

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 2009

Present:- Councillor N F Ridding –Chairman

Councillors

R W Chapman S G Sellers
Mrs J Chessell G T Swarbrick
Mrs E M Murray Mrs P A Tucker
B G Woodburn

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations by Councillors of Personal or Prejudicial Interests relating to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs L McCann.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2009

Councillor Mrs Murray felt that the minutes overemphasised the comments that she was reported to have made about the interpretation of the minutes regarding the land to the rear of the Village Hall.

55. RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 3rd September, 2009 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

- a) The Clerk said that an item about “Review of Minutes” would be placed on the agenda after Councillor R Chapman had been able to raise the subject at the forthcoming Training Course.
- b) Councillor Mrs Tucker said that she had not received replies from BT or Nigel Evans, MP, about Broadband Speeds. The Clerk said that he had also not received any replies. Councillor Mrs Murray reported that the UK was currently 26th in the world standings regarding Broadband Speeds. BT’s stated priority was to businesses in the first instance.
- c) Councillor Mrs Murray expressed concerns about the reports that related to Transition, which were not necessarily substantiated. She reminded the Council that Councillor Mrs McCann had also raised concerns about Transition at the last meeting. Councillor Mrs Murray then presented a brief update on her discussions with PC Zanelli following his report relating to Transition.
- d) The Clerk reported that the Park and Ride at Bluebell Way was to be formally launched and publicised in 2010.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Councillor Mrs Chessell felt that no formal decision had been reached about the acquisition of a 2 metre wide strip of land by Mr Calvert.

56. RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 15th September, 2009 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

POLICING ISSUES

PC Ian Zanelli had submitted a report detailing incidents that had been reported during September, 2009. There had been 3 thefts and 1 burglary but no incidents of rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour. In addition, he reported that gypsies were currently camped at Longsands and asked people to be vigilant and ensure that their property was properly secured.

57. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990

There were no planning applications to present.

PRESTON AND PRESTON RURAL EAST WARD PROFILES

A report giving a comprehensive breakdown of the make-up of the Preston Rural Area Ward was presented for information. The report included issues relating to population, age profiles, deprivation, housing, income, employment, health, education and community safety including crime.

58. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

THE "BIG CARE DEBATE" - FUNDING FOR SOCIAL CARE

Brief information was presented about the Government's Green Paper for long-term funding for social care. People were being invited to join in the National Big Care Debate. Councillor Mrs Tucker suggested that Councillors should look into the proposals which had serious implications for the future payment for social care. The closing date was the 11th November, 2009.

59. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION, 2009 – RESULTS

The results of the Best Kept Village Competition, 2009 were presented. Grimsargh had improved its placing from 21st in 2008 to 9th in 2009. Means of promoting the Competition for future years were briefly discussed, but it was agreed to wait for the detailed comments from the judges beforehand.

60. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

DEVOLVED SERVICES TO PARISH COUNCILS – LALC QUESTIONNAIRE

Councillors discussed a questionnaire from the LALC seeking levels of interest from Parish Council relating to Devolved Services. The Parish Council had previously managed the grass cutting contract on behalf of Preston and would be interested in a similar arrangement. Other possible areas included litter picking. There would, of course, be a need for adequate financial support to be put in place. Devolved services had previously been considered as part of discussion relating the Quality Parish Council status, which had not been proceeded with at that time. Councillor Mrs Chessell asked for this issue to be revisited.

61. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That Councillors be asked to notify the Clerk, as soon as possible, of any other services that they considered suitable to be devolved to the Parish Council, for submission to the LALC; and

b) That the subject of Quality Parish Council Status be reconsidered as soon as up to date information on the subject had been obtained.

TRAFFIC SPEEDS – B.6243, GRIMSARGH

The Clerk reported that the necessary consultations relating to the reduction of the speed limit on Preston Road were commencing and the intention was to have the revised speed limit in operation in the first half of 2010. The general view was, however, that a reduction in the speed limit would not necessarily lead to a reduction in traffic speeds as the existing speed limit was regularly ignored.

62. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

REDROW - SECTION 106 APPLICATION AND GRIMSARGH VILLAGE GREEN – PLAY PROVISION

The Clerk reported that the “pegging out” of the land to the rear of the Village Hall had still to be carried out and all Councillors would be invited to view the pegged out line as soon as it had been marked out.

63. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

FRIENDS OF GRIMSARGH GREEN

Councillor Mrs Chessell reminded the Council that £110,500.00 would become available from Redrow, which could be used for the play area on the Village Green and £47,950.00 would be withheld for the future maintenance of the various pieces of land within the Redrow estate, including the football pitch. The allocation of funding for the play area would also be on a phased basis.

She also reported that a grant of £500.00 had been received from Green Partnership towards the cost of an Information Sign about the Wildflower Garden and the Pond. She was waiting for information back from M Kelly at Preston about the car park and lighting installation. He had indicated that Preston would pay £3,600.00 towards the cost of the car park and would also manage the project. They would also pay the VAT element of the project. It was also reported that Preston was to raise the level of part of the football pitch on the Village Green nearest to the original pond to alleviate flooding. There were concerns about the implications of this work on the footpath that passed close by.

64. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Clerk reported that Rosie Green was intending to place an article relating to youth provision in the December edition of the Prestonian. He also reported on a Lifestyle Questionnaire that she was asking all younger persons to complete and she would present it to the forthcoming Youth Conference on the 29th October, 2009.

65. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

THE NELLIE CARBIS MILLENNIUM WOODLAND

There was nothing to report on this item.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

A copy of the Lengthsman's time sheet for September, 2009 was presented for information. The Lengthsman had also informed the Council that T Phelan, LCC Countryside Officer, had told that he must obtain a Defra Waste Carrier's Licence at a cost of £152. 00 to carry out his Lengthsman work.

66. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That approval be given to the re-imbursement of the sum of £152. 00 to the Lengthsman for the cost of a Waste Carrier's Licence from Defra as now reported.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2009

A report was presented from the Auditors which showed that the Accounts for 2008/09 were satisfactory. However, the Auditors had presented a report on one arising issue that the level of the Fidelity Guarantee, currently set at £15,000. 00, was considered by them to be too low. After due consideration, the Council felt that this level of cover was more than adequate, particularly as the Clerk had no means of withdrawing monies and cheques for payment could only be approved for payment at Council meetings.

67. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That the Annual Return of the Auditors for the year ending the 31st March, 2009 be approved and accepted; and
c) That the level of Fidelity Guarantee be considered to be satisfactory and should remain at the current level of £15,000. 00

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET, 2010/11

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that it was time to start its consideration of the Budget for 2010/11 as Preston would need to be informed of the Parish Council's Financial Requirement in early January, 2010. A half-yearly Statement of Account would be presented to the next meeting to assist the Council.

68. RESOLVED:- That the Parish Council's Financial Requirements for the year 2010/11 be considered in detail at the November, 2009 meeting of the Parish Council.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

69. RESOLVED:- That the following accounts be approved for payment:-

a)	Adam Cooper (Payment to Lengthsman – September, 2009. 72 hours @ £10. 00 per hour. Includes £108. 00 V.A.T.)	-	828. 00
b)	Adam Cooper (Purchase of waste Carrier's Licence, Undercoat and Top Coat for Benches, Stain for Bus Shelters and Stain for Planters. Inc £34. 05 V.A.T.)	-	£261, 05
b)	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP (Fees for the Audit of the Parish Council Accounts for year ended 31 st March, 2009. Inc £24. 00 V.A.T.)	-	£184. 00

MATTERS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS

a) Councillor Mrs J Chessell

Reported that the footway between Old Railway Walk and the Post Office was breaking up and becoming potholed and rutted. It now required proper attention. The matter would be reported to the County Council.

b) Councillor Mrs P A Tucker

Asked for information about the Parish Plan, with particular regard to the establishment of the Project Groups. The Leisure Group was to have been led by R G Woollam, but he left the Parish Council before it could get started. She enquired about publicity of the Plan's findings and it was explained that every household received a summary of the findings. A copy of the Parish Plan would be circulated to each Councillor for further information.

c) Councillor Mrs E M Murray

i) Reported that Rosie Green had met with PC Ian Zanelli and they were looking at options for Youth Provision in the area. The possibility of a "Drop-In Centre" and an "Across the Ages" Group had been discussed. Preston City Council might be able to assist with a variety of aspects, including CRB Accreditation. She said that the Village Hall had a small number of dates available if required.

ii) Reported that the carriageway of Preston Road outside St Michael's was becoming badly rutted. This would be reported to the County Council.

ii) Asked about the next Newsletter. The Clerk said that he had started to get items together for the next issue and Councillors were asked to let the Clerk have any items they wished to include in the newsletter.

d) Councillor G T Swarbrick

i) Summarised a Consultant's Report about a major development in the Westby with Plumpton area to the east of Blackpool along the M.55 corridor near to junction 4. The development would comprise up to 7,000 dwellings plus schools, businesses and a Country Park immediately adjacent to the Blackpool/St Annes boundary. Whilst this was a major proposed development proposal with significant implications for traffic accessing the area, it

would be provided with all the necessary infrastructure to match, rather than if the development was piecemeal when the infrastructure would probably be missing.

ii) Reported that the Preston Consultative Committee meeting had been cancelled due to a lack of business. It was noted that the Parish Council only had one representative on this Committee and Councillor Mrs Tucker offered to fill the vacancy, which was agreed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9. 35 p.m.

Chairman
5th November, 2009