

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 September, 2014 at 7.30 pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor Keith Middlebrough; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
PC Chris Banks

44. (14/15) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council.

45. (14/15) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

46. (14/15) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 July, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. (14/15) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks to the meeting. PC Banks gave an update to the Parish Council on recent police activities in the area. In particular he referred to complaints about people parking their cars on the green and being a nuisance. These were basically young people just meeting on the green and the police were keeping an eye on them and encouraging them to move on. PC Banks also confirmed that there had been a couple of burglaries in the village including one on Douglas Lane where a back door had been left insecure and some electrical equipment had been stolen. There had also been an attempted motorbike theft on Billington Close but the bike was secure and the burglar had been unsuccessful. PC Banks referred to the e mail that PCSO David Reid had sent out regarding the police contacting insurance companies to inform them if properties had been left insecure. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that this was illegal to do this and PC Banks confirmed that this had not happened but this could happen if the police suspected a fraudulent claim was being made. PC Banks referred to two further incidents including some car number plates stolen from The Hills and also a “prank” with a fire extinguisher that had gone wrong and had resulted in an assault.

With regard to previous issues raised with the police including quad bikes using Old Railway Walk, PC Banks confirmed that they were keeping an eye on this. With reference to the parking issues on Yew Tree Avenue this was not a police matter but PC Banks was aware of the issue and would speak to the local businesses that used Yew Tree Avenue to park their vehicles while working. Councillor Dan Dewhurst asked if there had been any further information from the Police Commissioner with regard to grant support to the proposed CCTV for the village. PC Banks was not aware of any response with regard to this as it was PCSO Reid who was dealing with the CCTV. PC Banks reminded the Parish Council that the next PACT meeting would be held on Wednesday 17 September at Grimsargh Club.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann thanked PC Banks for attending the meeting and then reconvened the meeting.

48. (14/15) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2014/0656 - 68 Douglas Lane, Grimsargh. Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling following demolition of existing conservatory.

The Parish Council also gave consideration to the draft layout received from Wainhomes in relation to the proposed development on land off Ribblesdale Drive. Wainhomes were consulting the Parish Council in advance of their Reserved Matters application to Preston City Council. Members of the Parish Council raised their concerns about the affordable housing element of the proposed development as this had now changed from the original draft layout where the affordable properties were mixed throughout the development to them being concentrated in one part of the development mainly behind the vicarage. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann gave permission for Councillor Neil Cartwright from Preston City Council to speak on this matter. Councillor Neil Cartwright supported the Parish Council's concerns and said he had also raised this with Wainhomes. It was agreed that Wainhomes should be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council to talk about the proposed layout and the affordable homes element of the development. It was also agreed that a copy of the proposed layout should be forwarded to Reverend Halliwell so he could make the diocese aware of the plans and respond accordingly.

Resolved

1) With regard to planning application 06/2014/0656 the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

2) In relation to the draft layout received from Wainhomes with regard to land off Ribblesdale Drive, it was agreed that the Clerk should approach Wainhomes and ask them to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the proposed layout and in particular the affordable housing element of their development. It was further agreed

that the Clerk should send a copy of the draft layout to Reverend Halliwell for him to discuss with the diocese and respond to Wainhomes accordingly.

49. (14/15) Report of the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a verbal update to the Parish Council on the progress made by the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group, as the meeting was held the day before the Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray reported that the first consultation event held on 16 July had gone well with United Utilities being very well prepared with stands and a number of boards depicting the proposals. There had been a good turnout of experts at the event and they had put over a professional image, engaging well with the visitors and answering questions. A summary of the comments received from the consultation event was circulated to the Parish Council.

It was noted that Napthens had now been appointed as the Parish Council Solicitors to deal with the land transfer part of the project only, the estimated cost for this was £2,250. Napthens had also quoted for the establishment of the Trust part of the project and this had been higher than expected at around £2,500 - £6,000 and it was agreed that the Working Group would look at other ways of achieving this element of the project.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then gave an update on yesterday's meetings. The Working Group had invited a number of local residents who were involved in the maintenance of the wetlands to the meeting with Groundwork Trust. These had included Ken Maylor and Andy and David Small. Councillor David Hindle had also brought along a colleague from the Natural History Society who was keen to be involved. It was noted that the meeting with Groundwork Trust had been disappointing with a misunderstanding/breakdown in communication from what we had thought was clear discussions to what was presented as their proposals for the wetlands which in the main consisted of the idea of a part-time Project Officer at a cost of around £26k per annum but with no costings for maintenance and the associated works. After a difficult discussion it was agreed that Groundwork would provide a quote for what we had originally asked which was for critiquing the original Bowland Ecology proposal for capital works and ongoing annual maintenance and to review/incorporate this with the report provided by John Wilson whilst liaising with the local experts to make sure that all relevant information is included.

It was also noted that the Clerk was going to hold a further meeting with Mike Crowther at Groundwork to make sure that our requirements were clear and to make sure that Groundwork were able to proceed with this. If not an alternative partner would be explored by the Working Group.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then gave an update on the meeting held with United Utilities. With regard to the comments received from local residents with regard to the first consultation event it was noted that while people would not like to see any house building, they seemed in the main to accept that it was a good way forward to secure the Wetlands as an asset for the village in perpetuity. There was a mix of those suggesting changes and those saying to keep the proposals as they were.

United Utilities had agreed not to make any changes to the consultation boards for the next event on 17 September.

It was further reported that there was also total consensus that it was not a suitable location for affordable housing and some of the comments referred to wanting properties to be “in keeping” with the other residences in the area and it was very pleasing to see on the draft illustrative designs that they did fit in well with the likes of Sunny Bank, etc.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained that United Utilities had made it clear that the revenue from selling off a development for 12 executive homes is, in their view, the minimum that will secure the funding required to enable them to pass to us our dowry and to keep their shareholders happy. They were also actively reviewing options for ways to protect either the remaining farmland or the Wetlands from the potential for future development.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray reminded the Parish Council that the next public drop in event was on Wednesday 17 September between 4pm-7pm. United Utilities were using the same format as they did for the consultation on 16 July and members of the Parish Council Working Group would also be present. All members of the Parish Council were invited to attend and it was noted that United Utilities intended leafleting the whole village and putting an article in Longridge News. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had also prepared a news article for the Parish website which was with United Utilities for approval. A link would also be put on our Facebook page.

Finally Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said to the Parish Council that the Working Group may need some additional help from other members with some thinking/actions and that we may also need some additional support from outside the group. This was a huge project and we had suffered a bit of a set back with the cost of the quote for setting up the Trust and also the query over Groundwork’s ability to project manage the initial capital works. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she would like to be involved and agreed to go along to the meeting with the Clerk and Mike Crowther from Groundwork Trust. Councillor Dan Dewhurst said his Dad had a lot of experience in environmental projects and used to work for United Utilities. It was agreed that Dan would ask Warren Dewhurst to come along to the consultation event so we could have an initial talk about his involvement.

It was noted that the Working Group would meet again shortly to review the development proposal; the Trust and the capital and ongoing maintenance programme.

Resolved

1) That the verbal report as now presented is approved and the actions of the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group are noted.

50. (14/154) Strawberry Tea

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer informed the Parish Council that the Strawberry Tea event held on 17 August had been very enjoyable but she had been a little

disappointed with the attendance and she asked the Parish Council if they could think about how the event should be run next year and if it should be at a different time of the year. Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer presented her receipts for the refreshments/prizes for the tea for payment at a total cost of £49.50 and this was approved. It was agreed that the Community Engagement Working Group should look in detail at the arrangements for the Strawberry Tea event for 2015.

Resolved

- 1) That the Community Engagement Working Group considers the arrangements for the Strawberry Tea event for 2015.
- 2) That Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer is reimbursed for the cost of the Strawberry Tea at a total cost of £49.50.

51. (14/15) Neighbourhood Planning

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray suggested that the Parish Council should now consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan as this could be used as a supporting document to fight any unwanted development and also if the Parish Council had a plan in place they would be entitled to additional Cil money ie 25%.

It was agreed that a Neighbourhood Planning Working Group should be established to look at the options/advantages and costs of a Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh. It was further agreed that Councillor Keith Middlebrough; Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Dan Dewhurst should be members of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group and that other experts from outside the Parish Council can be seconded on to the Working Group as necessary. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group to be drafted at the first meeting. The Clerk would also forward any relevant background documents to the Working Group.

Resolved

That a Neighbourhood Planning Working Group is established consisting of Councillor Keith Middlebrough; Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Dan Dewhurst to look at the options/advantages and costs of a Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh. The Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group to be drafted at their first meeting and other experts from outside the Parish Council can be seconded on to the Working Group as necessary.

52. (14/15) Remembrance Sunday – Purchase of Wreath

The Clerk asked the Parish Council if they wished to consider the purchase of a wreath for the war memorial from the Parish Council especially as it was the anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The cost of which would be around £30. This was agreed subject to the Clerk speaking to Nellie Cowell who looked after the war memorial to make sure she was happy with the proposal.

Resolved

That approval is given to the purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday for the war memorial at a cost of around £30 subject to Nellie Cowell being happy with the proposal.

53. (14/15) Feedback from Preston Area Committee (PAC)/Three Tier Forum

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray informed the Parish Council that there had been no Three Tier Forum meetings lately but there was still one outstanding matter being ping-ponged back with Preston City Council that being about the discussions and decisions being taken in Planning Meetings “behind closed doors” and the non-communication to Parish Councils of the decision not to fight appeals.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray reminded the Parish Council that they can put forward items to go for consideration to PAC and also the Three Tier Forum.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

54. (14/15) Parish Council Newsletter

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the next Newsletter was due out in November and that she was suggesting that instead of an article on Geoff Swarbrick who had recently passed away, that, people were asked to submit quotes/comments about Geoff and what he meant to them. All agreed this was a good idea. There would also be an item on the wetlands (Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray) and Wainhomes. The Community Engagement Working Group would consider which items would be included in the next Parish Council newsletter.

55. (14/15) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

The report from FoGG had been circulated by e mail to the Parish Council. It was noted that hopefully the remaining topsoil and turf would be delivered on the green this week then the GG bed could be finished. The date for the race night had still not been finalised. It was further noted that the FoGG AGM would be held in The Plough on Tuesday 9 September at 7.30pm.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

56. (14/15) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £41,715.87 in the bank as at 1 August 2014. (We were still awaiting the September bank statement). This included £1,917.15 VAT reimbursement.

It was noted that since the last meeting the following cheques had been issued:-

- 26/07/14 - AVJ Design £26.40 for business cards for Councillor Lindsay Philipson and Councillor Keith Middlebrough. (Cheque no 691).
- 31/07/14 - Adam Cooper July hours 75 @ £12.25 = £918.75 + VAT at 20% = £183.75 = total amount £1,102.50. (Cheque no 692).
- 01/08/14 - Sue Whittam – Clerk 7,14,21,28 July = 4 weeks at £96.80 per week = £387.20. (Cheque no 693).
- 08/08/14 - Alzheimer’s Society in memory of Geoff Swarbrick £40. (Cheque no 694).

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment:-

1) Sue Whittam – Clerk – 4, 11, 18 and 25 August = 4 weeks at £96.80 per week = £387.20 + postage, ink and first aid book £58.81 total = £446.01 (Cheque no 695).

2) Adam Cooper – August 46 hours @ £12.25 = £563.50 + VAT 20% = £112.17 total = £676.20 (Cheque no 696).

3) LALC for training courses for Cllrs Lindsay Philipson, Keith Middlebrough and Peter Burton – two courses per each Councillor at £25 each = £150. (Cheque no 697).

4) Strawberry Tea reimbursement to Cllr Lynda Cryer – £49.50 receipts presented and confirmed at the meeting. (Cheque no 698).

To note that the direct debit for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland water bill for 15 May – 7 August 2014 is £13.74.

57. (14/15) Clerk’s Report – for information only

The Clerk was pleased to report that Grimsargh had received second place in the Large Village Class in the Best Kept Village Competition and had been invited to the prize giving to be held on 20 October. The Parish Council was very pleased with this result and it was agreed that Councillor Lindsay Philipson and the Clerk should attend the prize giving on 20 October.

58. (14/15) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2 October 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.