responds to the resident regarding the possibility of a new public footpath in line with the above.

78. (20/21) Footpaths

Councillor Peter Burton referred to the footpath between The Hills and the railway line and asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to improve the path as drainage was a particular problem. However, it was noted that this land was still owned by Persimmon and that it was difficult for the Parish Council to get involved with any private land in the village. It was suggested that the residents of The Hills may wish to form a resident's group and then they could contact Persimmon and work with them to improve both the path and the land close to The Hills. The Parish Council were aware that a number of residents had raised issues about The Hills and that they may wish to get involved with a resident's group.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle gave feedback on the issue raised at the last meeting regarding the fence which had been erected close to the school under the bridge and prevented anyone from cutting through. The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle explained that he had contacted the Parochial Church Council and they had confirmed that the land was owned by the Church so again this was a private land issue and there was nothing that the Parish Council could do.

79. (20/21) Grimsargh Village Green - update

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had asked for this item to be on the Agenda and the Clerk gave an update on issues affecting the Village Green. The Clerk reported that with regard to the damaged iron entrance/barrier, Preston City Council had been out to inspect this to ensure it was not a danger and they had confirmed that a new barrier would need to be ordered and this was being arranged. With regard to the outflow on the football pitch, Preston City Council had confirmed that the contractor would make improvements to the new headwalls and gratings and this work would be carried out shortly.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell informed the Parish Council that there had been some damage to the mosaic on the Village Green and that the school had contacted the original artist to see how this could be repaired.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

80. (20/21) Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland

The Clerk reported that some works were needed to be carried out on the footpaths at the woodland and there were a couple of options. The first one was to just patch

up the paths where the stones had been washed away due to the weather, or alternatively the whole path would need to be removed and then reinstated. The first option would cost around £200, the second option around £500. It was noted that there was money available in the budget for either option. The main issues were around the practicality of getting stone delivered to the woodland and carrying out the work which would be done by the Parish Lengthsman and his assistant. The Parish Council agreed to patch up the footpaths at this present time. They also agreed that a sign was needed for the woodland to warn people about the uneven surfaces. The Clerk also reported that she would ask the Lengthsman to rake out the pond and that this would be included on the list of jobs to be done each year. There was also some work needed to the bridge and the Lengthsman would also undertake to replace the rotten wood on the bridge.

Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also informed the Parish Council that the information sign in the woodland also needed replacing.

Resolved

That, approval is given for the patching up of the footpaths on the Nellie Carbis Millennium garden at an estimated cost of £200 and that the Clerk is authorised to purchase a sign for the woodland warning of uneven surfaces.

81. (20/21) Grimsargh Wetlands – request for funding

(The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting for the discussion and resolution). Councillor Mark Bell as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council chaired this item.

The Clerk reported that the Wetlands Trust had requested £15,000 of funding from the Parish Council for interim payments to contractors for the Phase 4 works on the Fen. As previously agreed by the Parish Council, all payments to the Wetlands Trust would be funded by CiL monies unless there was a valid legal reason not to do this, therefore the Parish Council unanimously agreed to give £15,000 to the Wetlands Trust from their CiL monies.

The Clerk also reported that the Wetlands Trust wished to install an additional “Welcome to Grimsargh Wetlands” sign at the entrance near to Boundary Cottage and also to replace signs that had fallen into disrepair by the stile. In addition to this the Trust was also looking to put up some dog fouling signs. It was noted that these would be funded by the Wetlands Trust and the approval of the replacement and additional signage was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Wetlands Trust had asked if they could install a trail camera to deter dog fouling. There was some concern expressed about this due to data protection and recording images. Councillor Terry Cryer explained that there were very strict guidelines regarding CCTV/trail cameras and these activities needed to be registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). There would also need to be measures in place regarding who would be accessing and viewing the images. Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed

that due to data protection regulations it would be best to avoid installing a trail camera on the Wetlands.

The Wetlands Trust had also asked the Parish Council about the possibility of installing bee hives on the Wetlands. The Parish Council had no issues with this but advised that it was important to consult the residents whose properties backed onto the Wetlands. The Parish Council also felt that the Wetlands Trust may need some expert advice from a bee keeper as they would be able to advise on the positioning of the hives.

The Parish Council noted that the Wetlands Trust would be installing four tern rafts on the Mere and also that one of the Trustees was now operating a click and collect service for the bookstall due to current covid lockdown restrictions.

The Parish Council also noted that the Wetlands Trust had objected to the Planning Application relating to the increased density of housing at Boundary Cottage. The Parish Council further noted that the Wetlands Trust had advised a local resident that they were unable to install gates in their fences.

Resolved

i) That, approval is given to the funding of £15,000 to the Wetlands Trust from Parish Council CiL monies.

ii) That, approval is given to the Wetlands Trust to purchase new and additional signage for the Wetlands.

iii) That, with regard to the trail camera, due to data protection regulations the Wetlands Trust are advised to avoid installing a trail camera on the Wetlands.

iv) That, with regard to installing bee hives on the Wetlands, the Parish Council have no issues with this but agreed that it was important to consult the residents whose properties back onto the Wetlands. In addition to this the Parish Council felt that the Wetlands Trust should see some expert advice from a bee keeper regarding the positioning of the hives.

v) That, the report and update from the Wetlands Trust is received and noted.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle returned to the meeting.

82. (20/21) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £127,321.67 in the Nat West bank as at 5 February 2021.

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

Adam Cooper, Contractor January 2021, 35 hours at £14.25 per hour + £15.00 for trailer to remove crib = total £513.75. (Cheque 1062)

GVCA for Village Hall Roof £66,700 – CiL monies. (Cheque 1063)
Sue Whittam, Clerk 15 February 2021 – £950.88 (Cheque no 1064).
Preston City Council Parish Council Newsletter £440.30 (Cheque no 1065).
Nest Pension – Clerk £48.88 – direct debit 11 January 2021.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam, Clerk 15 March 2021 - £950.88.

ii) Adam Cooper, Contractor February 2021, 31 hours @ £14.25 per hour = £441.75
+ timber repairs for pond £134 total £575.75.

iii) HMRC Q4 Tax and NI - £1,470.23.

iv) Awaiting invoice from Preston City Council for Christmas Tree.

v) Farley's Solicitors for Grimsargh Green Football Pitch Licence - £600.00.

vi) JRB Enterprise for dog bin bags – it was noted JRB did not receive and cash the cheque for the previous invoice November 2021 – so there are two outstanding invoices of £119.46 = total £238.92.

83. (20/21) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she had forwarded the outstanding balance of £66,700 to the Village Hall Committee for the Village Hall roof as previously agreed.

The Clerk also reported that the Football Pitch Licence for the Village Green pitch was now complete.

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

84. (20/21) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Thursday 1 April 2021 at 7.30 pm and this would be followed by an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council. Both of these would be remote meetings.