

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2009

Present:- Councillor N F Ridding –Chairman

Councillors

R W Chapman	S G Sellers
Mrs J Chessell	G T Swarbrick
Mrs L McCann	Mrs P A Tucker

Also present was Ms Rosie Green, Councillor T Davies and one member of the public.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E M Murray and B G Woodburn. Councillor Mrs L McCann had also indicated that she would be late.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Councillor Mrs Tucker said that no reply had been received from BT but she had obtained Broadband information from their website. She also said that reference to resolutions should read "... the wording of all resolutions ...".

87. RESOLVED:- That, subject to the abovementioned amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 5th November, 2009 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

a) Councillor Chapman reported that he had written to the County Council in an attempt to ensure that the "Road Safety Scheme" covered all of Grimsargh. He had also suggested the relocation of the Roman Way speed camera to cover the residential section of Longridge Road and, if possible a second camera facing the opposite direction. Apparently, some funding might be available in the 2010/11 budget for any changes to be implemented.

b) The Clerk reported a request for a pedestrian refuge on Longridge Road near to The Hills had been submitted to the County Council.

c) The Clerk reported that the Crib was being erected on the 10th December, 2009 at 9.30 a.m. and any assistance would be appreciated.

POLICING ISSUES

PC Ian Zanelli had submitted a report detailing incidents that had been reported during November, 2009. There had been 1 case of criminal damage and 1 anti-social behaviour incident. He had also reported that metal gates, garden ornaments, etc., were being stolen in the rural areas as asked everybody to be vigilant. He also reminded Councillors to keep valuables, etc., out of sight during the lead up to Christmas.

88. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

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

The Clerk reported that the planning application relating to the Redrow play areas and S.106 Agreement was now being taken to the Planning Committee in January, 2010.

89. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990

There were no planning applications to present.

PARKING ON PRESTON ROAD

The Clerk presented a report on the proposals made by Councillor T Davies for bollards to restrict parking outside Grimsargh Club and the Post Office. He also reported on email correspondence with Mr P Dunne at the County Council and the possible installation of two bollards to prevent vehicles running along the footway to avoid any conflict with pedestrians. A letter had been sent to Councillor Davies, with the approval of the Chairman, expressing concerns about the way in which he had dealt with this subject without informing the Parish Council beforehand. Councillor Davies had circulated a copy of this letter together with his response.

Councillor Sellers said that he was saddened by the comments made by Councillor Davies at the Young at Heart meeting that, despite the Parish Council's request not to go ahead, he still intended to proceed with the request for bollards. Councillor Mrs Chessell said that she would only support bollards if they were placed between a lay-by and the footway. The Clerk said that the County Council had indicated that the cost of creating a lay-by would be too expensive.

Councillor Davies indicated that the request for bollards came from members of the public, which was somewhat of a surprise to the Parish Council. He apologised if people got the wrong idea of his intentions and he was now asking for 4 bollards, 3 immediately outside the Post Office between the flower bed and edge of footway, to prevent vehicles from parking plus a further bollard on the footway opposite the boundary fence with the Club and Post Office. This proposal was felt to be more acceptable, but it was also felt that the County Council should be asked to reconsider creating a lay-by outside Grimsargh Club.

90. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received;

b) That the County Council be requested to prepare a scheme as soon as possible for the installation 4 bollards, 3 immediately outside the Post Office between the flower bed and edge of footway, plus a further bollard on the footway opposite the end of the boundary fence between the Club and Post Office and;

c) That the County Council be asked to reconsider the possibility of constructing a lay-by outside Grimsargh Club and

d) That the matter be discussed further by the Parish Council as soon as the scheme for bollards had been presented by the County Council.

BROADBAND

Councillor Mrs Tucker said that she had now been contacted by Nigel Evans, MP, who had asked for her address in order that he could send a reply. She reported that "Next Generation Broadband", which would start to become available in 2010, would not be available in the Elston Lane area. She also presented a report to the Council which showed the broadband speeds that were currently available in various parts of Grimsargh and it was clear that these became much slower to the east of

Grimsargh. She was checking whether affected dwellings could transfer to the Longridge Exchange which was nearer than the Ribbleton exchange.

Standing Orders were then suspended and Mr Ellis explained the situation relating to broadband in schools generally, which was his role with the County Council, and he said that he thought it would be possible to get some things done to improved matters. He expressed a view that Grimsargh was ideal to received extra funding relating to Broadband improvements and he offered to give some help to Councillor Mrs Tucker in her attempt to seek an improvement to broadband speeds throughout Grimsargh. Standing Orders were then re-instated. Councillor Mrs Tucker said that she would continue to pursue an increase in broadband speeds in Grimsargh for the Parish Council and for residents of Grimsargh as a whole.

91. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

QUALITY PARISH COUNCILS

Councillor Mrs Tucker expressed an interest in Communication and Community Engagement as part of consideration of Quality Parish Council status. She was interested in a website for the Parish Council and reported on sites for Hutton, Longton and Lea and Cottam Parish Councils. The Lea site was free through Preston City Council. Paid sites would cost in the order of £600.00 to set up. She had registered Grimsargh.com as the title for a Parish Council website, although she felt that there was a need for a Sub-Group to move it forward.

Councillor Sellers felt that the Parish Council had previously discussed Quality Status but it was felt that it would not be of benefit to the Parish Council at that time. He was of the view that nothing had changed in that regard. Councillor Mrs Chessell expressed a view that Quality Status should be looked at again with a view to the future and that the pro's and con's should be considered when all Councillors had had the opportunity to read the Quality Parish Council booklet which was being circulated. (This booklet was also available to view or download through nalc.org.uk).

91a. RESOLVED:-a) That the report be received; and
b) That a Sub-Group (Community Engagement) comprised of Councillors R W Chapman, Mrs L McCann, Mrs E M Murray, S G Sellers and Mrs P A Tucker, plus the Clerk be formed to look into the issues around the creation of a website for the Parish Council; and
c) That the question of Quality Parish Council status be revisited when all Councillors had had an opportunity to read the Quality Parish Council booklet or viewed it online.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Councillor Chapman reported on the need to ensure that the minutes correctly recorded Parish Council decisions and it was considered that a Sub-Group should be formed to look at the minutes to see if they were adequate to enable the Parish Council to go down the Quality Parish Council route if it so wished.

92. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That a Sub-Group comprised of Councillors R W Chapman, Mrs J Chessell and Mrs E M Murray, plus the Clerk be formed to look at the way the minutes were presented to ensure that they were acceptable in the event of the Parish Council seeking Quality status.

(Councillor Mrs McCann left the meeting at this point)

GRIMSARGH PARISH PLAN

It was agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting.

FRIENDS OF GRIMSARGH GREEN

Councillor Mrs Chessell presented a copy of the Friends of Grimsargh Green balance sheet and bank statement to the Parish Council together with a request for a grant of £5,000. 00 in 2010/11 to help to cover future costs. This request would be considered later in the meeting as part of the 2010/11 budget discussions. She then reported that FOGG was still waiting for Preston to come back with a revised quote for the car park and solar lighting was being priced in line with the planning permission. She also reported that a Notice Board was to be erected with information about the Pond and Wildflower Garden. All the proposed schemes plus other incidentals would leave FOGG with very little in the bank. £124. 00 was made at the VillageHall Christmas Fair. Finally, she indicated that FOGG had been invited to meet with other Preston Friends Groups at Avenham Park on the 15th December, 2009.

The Chairman said that, on behalf of the Parish Council and speaking for the residents of Grimsargh, he greatly appreciated the amount of work and the improvements that FOGG had carried out on the Village Green and thanked Councillor Mrs Chessell and FOGG members for all their hard work.

93. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION, 2009

Comments from the Judges in the Best Kept Village Competition, 2009, were presented. Grimsargh had not been placed in its entered categories but it had shown an improvement over previous years.

94. RESOLVED:- That the report be received.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Ms Rosie Green reported that she was hoping to arrange for residents from Redrow to help with a cleanup of the ponds on the estate. The Wildlife Trust would be assessing the ponds and may survey them to ascertain the wildlife that existed in them. It was suggested that "Ponds for People" might also be able to give some advice. Remedial litter picking would also be carried out and she was preparing a leaflet drop to seek out volunteers.

She also mentioned the "Britain in Bloom" Competition to see if there was interest in the village. This Competition required increased community involvement and was not solely about flowers. Councillor Mrs Tucker queried the support available to the youth of the village. It appeared that transition was now going well and the forthcoming works in the Village Hall might enable a "Chill Out" room to be created, but it was commented that more parental interest and involvement was required.

95. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That further information be obtained about the "Britain in Bloom" Competition.

THE NELLIE CARBIS MILLENNIUM WOODLAND

There was nothing to report in relation to the Millennium Woodland.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

A copy of the Lengthsman's time sheet for November, 2009 was presented for information. It was suggested that FOGG might be able to use the Lengthsman's hours to cover the labour costs of constructing a low barrier around the perimeter of the car park when it had been completed.

The Clerk then presented a letter from the Lengthsman requesting the Parish Council to consider a rise in his rate of pay. He had not received an increase in the four years he had worked for the Council, whilst the rates for other Lengthsmen had been significantly increased. After due discussion, it was proposed and seconded that the rate of pay be increased to £11. 50 per hour and this was agreed unanimously.

96. RESOLVED:- a) That the report be received; and
b) That the rate of pay for the Lengthsman be increased from £10. 00 per hour to £11. 50 per hour with effect from the 1st April, 2010.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET, 2010/11

A revised Financial Statement was presented showing the current position of the Parish Council, the likely position at the 31st March, 2010, and details of know estimated expenditure for 2010/11. FOGG had also asked the Parish Council to consider making a grant of £5,000. 00 to help with their costs during the year. After detailed discussion it was proposed and seconded that the Total Parish Requirement be increased by £500. 00 to £16,000. 00 in 2010/11. There being no further proposal, this was put to vote and was carried unanimously. It was, therefore:-

97. RESOLVED:- a) That Preston City Council be informed that the Total Parish Requirement for 2010/11 be increased by £500. 00 to £16,000. 00; and
b) That £5,000. 00 be allocated as a grant to the Friends of Grimsargh Green in the 2010/11 financial year.

CLERK'S SALARY ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

The Clerk presented details of his salary, expenses and allowances totalling £589. 99 for the period September to November, 2009, inclusive.

98. RESOLVED:- That approval be given to the payment of the Clerk's salary, allowances and expenses totalling £589. 99 for the period September to November, 2009, inclusive.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

99. RESOLVED:- That the following account be approved for payment:-

a	Adam Cooper (Payment to Lengthsman – November, 2009. 46 hours @ £10. 00 per hour. Includes £69. 00 V.A.T.)	-	£529. 00
b)	Peter J Croft (Clerk's Salary, etc., for the period September to November, 2009, inclusive)	-	£589. 99
c)	GVCA (Grant towards cost of Senior Citizen's Christmas	-	£150. 00

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|----|--|---|----------|
| d) | N W Air Ambulance
(Grant towards running costs of the North West Air Ambulance) | - | £200. 00 |
| e) | Jenkinsons
Purchase of 5 reams Yellow and 5 reams White A.4 paper plus C.4 envelopes. Inc £3. 94 V.A.T. | - | £30. 27 |

MATTERS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS

a) Councillor G T Swarbrick

Reported that Ms Rosie Green had been commended by the Area Forum for the work she had carried out since her appointment. Her work had been greatly appreciated by many people in the rural areas where she worked.

b) Councillor Mrs P A Tucker

Reported on a recent meeting of the Lancashire Police Forum, which addressed items such as alcohol related issues and comprised various Workshops. The Forum also involved agencies including the Police, Fire Service, etc.

c) Councillor Mrs E M Murray

- i) Asked about progress regarding the lighting to Old Railway Walk. The Clerk reported that contractors were currently working on site and the lights were expected to be lit shortly.
- ii) Commented that the traffic signals at Bluebell Way appeared to be causing backing up problems, particularly during rush hour periods. This comment would be passed to the County Council.
- iii) Reported that the Over 60's party was to be held in the Village Hall on the 13th December, 2009 and persons wishing to attend should give their names no later than the 10th December, 2009

d) Councillor Mrs J Chessell

- i) Reported that, after the Wildflower Garden on the Village Green had been scythed, two full sacks of beer, lager, cider cans, etc., had been collected.
- ii) Expressed her concern about the shrubbery on the roundabout at the junction of Longridge Road and Bluebell Way which was becoming overgrown in places and obscured the view of traffic on the roundabout. This would be reported to the County Council.

Councillor T Davies

Requested that a copy of the correspondence from the Clerk relating to the bollards together with his reply be presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council. He also reported that residents of Old Station Close had expressed concern that trees at the side of the Club car park were becoming obtrusive and were taking light from the properties. The Clerk said that this issue had been raised with the Club on previous occasions and he would raise it with them again.

In closing the meeting at 9. 50 p.m., the Chairman extended his Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everybody present.

Chairman
7th January, 2010