

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 September, 2019 at 7.30 pm, at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Ian Liptrot and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

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

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47. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Cryer (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer. Apologies were also received from Councillor Ian Donnell and Councillor Harry Landless from Preston City Council and PCSO Julie Anyon and PCSO Vicky Shackleton. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

48. (19/20) Declarations of Interest

None.

49. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and explained that although the Police had given their apologies for this evening's meeting, they had sent through the latest crime figures. The Chairman Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that there had been no incidents of anti-social behaviour over the last two months, but there had been 6 crimes between the 1 – 31 July 2019 and these were 1 public order offence; 1 burglary; 2 assaults; 1 sexual offence and 1 missing from home. It was noted that the person missing from home had now been found. For the period 1-31 August 2019 there had been 1 vehicle theft; 3 burglaries; 1 harassment; 1 assault and 1 domestic incident. (7 crimes).

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson had also asked for the recent fire at Recycling Lives to be discussed at this meeting. The recent fire had raised a number of issues and concerns regarding how often materials were stored outside the building and the access to water if needed during an incident such as a fire, as it was understood that the water had to be accessed from the opposite

side of the road. This had caused traffic issues and there were also problems with redirecting the traffic as the diversion signs were inadequate and people were only aware of the problem when they got nearer to the site rather than being diverted when they were further away from the site. It was understood that Lancashire County Council had been asked twice about signage and there appeared to be some confusion about who was responsible when an incident such as this occurred.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said there had also been a recent life-threatening incident which was equally poor managed with inadequate signage.

The Clerk agreed to contact Lancashire County Council regarding the recent fire at Recycling Lives to see if she could get any answers to the concerns raised.

The Parish Council also discussed suitable verges for wildflowers in the village. It was felt that Elston Green and also the Village Green may be suitable locations. The Clerk agreed to inform Mark Taylor at Preston City Council.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell referred to a recent telephone scam and that the telephone call had been very convincing. It was agreed that an item on scams should be included in the December newsletter as these calls were becoming more common and people could easily be convinced that they were genuine calls from local banks etc.

Councillor Peter Burton commented that the travellers had been very tidy this time and had moved on quickly.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then reconvened the meeting.

51. (19/20) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2019/0925 - Park House Farm Whittingham Lane Grimsargh
Reserved matters application (namely appearance,
landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline
permission 06/2016/0719 for 34no dwellings.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2019/0925 the Clerk reported that this site had previously received Reserved matters approval but the site had now been sold on to a new developer which meant there were proposed changes to the house styles and materials used. The Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

The Clerk also reported that the Parish Council had received notice of a consultation on the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Integrated Assessment (IA) (Incorporating Sustainability Appraisal: Health Impact Assessment; and Equalities Impact Assessment) Scoping Report (Draft for consultation), August 2019. As the document was quite lengthy and as the closing date for comments was 7 October

2019, it was suggested that this would be discussed at the October meeting of the Parish Council.

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

Resolved

i) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2019/0925 the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

ii) That with regard to the consultation on the Central Lancashire Local Plan – Integrated Assessment (IA) (Incorporating Sustainability Appraisal: Health Impact Assessment; and Equalities Impact Assessment) Scoping Report (Draft for consultation), August 2019, that the Parish Council discuss this at their meeting in October.

52. (19/20) Parish Council Vacancy

It was noted that the Parish Council had one vacancy since the Parish Council elections in May and that this had been advertised on the Parish Council notice boards and website. The Parish Council was asked to consider filling the vacancy by co-option. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson asked if any one was interested in becoming a member of the Parish Council and Mark Bell a local resident indicated that he was interested in the Parish Council vacancy. Mark informed the Parish Council that he lived on The Hills estate and he had lived in Grimsargh for seven years. He was married and had three children that attended the local school. Mark said he was particularly keen to involve the younger members of Grimsargh and he would welcome being a member of the Parish Council if approved.

The Parish Council then voted on the vacancy and Mark Bell was unanimously co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect. Councillor Mark Bell signed his acceptance of office form.

The Clerk also gave Councillor Bell a copy of the Register of Interests forms for completion.

Resolved

That Mark Bell is co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

53. (19/20) Grimsargh Wetlands – update

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that the meeting with United Utilities, representatives of the Wetlands Trust and the Parish Council would now take place on 26 September at 9.00 am at Councillor David Hindle's house.

The Clerk also reported that Councillor Terry Cryer had attended the last meeting of the Trustees but some clarification was still needed by the Wetlands Trust regarding the allocation of monies and the investments. As the next meeting of the Trustees

was not until the end of October, it was suggested and agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray as a member of the original Wetlands Working Group and also Finance Working Group member would contact the treasurer of the Wetlands Trust to explain the background to the finances and that the investment monies were owned and controlled by Grimsargh Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said she would prepare an explanation for the Wetlands Trust and circulate this to the Finance Working Group for any comments. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

- i) That the update on meeting between United Utilities, representatives from the Wetlands Trust and the Parish Council is noted.
- ii) That approval is given for Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray to contact the Treasurer of the Wetlands Trust to explain the background to the finances and that the investment monies were owned and controlled by Grimsargh Parish Council.

54. (19/20) Village Post Office – Closure

The Parish Council were disappointed to hear that the Post Office had now closed in the village but understood this was for commercial reasons. It was noted that a number of residents and especially the elderly used the Post Office but there was not really a great deal that the Parish Council or anyone could do. The Parish Council had posted a website article explaining about the loss of the Post Office and it was reported that the National Consultation Team from the Post Office were currently asking for feedback about the closure.

It was agreed that the Clerk would reply with feedback stating that the Parish Council were very disappointed about the closure of the Post Office in Grimsargh and also the effect of this on the elderly in the Village. The Parish Council hoped that a suitable solution would be found and that the residents of Grimsargh would have access to local Post Office services.

It was noted that individual Parish Councillors and residents could also respond to the consultation.

Resolved

That the Parish Council was disappointed to hear about the closure of the Post Office in Grimsargh and that the Clerk responds to the consultation in line with the comments above.

55. (19/20) Items for Expenditure

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following items of expenditure: -

Benches for the Village Green – the Clerk presented a number of options that had been supplied by Preston City Council for the replacement of the circular picnic benches on Grimsargh Village Green. After discussion it was agreed to ask Dig In to make the two replacement benches at a cost of £499 each. It was further agreed to

ask for the specification for the benches or ask Preston City Council to ensure that the benches were similar to the ones presently installed and were of a chunky and sturdy design. It was also agreed that the cost of these benches would be funded by the Parish Council CiL monies.

Bus shelters and seating – There was a general discussion regarding the bus shelters in the village and also regarding the provision of seating in the bus shelters. It was noted that even if the bus shelters had seating it was difficult to see when a bus approached due to the solid wooden sides of the shelters. Also, in the past the shelters had been used as a place for younger people to congregate. The possibility of including green roofs on the shelters was also discussed but this would mean that the roofs would need additional support and alterations to support the weight of the green roofs. After discussion it was agreed not to make any changes to the current bus shelters and seating in the village.

Resolved

i) That with regard to the circular picnic benches on Grimsargh Village Green, that approval is given to Dig In to make two new benches at a cost of £499 each and to be funded from the Parish Council CiL monies. It was noted that the benches would need to be similar to the present benches and be of a chunky and sturdy design.

ii) That with regard to the bus shelters and seating in the village, it was agreed not to make any changes to the current bus shelters and seating at this present time.

56. (19/20) Neighbourhood Planning - update

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave a verbal report from the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group held on 11 September 2019. She reported that the Steering Group had met with Paula Fitzgerald from Kirkwells Planning and Diane Neville who was a Senior Planner for a neighbouring authority. Paula had put forward to the group the proposals for taking forward our Neighbourhood Plan and a timeline and milestones for these to be achieved. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that it had been a very positive meeting and that Paula and Diane were the professional expertise needed to reinvigorate and progress our plan. It was noted that Paula would be working independently from Kirkwells as Kirkwells had indicated that they did not wish to take on any more Neighbourhood Plans in Lancashire due to the conflict of interests when representing local developers. Paula had a wealth of experience and with Diane they were confident that a robust Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh would be produced. It was noted that Paula was also carrying out similar work for Barton Parish Council in producing their Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Mark Bell indicated that he would like to be a Member of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and this was agreed.

Resolved

That the report from the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group from their meeting held on 11 September 2019 is received and noted

57. (19/20) LALC AGM – 23 November 2019

The Parish Council was asked to consider sending a representative to the LALC AGM on Sunday 23 November at Howick House Penwortham and also if they wished to propose a resolution for discussion at the AGM.

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray would attend on behalf of Grimsargh Parish Council. The Parish Council did not have any resolutions to put forward to the LALC AGM.

Resolved

That approval is given for Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray to attend the LALC AGM on 23 November 2019 on behalf of Grimsargh Parish Council.

58. (19/20) Planter Competition - results

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that the judging had taken place for this year's Planter Competition and that Nellie Cowell was the winner with the Gardening Club awarded second place and Eileen Murray third place. Once again Michelle Unsworth of So Plants had kindly helped with the judging and donated a voucher for all top three places. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also confirmed that the presentation for the competition would take place on Sunday 22 September between 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm at So Plants based at the Little Town Farm Shop and that all Parish Councillors were invited to attend.

Resolved

That the winners of this year's Planter Competition and the arrangements for the annual presentation are noted.

59. (19/20) December Newsletter

The following items were agreed for possible inclusion in the December newsletter: -

Scams (as mentioned earlier at the meeting).
CCTV.
Carols around the Crib.
Remembrance Sunday.
Planter Competition.
Dog Walking Group.
Grimsargh Neighbourhood Plan.
New Councillor – Councillor Mark Bell.
Christmas Tree.
Planning update.
Spotlight on the Lengthsman (Adam and Colin).
Friends of Grimsargh Green (FOGG) update.

It was also agreed to have a feature called Heritage Corner and Councillor David Hindle agreed to write the first article on steam railways (Grimsargh Junction).

60. (19/20) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £72,283.89 in the Nat West bank as at 5 September 2019. We had received the £250 from Lancashire County Council for opting into the Public Rights of Way Delivery Scheme.

It was further noted that we had paid since the last meeting: -

19/07/19 Grimsargh Cricket Club – grant as agreed at the last meeting £2,250. (Cheque no 985).

25/07/19 John Gornall Tree Surgeon – for inspection and tree work on Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland £100. (Cheque no 986).

03/08/19 JRB for dog poop bags £119.46. (Cheque no 987).

15/08/19 S Whittam Clerk's Salary £934.01 + key safe £66.96 = £1,000.97. (Cheque no 988).

15/08/19 Adam Cooper Contractor £869.25. (Cheque no 989).

19/08/19 Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Eileen Murray for laptop for CCTV £249.97 (Cheque no 990).

20/08/19 Preston City Council Green Space Contribution £3,190. (Cheque no 991).

It was also noted that we had paid by direct debit:- Nest Pension contributions £49.49 on 7 June, 8 July, 8 August and 5 September. We had paid the water bill for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland £7.72 on 16 August 2019.

Resolved

The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

- i) Sue Whittam 15/9/19 - £934.21. (Cheque no 992).
- ii) HMRC Q2 Tax & NI £1,205.89. (Cheque no 993).
- iii) Adam Cooper Lengthsman/Contractor – £798.25. (Cheque no 994).
- iv) GVCA room hire Village Hall £105.00. (Cheque no 995).

61. (19/20) Clerk's report - for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

62. (19/20) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on Thursday 3 October 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.