

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 September, 2013 at
7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice Chairman); Councillor David Nicholson (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; and Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
Reverend Chris Halliwell
PCSO David Reid
Dan Dewhurst

51. (13/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Ellis and Councillor David Hindle.

52. (13/14) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

53. (13/14) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 July, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. (13/14) Parish Council Vacancy

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray welcomed Dan Dewhurst to the meeting. Dan had attended a couple of Parish Council meetings and had confirmed that he wished to be considered for the Parish Council vacancy. Dan satisfied the criteria for becoming a Parish Councillor and the Chairman said it was good to know that young people were interested in the work of the Parish Council and serving their community.

All members of the Parish Council were in favour of co-opting Dan Dewhurst onto the Parish Council. Councillor Dan Dewhurst signed the acceptance of office.

Resolved

That Dan Dewhurst is co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

55. (13/14) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray 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. He explained to the Parish Council that there had been a number of crimes in Grimsargh and these could be drastically reduced if people took more care in locking their doors/windows and keeping their valuables secure. He highlighted the crimes that had recently taken place including one at Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School that had lap tops stolen during the summer break – the police had arrested someone for this crime. There had been numerous thefts from unlocked sheds and vehicles, and two high performance cars had been stolen from a house on Carbis Avenue.

PCSO Reid said he was hoping to work together with the community to make them more aware of keeping things safe and secure. Councillor Dan Dewhurst mentioned the use of CCTV and thought this was something that might be beneficial to Grimsargh. PCSO Reid said that Goosnargh had twelve cameras and this had helped reduce crime so it was worthwhile considering. It was felt that a "handy hints" type flyer and maybe a home security event to be held at the village hall would be good ideas. It was felt that a Community Safety Working Group would be a good way to look into these proposed initiatives and make recommendations to the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and Councillor Lynda Cryer together with Councillor Dan Dewhurst expressed a willingness to be involved. Councillor Dan Dewhurst agreed to draft up some Terms of Reference to bring to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked PCSO Reid for attending the meeting and then asked if any members of the Parish Council wished to raise any further items for information. It was noted that the site visit to JWS (formerly Valpak) had gone well – it had been interesting seeing the site and the new owners were making great efforts to keep the site tidy and be responsible neighbours. Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann said that there had been a recent odour incident at the site but it only lasted a short time. The Parish Council now had contact details for the site in case there were any problems. Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann also referred to problems with dog fouling that had been passed on to PCSO Reid. PCSO Reid said he was looking into the concerns raised and if appropriate a fixed penalty would be issued.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that there were still various issues in the village with overgrown hedges and encroachment onto the footpaths.

The Chairman Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then reconvened the meeting.

56. (13/14) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

It was noted that there were no Planning Applications for consideration at the meeting. However, it was further noted that the Parish Council had received notification that Hallam Land Management had appealed against the decision by Preston City Council to refuse Planning Application 06/2013/0245 – Land North of

The Hills – Outline application for residential development (up to 100 dwellings), public open space and ancillary works (all matters reserved). The Planning Inspectorate would receive a copy of our original objection but any further comments needed to be submitted by 12 September 2013. It was agreed that the Parish Council should ask to speak at the appeal and that our representatives would be the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and also Councillor David Hindle. It was further agreed that the Parish Council should use the same format as last time with Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray speaking on our objection/planning policies and that Councillor David Hindle would focus on heritage/wildlife and countryside issues.

It was also noted that with regard to Hallam Land Management's original application the date for the High Court hearing had now changed from 2 October to 30 September 2013. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray would be attending.

It was also reported that the Parish Council had received notification that David Wilson Homes North West (BDW Trading Limited) had appealed against the decision by Preston City Council to refuse Planning Application 06/2012/0544 – residential development consisting of 78 no dwelling houses with associated site access, open space, landscaping, new pumping station and supporting infrastructure on land south of Whittingham Road and west of Green Nook Lane, Whittingham in respect of land South of Whittingham Road, Whittingham. The Parish Council had already objected to this original application on traffic issues and the Planning Inspectorate would receive a copy of our original objection. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not need to make any further comments with regard to this appeal.

It was reported that Ribble Valley Borough Council had updated some of their documents relating to their Core Strategy and these were now subject to further consultation. Any comments had to be submitted by 20 September and documents that could be commented on were:-

- The Core Strategy Viability Study
- Leisure survey
- Retail survey
- Employment Land Review 2013
- The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update
- The Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Service Centre Health Checks 2013
- Ribble Valley Housing requirement review
- Proposed main changes to Core Strategy
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Sustainability Appraisal Addendum

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Ribble Valley Borough Council expressing concern about the amount of houses being built in Ribble Valley that were close to Grimsargh. Each local authority also appeared to be considering their Local Development Framework in isolation with no due consideration to the effect on neighbouring parishes and the subsequent effect on roads/infrastructure.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that she would also raise this issue at the Preston Area Committee/3Tier Forum.

Resolved

1) That with regard to the appeal for Planning Application 06/2013/0245 Hallam Land Management Ltd for Land North of The Hills for up to 100 dwellings that the Planning Inspector is asked that the Parish Council is allowed to speak at the appeal hearing. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor David Hindle should speak on behalf of the Parish Council with Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray concentrating on our objection/planning policies and Councillor David Hindle would focus on heritage/wildlife and countryside issues.

2) That the Parish Council has no further comments to make with regard to the appeal for Planning Application 06/2012/0544 for land South of Whittingham Road, Whittingham.

3) That with regard to the updated Ribble Valley Borough Council Core Strategy, a letter is sent expressing concern about the amount of houses being built in Ribble Valley that are close to Grimsargh. An additional comment should also be made about each local authority also appearing to consider their Local Development Framework in isolation with no due consideration to the effect on neighbouring parishes and the subsequent effect on roads/infrastructure.

57. (13/14) Report from the Planning Sub-Committee

It was noted that there had been two meetings of the Planning Sub-Committee held over the summer and Councillor Peter Burton said that these had been well attended by local residents and well-managed by the Chairman.

The first meeting held on 29 July, 2013 was to discuss the Whitefriars Planning Application and the Parish Council had supported the residents and objected to the proposed development.

The second meeting held on 28 August, 2013 was to discuss the Wainhomes proposed development on land off Ribblesdale Drive and this had also been objected to by the Parish Council, primarily as it was in the Area of Separation.

The Minutes from both meetings were presented to the Parish Council and are placed in the Minute Book.

Resolved

1) That the Minutes from the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 29 July, 2013 are noted.

2) That the Minutes from the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 28 August, 2013 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

58. (13/14) Report from the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland Working Group

The notes from the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland Working Group from their meeting held on 23 July, 2013 were presented to the Parish Council.

The Working Group had recommended to the Parish Council that approval was given to a budget of up to £150 towards two project days to provide gloves and basic hand tools (if required) and refreshments for the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland Working Group. This was agreed.

After further discussion it was felt that the first project day should be arranged for early spring. Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer also agreed to approach the Probation Service to see if they could help with work in the woodland.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray also mentioned that she had received a number of photographs from David Leech relating to the history of the woodland. These were on temporary loan but she felt that it would be worth scanning these important documents and keeping a copy for use by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That a budget of up to £150 is approved for the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland Working Group to hold two project days to provide gloves and basic hand tools (if required) and refreshments for the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland Working Group.

59. (13/14) Parish Council Newsletter

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray asked for suggestions for the next Parish Council newsletter that was due out in December. Items suggested included a Spotlight on the Toddlers Group, Planning Update, Planter Judging, Crime and Security, Nellie Carbis Woodland and an introduction to our new Parish Councillor – Councillor Dan Dewhurst.

It was also felt that an article should be placed in the Longridge news about Councillor Dewhurst as he was one of the youngest Parish Councillors in the Country.

60. (13/14) Bus Shelters

The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint/concern about the lack of seating in the Parish bus shelters. As the bus shelter near the Chinese takeaway needed replacing in the near future, the Clerk thought that the Parish Council may wish to look at alternative designs for bus shelters and include seating.

Following general discussion it was agreed to ask our Lengthsman, Adam Cooper to replace the bus shelter outside the Chinese takeaway when appropriate and this should be the same type of wooden design but with a perch rail included.

Resolved

That the Parish Lengthsman, Adam Cooper is asked to replace the bus shelter outside the Chinese takeaway with a similar wooden design but with a perch rail included.

61. (13/14) Annual Parish and Town Council Conference and LALC AGM – 9 November 2013

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received an invitation to the Annual Parish and Town Council Conference to be held on the morning of 9 November and the LALC AGM to be held in the afternoon, both at County Hall, Preston. The Parish Council was entitled to send one delegate to these events and there was no cost involved.

Resolved

That Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray is nominated to attend the Annual Parish and Town Council Conference and the LALC AGM on 9 November 2013, on behalf of the Parish Council.

62. (13/14) Grimsargh Reservoir/Wetlands

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invited to attend a meeting at Preston City Council with Mr M Lovatt to discuss the wetlands. The meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 10 September at 10.30 am at Preston Town Hall.

Resolved

That the Clerk, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor David Hindle and Councillor David Nicholson are nominated to attend the Grimsargh Reservoir/wetlands meeting on 10 September, on behalf of the Parish Council.

63. (13/14) Visit by Lord Horam

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray informed the Parish Council that Lord Horam of Grimsargh had asked to meet the Parish Councillors and see the village hall when he was visiting the area in September. It was agreed that this visit should be arranged for Sunday 29 September between 3-5pm at the village hall and that afternoon tea will be provided. The local City Councillors and a couple of residents would also be invited to attend. The Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of the village hall and the refreshments.

Resolved

That the cost of the village hall and refreshments is funded by the Parish Council for the visit of Lord Horam on 29 September 2013.

64. (13/14) Electronic Storage of Parish Council documents

The Clerk explained that it was prudent to store the Parish Council electronic documents on an external hard drive to minimise the risk of documents being lost. It was noted that important paper documents were stored by Lancashire County Council Record Office and the types of documents that were stored on the Clerk's personal computer were background information and provided an audit trail of general Parish Council work.

The Parish Council agreed to purchase an external hard drive and case at a cost of £61.98 for the electronic storage of Parish Council documents.

Resolved

That the Clerk is authorised to purchase an external hard drive and case at a cost of £61.98 for the electronic storage of Parish Council documents.

65. (13/14) Dead Tree in Maple Grove

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that there was a dead tree in Maple Grove that apparently was one of seven trees that the Parish Council had planted in the late 1970's and it now needed removing.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the previous Clerk Peter Croft to see if the Parish Council had purchased the trees and if this was the case then the Parish Council would make arrangements with a tree surgeon to remove the tree. If the trees were not planted by the Parish Council then the Clerk would contact the land agent to ask them to remove the dead tree.

66. (13/14) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. She said that she had been in touch with Matt Kelly again regarding the drainage works on the village green but as it had been summer and FoGG had not had a recent meeting there had not been much progress.

It was noted that Adam had now installed the benches on the village green and these looked good. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also informed the Parish Council that some work was needed on the green. In particular the willow needed cutting back and the wildflower garden needed some work as did the pond and hedges.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

67. (13/14) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an £34,050.29 in the bank as at 1 September 2013.

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

Sue Whittam – Clerk – 1 July, 8 July, 15 July, 22 July and 29 July = 5 weeks at £92 per week = £460 (Cheque no 645).

Donna Kidd – internal audit - £60 (Cheque no 646).

SRS Gorton – Website design - £150.00 (Cheque no 647).

Adam Cooper – 81 hours @£12.25 = £992.25+ timber and materials £171 = £1,163.25 + VAT @20% = Total amount of £1,395.90 (Cheque no 648).

AVJ Design for business cards/signage - £88.13 (Cheque no 649).

Resolved

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

- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 4 August, 11 August, 18 August and 25 August = 4 weeks at £92 per week = £368 (Cheque no 650).
- Adam Cooper – 30 hours at £12.25 = £367.50 + Labour/materials benches on the village green £350 = sub total £717.50 + VAT @20% £143.50. Total £861.00 (Cheque no 651).
- Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer – reimbursement for strawberry tea - £41.06 (Cheque no 652).
- Lancashire County Training Partnership for Chairman's Course for Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer and Councillor David Nicholson - £25 each = £50 (Cheque no 653).
- Nick Penrith for tarmac/resurfacing – Parish Council stores (as quoted) - £1,600 + VAT £320 total £1,920.00 (Cheque no 654).

68. (13/14) Clerk's Report – for information only

It was noted that the resurfacing outside the parish stores was now complete and Nick Penrith has submitted his invoice as quoted.

69. (13/14) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 3 October 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.