

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6
October, 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; A R Ellis; D Hindle.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
2 members of the public

65. (11/12) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

66. (11/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynda Cryer, Councillor David Nicholson, Councillor Lynn McCann and Preston City Councillors Neil Cartwright and Tom Davies.

67. (11/12) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 September, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

68. (11/12) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed two members of the public, Mr Sajeel Abrar and his colleague Diane Corcoran to the meeting. Mr Abrar had come along to discuss with the Parish Council his proposals to provide a pharmacy in the village.

Mr Abrar gave his background history. He explained that he was local to the area – he lived in Ribbleson and had studied at Sunderland University. He had worked at both Chorley and Preston Hospitals and he was now looking to set up a pharmacy in Grimsargh.

Diane Corcoran also gave a brief history of her career. She had worked in pharmacy for over 34 years and had seen many changes with more medicines being available over the counter now. She was also experienced as an alternative therapist. They wanted to provide a traditional but modern local community pharmacy.

Mr Abrar explained to the Parish Council that they wanted to provide the local personal touch. A pharmacist was a safety net between the Doctors and Patients and it would be good for the village if this facility was on the doorstep. Mr Abrar said that he wanted to provide free blood pressure tests, flu jabs and free diabetes checks. He also wanted to go into the local schools to give health talks and his aim

was to prevent as well as cure. It was likely that electronic prescriptions would be coming into force soon and his pharmacy aimed to provide an efficient cost effective service.

Councillor Mrs Chessell asked if they would be delivering medicines and Mr Abrar confirmed that he would be doing this but that he also wanted to encourage face to face contact.

Councillor Peter Burton asked where the pharmacy would be situated. Mr Abrar confirmed that they were looking to use an existing premises in the village and that parking should not be an issue as there was some parking available nearby. In addition as the premises was in the village it was likely that local people would just walk to the pharmacy.

Mr Abrar explained that they intended to be open from 8.30am until 6.30pm.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked both Mr Abrar and Diane Corcoran for attending the meeting and sharing their plans for a pharmacy in the village.

Councillor Ron Woollam thought the provision of a pharmacy was an excellent idea. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell felt it was important that they were situated in the right premises in the village and all agreed that the use of an existing premises was the way forward.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray also confirmed that the Parish Council had received a letter of support for the pharmacy from Lee Barker who was a local Physiotherapist.

The Clerk reported that Ben Wallace MP was interested in the Parish Council's opinion on the provision of a pharmacy in the village.

All agreed to support the provision of a pharmacy in the village in lines with the above but concern was raised about the use of a large flashing green cross to advertise other pharmacies outside the village. It was felt that this would not be in keeping with the village.

Resolved

That a letter is sent to Mr Abrar supporting the pharmacy and explaining that the Parish Council is especially pleased that Mr Abrar intends to use existing premises in the village. However, the Parish Council would not wish to see the use of an illuminated green cross to advertise the pharmacy as this would not be in keeping with the village.

The Chairman then welcomed PC Banks to the meeting to give an update to the Parish Council on police activities in the area.

PC Banks informed the Parish Council that the Chief Superintendent had indicated that if Broughton Police Station closed then he was almost sure that something else

would be in its place. It was recognised there needed to be a police presence in the rural areas and they had to be community based.

It was noted that the next PACT meeting would be held on 20 October at Grimsargh Club. With regard to Farm Watch, PC Banks explained that approximately 155 farms had signed up and this was mainly due to the hard work by the PCSO's encouraging farmers to take part in the initiative.

With regard to crime in the area, PC Banks asked for people to be vigilant as there had been a robbery in Goosnargh during the day which was very unusual. It was noted that six crimes had happened in the Parish since the last meeting. These included a car being scratched with a key on Preston Road on 1 October and an incident of dangerous driving on 21 September. There had also been an incident of a bounced cheque from a local car sale. It was further noted that the Parish Council's planters had been overturned and there had been damage to the cricket pitch.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray informed PC Banks that Councillor David Nicholson had mentioned that parking was still an issue on the Redrow estate. It was suggested that the police should be invited to future meetings of the newly formed Residents Association.

The Chairman thanked PC Banks for attending the meeting then convened the meeting.

69. (11/12) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The following planning applications were presented:-

- 06/2011/0779 - 29 Salisbury Avenue, Grimsargh, PR2 5LF. Erection of single storey extensions to front and side of dwelling.
- 06/2011/0786 - Silver Birches Whittingham Lane Grimsargh PR2 5LH. Change to house types (plots 2 to 6) as previously approved under outline approval 06/2009/0088.
- 06/2011/0720 - Salisbury House Farm, Elston Lane Grimsargh. Installation of solar panels on south facing roof slope of an existing agricultural building.

Resolved

- 1) That no observations be offered in respect of planning applications 06/2011/0786 and 06/2011/0720.
- 2) With regard to planning application 06/2011/0779, the Parish Council is concerned about parking issues in front of the house. There are already parking issues on this estate and the extension to the front and side of this property will dramatically decrease parking. Also the side garage extension is not in keeping with the area, and it also appeared from the

plans that the side extension will have an impact on the neighbour's ability to see when moving vehicles of their driveway, as the proposed extension goes to the curtilage of the property.

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

- 06/2011/0661 - 311 Preston Road, Grimsargh. Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling (following demolition of existing attached garage and car port).
- 06/2011/0636 - Heathfield, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh. Erection of two and single storey extensions to rear including part demolition of existing rear extension and other external alterations.

It was noted that the Parish Council had objected to the proposed development of 61 dwellings at land adjacent to Grimbledeston Farm, Preston Road, Longridge for traffic reasons. It was further noted that this development was outside the Parish Boundary and as such we were not a statutory consultee.

There was general discussion about the Sites for Preston and the new sites that had come out of the original consultation. These were NP099 – Land at Three Mile Cross Farm, Preston Road; NP100 – Land adjoining Longridge Road and Three Mile Cross Farm; NP102 – Wood Top Farm; NP112 – Land North of Preston Road and NP114 – Land North of Langden Fold/East of Yew Tree Avenue. It was noted that the consultation on the “Preferred Options” had been delayed and was likely to start in early 2012. The Parish Council felt that they would have to give careful consideration to what was proposed in Grimsargh.

70. (11/12) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. It was noted that a grant of £3,500 had been paid by the Harris Trust for the trim trail on the play area. Further grants had also been received towards the hedge laying and mosaic projects. It was further noted that volunteers were needed for the hedge laying workshops due to start week beginning 31 October 2011.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked Councillor Mrs Chessell for her report and continued hard work.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

71. (11/12) Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a quick update on the work of the Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group. She felt it was disappointing that no Parish Councillors had attended the last meeting on 28 September. However Councillor Mrs Chessell

felt that future meetings should be held at the village hall as parking was sometimes an issue near to Pat's house. It was felt that perhaps the meetings could be held less frequently whilst people concentrated on arranging their events for the Guild.

After discussion Councillor Peter Burton and Councillor Ron Woollam agreed to be the Parish Council representatives on the Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group and if they could not attend the meetings then they should try to arrange for another Parish Councillor to attend in their place.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

72. (11/12) Community Engagement Working Group

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray informed the Parish Council that the first meeting of the re-established Community Engagement Working Group had been held on 12 September 2011. A copy of the notes had been circulated to the Parish Council.

The Terms of Reference of the Community Engagement Working Group had been revised and they were agreed as follows:-

- a) To explore and recommend new/improved methods of communicating with the community. The aim being to improve awareness throughout the Village of the activities of the Parish Council and increase the amount of feedback and incoming information from residents.
- b) To explore and recommend new/improved methods of involving residents in activities to improve our community environment.
- c) The Group will appoint a Chairman or co-ordinator who will write up notes from the meetings, suitable for communication to the rest of the Parish Council and also for publication on the website.

The Chairman explained that the Group had made some recommendations and these were discussed. In particular it was suggested that the Parish Council hold surgeries each month before the Parish Council meetings for around an hour. It was felt that maybe one hour was too long and it was agreed to trial the surgeries starting in February 2012 then every other month for half an hour before the Parish Council scheduled meeting. Guidelines for this would be drawn up by the Clerk.

It was agreed that one of the Parish Councillors should be responsible for liaising with the local press with the aim of getting information about the Parish Council meetings into the local newspapers. After discussion, Councillor David Hindle agreed to take on this role.

It was agreed that copies of the booklet "All about Parish and Town Councils" should be placed in the Village Hall and Post Office. It was further agreed to pilot an internet "drop in" session to help in particular the elderly and others to gain basic

internet skills. It was noted that the next edition of the Newsletter would be in January 2012 therefore the content would need to be agreed at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should print a "postcard" for people to put on comments for how they would like to see their area improved. It was agreed that the Post Office would seem a suitable place to put the suggestion box for the postcards and the Chairman agreed to talk to the Post Office about this.

Resolved

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

73. (11/12) Conservation Area Working Group

Councillor Ron Woollam gave a brief update on the work done so far by the Conservation Area Working Group. It was noted that the Group still had a vacancy and it was agreed that the Clerk should ask Councillor Mrs Cryer and Councillor David Nicholson to see if one of them wished to take on this role.

There was some confusion about the advantages and disadvantages of Conservation status and it was further agreed that the Clerk should contact Nigel Roberts at Preston City Council who was an expert in Conservation Areas, to see if he could attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to explain about Conservation status to see what is involved.

It was also felt that a boundary map would be useful outlining the possible conservation areas.

With regard to the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field Challenge it was agreed that this should be on the November Agenda to discuss if Preston City Council should be asked to put the village green forward for this status.

Resolved

1) That the work undertaken so far by the Conservation Area Working Group is noted and that the Clerk contact Councillor Mrs Cryer and Councillor David Nicholson to see if one of them wishes to be involved with the Group.

2) That the Clerk contact Nigel Roberts at Preston City Council to see if he can attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss Conservation Areas.

74. (11/12) Update on Residents Association

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a brief overview of the Redrow Residents Association meeting that had been held on 14 September 2011. The notes had been circulated to the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

75. (11/12) Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland

The Parish Council had been given a donation of £250 from the Parish Champion, Councillor Mike Otter towards the purchase of a bench in memory of Sam Sellers. It was agreed that the bench should be purchased in Spring and that the Parish Council would pay the additional costs of purchasing the bench and supplying a small plaque. The bench would be placed in the woodland and Adam Cooper, the Parish Lengthsman would be asked to prepare and install the bench.

Resolved

That the Parish Council pay the additional costs for the purchase of a bench and plaque in memory of Sam Sellers to be put in the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland.

76. (11/12) Boundary Commission Review 2013

It was noted that initial proposals for changes to the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries had been published and that people could comment on the proposals through the Boundary Commission website. The draft proposals placed Grimsargh in the Lancaster Constituency together with Alston and Hothersall (including Longridge), Chipping, Derby and Thornley, Dilworth and Ribchester.

There was general discussion about the draft proposals and the Parish Council felt that it was good to be grouped with rural areas rather than urban Preston. There was no objection to the proposals.

77. (11/12) Preston Area Committee

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a brief update on the last Preston Area Committee and confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 19 October. She asked if any Parish Councillor had any issues that needed to be raised at the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell referred to the latest draft proposals from Preston City Council to keep dogs on leads in parks. However, there was no mention of rural areas and Councillor Mrs Chessell asked if the Chairman could perhaps raise this at Preston Area Committee for discussion.

78. (11/12) Parish Council Code of Conduct 2007

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had already adopted the model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007. However, in order to give Parish Councillors the same rights as members of the public ie speak on a matter and then leave before the main discussion and vote then Paragraph 12(2) of the model Code

of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007 needed to be adopted. As Paragraph 12(2) was not mandatory then each Parish Council had to specifically adopt this paragraph if they wanted Parish Councillors to have the opportunity to speak on a prejudicial matter.

Resolved

That Paragraph 12 (2) of the model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007 is adopted by Grimsargh Parish Council.

79. (11/12) Financial Matters and Banking

It was noted that we currently had around £11,957 in the bank as we were still awaiting October's statement.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Adam Cooper 37 hours at £11.50 - £690.00 + VAT @20% - £85.10 – total £510.60.
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 29 August, 5 September, 12 September, 19 September, 26 September – 5 weeks – total £400
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – postage and printing £33.14
- Approval for purchase of Clayden Book for Clerk's course – approximately £25 – we will be invoiced for this. Farington PC is paying for the other book at a cost of £80. These were essential books for the Clerk's course.
- BDO LLP Annual Audit Fee - £192

2) That the following matters raised by BDO LLP during the annual audit 31 March 2011 are noted.

- Fidelity Guarantee – the auditor raised concern that the amount of fidelity guarantee cover is insufficient in light of the bank balances held at 31 March 2011.
- Restatement of Fixed Assets – the auditor asked for the return to be amended as the fixed assets did not match the Annual return for 31 March 2010. There is no further action needed on this.
- Expenditure powers S137 incorrectly used – grant payments to social, sports or youth clubs should be given under S19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and to the village hall under S133 of the Local Government Act 1972 instead of S137. This is just to note and no further action is needed on this.

It was suggested that a Finance Committee should be established to look at the Parish Council's Financial Standing Orders and other issues including the Fidelity Guarantee. This will be discussed at the November meeting.

80. (11/12) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

It was noted that we came 3rd this year in the competition and that the Clerk had asked for the Judges report so we can see where we need to improve for next year.

Paul Dunne – Public Realm Manager

It was noted that the Clerk had met with Paul Dunne and Mark Wardale (Locality Manager) on 13 September and raised a number of issues. The boundary sign should be an easy one to solve – but I have chased them again asking for progress. Also the same with the overhanging tree near to the 30MPH sign.

The cul-de-sac sign for Oban Court is a matter for Preston City Council so I have referred our request to them and I am waiting for a response.

Ben Wallace MP

The Clerk had met with Ben Wallace and he was very supportive and interested in the issues concerning Grimsargh. He was keeping a close eye on the progress with Grimsargh Reservoirs and Alf Clempson his researcher is looking into the status of Biological Heritage Sites and what this means, on our behalf.

Ben confirmed that he had objected to a number of developments in the area but he was always keen to make sure that he took into account the views of the Parish Council and local residents. He will attend a Parish Council meeting as soon as he has some free time but in the meantime I am sending Alf a copy of our Agenda and Minutes each month.

Register of Interests Forms

Some Parish Councillors will have been chased for their forms. I have spoken to Member Services at Preston City Council and I have now sent them the copies of the forms. The only outstanding forms are from the new Councillors – Lynda Cryer and David Nicholson.

Lease of Life Award

I will submit this grant application shortly to LCC to help with e mail lessons for the elderly.

It was noted that Councillor Ron Woollam would look into the provision of a Christmas tree for the village. Councillor Peter Burton confirmed that the cost of a 6 metre flag pole and flags would cost in the region of £380.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3 November, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.