

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 November, 2011 at Grimsargh Village Hall, at 7.30 pm

Present:- Councillors Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Ron Woollam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors P Burton; Mrs J Chessell; Mrs L Cryer; A R Ellis; D Hindle and D Nicholson.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
PCSO David Reid
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council

81. (11/12) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in item 11 – Grant request for over 60's group as she was involved in the grant application.

82. (11/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynn McCann and Preston City Councillor Neil Cartwright.

83. (11/12) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 October, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84. (11/12) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PCSO David Reid to the meeting. PCSO Reid gave an update on police activities in the area and reported that there had been four recent crimes including one domestic incident, one criminal damage and one theft of a milk churn.

PCSO Reid asked for people to be vigilant and jot down any registration of flat back lorries that looked suspicious and pass them on to him so he could check them out. There had been a lot of metal theft in the rural parishes and these usually involved a flat back lorry.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray mentioned the recent problem with a group of 13 year olds knocking on the village hall windows and being silly. These youths had cleaned the car park to make amends for their silly behaviour. However, Councillor Mrs Murray said that a further group of older children had been hanging around the village hall shouting abuse and PCSO Reid said he would look into this.

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer asked about cars parking on pavements and explained that she had struggled to get past some cars on Preston Road with her mobility

scooter as they had been parked on the pavement. PCSO Reid explained that the general rule was if a pram could get past this was acceptable but the police could issue a ticket for obstruction and they would keep an eye on this as well.

Councillor David Hindle informed the Parish Council that he had received a letter from Ben Wallace MP saying he was happy to assist the Parish Council in relation to discussions with United Utilities on Grimsargh Reservoirs. Councillor David Hindle was also pleased with the recent information from Alf Clempson about the status of Biological Heritage Sites.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Reid for attending the meeting then convened the meeting.

85. (11/12) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no current planning applications for consideration at the meeting, however it was noted that the latest applications would now appear on the Parish Council website.

It was further noted that Preston City Council had approved the following Planning Applications:-

06/2011/0720 - Salisbury House Farm, Elston Lane Grimsargh.
Installation of solar panels on south facing roof slope of an existing agricultural building.

86. (11/12) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. Councillor Mrs Chessell explained the consultation procedure with regard to the new play area on the village green. This had been carried out with the local playgroup, schools, cubs and brownies and the citizen zone bus had been provided by Preston City Council to help with the consultation. Councillor Mrs Chessell explained that FoGG were still concerned about part of the play area in particular the roundabout and grassed area. Also Preston City Council were trying to put the trim trail into a separate area. However, overall FoGG was happy that the play equipment was being installed at long last.

Councillor Mrs Chessell reported that the hedge laying had been very successful with a good group of volunteers helping out. There was still a small area of hedge to finish but the village green now looked fantastic.

With regard to the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field, Councillor Mrs Chessell explained that the village green could be both village green status and QEII status. Although voting had started on the QEII status, Preston City Council was still putting forward four sites from Preston including Grimsargh Village Green as their nominations to the QEII fields in trust, as nominations could still be put forward by local authorities.

Councillor Mrs Chessell explained that FoGG was disappointed that they did not receive any lottery money towards the mosaic but they were still hopeful that they could go ahead with the project.

Councillor Andy Ellis congratulated Councillor Mrs Chessell on all her hard work and all agreed.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

87. (11/12) Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group

A report was presented from the Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group held on 26 October, 2011.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

88. (11/12) Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Andy Ellis as Co-ordinator of the Community Engagement Working Group gave an update on the meeting held on 18 October, 2011. He explained that the Group had made the following recommendations:-

- a) Noticeboards need to be updated with revised Grimsargh Parish Council (GPC) contact details.
- b) New Parish Plan is created in summer 2012.
- c) Data for new Parish Plan is obtained in whole or by part via door to door surveys in summer 2012 possibly at same time as summer newsletter distribution.
- d) GPC ensure that sufficient funds for new Parish Plan be allocated from the 2012/13 Parish Council Budget.
- e) Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray to be authorised to identify possible funding sources for the new Parish Plan.
- f) GPC councillor details on website be enhanced by inclusion of photo
- g) GPC Councillors be set up on Facebook with Alias accounts linked to GPC email addresses and account associated to GPC Facebook page. GPC members which use Facebook encouraged to click the "Like" key on Facebook when next visiting service as this will increase ranking of the GPC page in search facility
- h) GPC members requested to confirm acceptance of newsletter article nominations.
- i) Ask GPC members to nominate any local group websites for links off GPC website
- j) Check if GPC minutes are sent to LCC Parish Champion and/or Preston City Council. If not distributed, GPC to be requested to authorise distribution.
- k) Recommend GPC authorise press release over villages success in Britain in Bloom

With regard to the circulation of Parish Council Minutes, the Clerk confirmed that they are sent to Preston City Councillors – Councillor Neil Cartwright and Councillor

Tom Davies who regularly attend. It was agreed that the Minutes should also be sent to County Councillor George Wilkins.

With regard to the Parish Plan the Chairman confirmed that the reference to visiting people “door to door” was only to collect the questionnaires and not to interview them.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked Councillor Ellis for setting up the facebook page for the Parish Council and already there had been a 20% increase in hits on the main website page.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted, and that the recommendations put forward by the Community Engagement Working Group as outlined in the report above are agreed.

89. (11/12) Conservation Area Working Group

Councillor Ron Woollam gave a brief update on the recent Conservation Area Working Group and explained that the meeting was held to bring Councillor David Nicholson up to date as he had kindly agreed to join the Group. Councillor Woollam explained that the Group would produce a map and have the reasons for why a particular area/house had been chosen. A newsletter item would be prepared giving more details.

Councillor Ron Woollam confirmed that notes from each meeting would be produced for the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that Nigel Roberts from Preston City Council had agreed to come to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the pros and cons of a conservation area. It was felt that this would make things clearer and help the Parish Council understand what Conservation status would involve.

Councillor Mrs Chessell said it was important to include this issue in the questionnaire that would be produced for the new Parish Plan.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted and that Councillor David Nicholson is confirmed as a new member of the Conservation Area Working Group.

90. (11/12) Update on Residents Association

Councillor David Nicholson gave an update on the Redrow Residents Association and confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 17 November. Councillor David Nicholson agreed to send an electronic version of the previous notes to the Chairman for the website. It was noted that the Redrow Residents Association was totally independent from the Parish Council and Councillor David Nicholson agreed to ask the Residents Association to remove the Parish Council logo from their notes.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

91. (11/12) Grant request for the Over 60's Group

(Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and resolution).

Councillor Ron Woollam took the Chair for discussion on this item. It was noted that a letter had been received from the Over 60's Group asking for a contribution to their over 60's party which was a community event held at the village hall. The Parish Council had previously awarded a grant to this event in the past and as it involved residents of Grimsargh and was being held in Grimsargh it was felt that this was a worthy cause.

Resolved

That a grant of £150 is given to the Over 60's Group for their annual event and that the Parish Council would like to hear feedback on the success and attendance at the event.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray returned to the meeting.

92. (11/12) Parish Council Newsletter

It was noted that a suggested list of items for the newsletter had been put forward by the Community Engagement Working Group. These items as listed below were agreed by the Parish Council. It was further agreed that the newsletter items should be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible, so they could be signed off at the December meeting and the newsletter printed for distribution in January.

Councillor Surgeries (Councillor Mrs Murray)
Changes at Reservoirs (Councillor David Hindle)
Planning Update (Councillor Mrs Murray)
Broadband (Councillor Andy Ellis)
Conservation Area – member of Conservation Area Group
Internet Drop-in Sessions (Councillor Mrs Murray)
FOGG - include playground (Councillor Mrs Chessell)
2011/12 GPC Grant Donations (Sue Whittam)
Article – Gymnastics Club (Councillor Mrs Chessell)
GPC Facebook Page (Councillor Andy Ellis)
Guild 2012 Activities (Councillor Mrs Murray)
Xmas Tree & Thanks (Councillor Ron Woollam)
Britain in Bloom 2011 (Councillor Mrs Chessell)
Suggestion Box (Sue Whittam)
Grimsargh Dog Walk (Councillor Peter Burton)
Personal write-up and picture of each Councillor for both newsletter and website (All)

An additional item on possible increases in Council tax was also agreed and this item would be drafted by Councillor Peter Burton.

Resolved

That the suggested items as listed above are approved for inclusion in the January 2012 newsletter and that these items are forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible and will be signed off at the December meeting.

93. (11/12) Finance Working Group

The Clerk had suggested setting up a Finance Working Group to enable some time to be spent on financial issues affecting the Parish Council. It was noted that the current Financial Rules and Regulations needed updating, the Fidelity Guarantee needed to be looked at and there were other general financial issues including budget provision that would benefit from a Working Group examining these in detail. It was therefore agreed to set up a Finance Working Group and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor Peter Burton, Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann (by e mail) and the Clerk all put their names forward for membership of the group.

Resolved

That a Finance Working Group is set up consisting of Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor Peter Burton, Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and the Clerk. The Terms of Reference of the Group to be established at their first meeting.

94. (11/12) Consideration of Budget 2012/2013

The Chairman had drafted out budget figures for 2012/2013 and these were discussed. General principles were agreed including grants to be a defined budget of £2,000, the Clerk should be given a pay rise in line with NALC/SLCC guidelines and that the Clerk should ask the Lengthsman if he could foresee any major expenditure on the Parish Council's assets over the next 12-18 months, so this could be budgeted for.

It was agreed that the Finance Working Group should examine the draft budget in detail and report back to the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the Finance Working Group should examine the draft budget in detail and report back to the Parish Council.

95. (11/12) Preston Area Committee

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Andy Ellis gave a brief update on the recent Preston Area Committee meeting. It was noted that Councillor Mrs Murray had been elected as the Three Tier Forum representative for Preston at the moment and it was likely that the first Three Tier Forum meeting would be held shortly. Councillor Andy Ellis raised his concerns that the Preston Area Committee appeared

to talk a lot but with limited outcomes. It was hoped that this would improve as the Committee became more established.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

96. (11/12) Christmas Trees

There was general discussion about the Christmas tree for the village. It was felt that one tree would be appropriate and if possible this should be outside Browns Garage. Councillor Ron Woollam agreed to speak to Mr Coar who had so kindly donated a tree last year to see if he would be willing to do so again. Councillor Ron Woollam explained that Browns had provided the lights for the tree last year so it was likely that the Parish Council would not need to provide any new lights for the tree.

97. (11/12) New Councillors Course – Training Feedback

It was noted that Councillors David Hindle, Lynda Cryer, Peter Burton, David Nicholson, Andy Ellis and Lynn McCann had recently attended the new Councillors course on 22 October at the Village Hall. They were asked for their feedback on the course. Councillor David Hindle said it was an excellent course, and that he had found interesting as well as learning a lot of new information about the role of a Councillor. All agreed that the course had been beneficial and would help in developing their skills.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

98. (11/12) Financial Matters and Banking

It was noted that we currently had estimated £11,332.33 in the bank as at 3 November 2011.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Adam Cooper 35 hours at £11.50 - £402.50 + VAT @20% - £80.50 – total £483.00
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 3 October, 10 October, 17 October, 24 October and 31 October = 5 weeks – total £400
- Grimsargh Village Community Association – village hall hire – 6 Parish Council meetings April-Oct 2011, 2 Redrow Residents Meetings – total £120.00

- Peter Croft for replacement crib - £265.50 (incl VAT £44.25); replacement glass - £55.00 (incl VAT £9.17) and timber - £17.74 (incl VAT £2.96) total to Peter Croft - £338.24

99. (11/12) Preston Strategic Partnership Conference – 26 January 2012

The Clerk reported that an invitation had been received from Preston City Council to attend the Strategic Partnership Conference on 26 January 2012. Councillor Ron Woollam agreed to attend this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That Councillor Ron Woollam attend the Strategic Partnership Conference on 26 January, 2012 on behalf of the Parish Council

100. (11/12) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

Boundary sign

Lancashire County Council has agreed to pay for the new boundary sign and had forwarded some suggested signs to the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to go for sign "F" – Welcome to Grimsargh Village, Please Drive Carefully including the speed camera sign.

Oban Court – sign

Preston City Council have agreed to put the cul-de-sac red T sign on Oban Court so people realize that the road is a dead end. It is on the list to be done but can take a number of weeks.

Lease of Life Award

It was noted that the Clerk had now submitted a grant application to LCC to help with e mail lessons for the elderly.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 1 December, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.