

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 July, 2011 at Grimsargh Village Hall, at 7.30 pm

Present:- Councillors Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Ron Woollam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors A R Ellis ; Mrs J Chessell; Mrs Lynn McCann.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor N Cartwright – Preston Rural East
PC Chris Banks
PCSO Gemma Duxbury
3 Members of the public present

36. (11/12) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

37. (11/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Tom Davies – Preston Rural East. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Neil Cartwright.

38. (11/12) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 June, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. (11/12) Co-Option on to Grimsargh Parish Council and adoption of Protocol for dealing with Parish Council vacancies.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray welcomed Peter Burton to the meeting. Peter had come along to the meeting to put himself forward as a nominee for one of the vacancies on the Parish Council. It was noted that Peter had attended the last two meeting of the Parish Council and had fulfilled the criteria contained in the draft protocol for dealing with Grimsargh Parish Council vacancies. Peter gave a quick resume about himself. He told the Parish Council that he had lived in Grimsargh for the last 13 years and he had two children aged 13 and 8 years old. He had been involved with Grimsargh Field Day for 8 years and was now looking for a new challenge. The Chairman said that Peter would make an excellent addition to the Parish Council and all agreed.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray also referred to the draft protocol for dealing with vacancies on the Parish Council that had been circulated for comment and approval. This was agreed.

Resolved

That Peter Burton is Co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect and that the draft protocol for dealing with vacancies on the Parish Council as now presented is approved.

Councillor Peter Burton than signed the acceptance of office form. It was noted that the Parish Council still had two vacancies and these would be filled in line with the protocol and hopefully the Parish Council would be in a position to fill these outstanding vacancies at their September meeting

40. (11/12) Adjournment for Public Participation, Policing Issues and discussion on issues raised at the recent Redrow drop-in meeting

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks and PCSO Gemma Duxbury to the meeting. PC Banks explained that PC Ian Zanelli would not be returning to his current role and that at the moment PC Banks would continue policing Grimsargh. One of the major issues for discussion at the moment was the consultation by Lancashire Constabulary to close a number of police stations throughout the County. Of particular concern was the intended closure of Broughton Police Station. The Parish Council felt that this would be a devastating blow to Grimsargh as the police house in Grimsargh has also closed and rural areas needed a different type of policing. Without a local police presence the reduction in crime rates that had taken a lot of work to achieve would be lost.

The Chairman asked PC Banks what would happen if Broughton closed and where would the Police be based. PC Banks did not know but it was likely that all the police would be based in Preston as that was the nearest station.

Councillor Mrs Chessell said this was a short term fix for financial reasons but it did not make sense. Police officers would have to travel further and that would increase their costs for petrol etc and the local knowledge and involvement by the police was at risk of being lost.

A member of the public commented that the police were absolutely needed in rural areas and the idea of Broughton Police station being closed was ridiculous.

It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would object in the strongest terms to the closure of Broughton Police Station and that Ben Wallace MP should also receive a copy of our concerns. In addition the Parish Council were also concerned about the poor communication with regards to the transfer of PC Zanelli and that Lancashire Police should also be made aware of the Parish Council's disappointment in the handling of this.

PC Banks also gave an update on recent police activities in the area. He highlighted the recent Grimsargh Festival which has been the best ever seen and that there had been no major issues on the day. PC Banks was also developing close links with the local schools and school children.

PC Banks informed the Parish Council that there has been three crimes this period including one of damage to property on Longridge Road (18 June); one theft from property of two strips of lead (13 June); and one assault that involved a husband and wife.

PC Banks asked everyone to be extremely vigilant with regard to the theft of lead and scrap. He gave details of three vans that had been suspected of being involved with these thefts but emphasised that people should contact the police if they were concerned.

With regard to Farm Watch it was noted that 90 farms had signed up to this and it worked in a similar way to Neighbourhood Watch. There had also been an issue with parking on Douglas Lane and this had been raised with the police and the owners of the vehicles had been advised accordingly.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann asked about getting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme up and running again. It was noted that the next PACT meeting would be held on 14 July.

The Chairman thanked both Chris and Gemma for attending the meeting and keeping the Parish Council up to date.

The Chairman referred to the recent Redrow meeting that had been held with local residents and she expressed her delight with the amount of attendees at the meeting. There was a great deal of support for a Residents Association and the Parish Council agreed to support and help local people in setting up an Association. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the room hire at the village hall for a couple of meetings to help get things moving.

Councillor Mrs Chessell said it would be useful for a member of the Parish Council to be on the Residents Association and it was agreed that this could be discussed at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman explained that one of the issues that had been raised at the Redrow meeting was the process for signing off completed developments by Preston City Council and the issue of maintenance such as grass cutting. It was noted that in addition to the Redrow estate not being signed off, the Hills Estate although 15 years old also had not been handed over by the developer. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Chris Hayward at the Planning Department to find out about this process.

Concern was also raised about the lack of communication with the Parochial Church Council especially with regard to the proposed foot path. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to all members of the Parochial Church Council asking for a meeting to discuss this issue with them. Further concern was raised about the church car park and that the grass needed cutting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should also get quotes for the resurfacing of the outside of the parish store.

A member of the public also raised the issue of the ribbons from Field Day still being on the telegraph poles and Councillor Peter Burton agreed to follow this up to get the ribbons removed as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell raised the issue of the ruts left on the village green following the field day. It was noted that Preston City Council may be able to help to deal with this.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

41. (11/12) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The following planning applications were presented:-

- 06/2011/0449 - Fir Trees Farm, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JS – Change of use of playing field to domestic cartilage and erection of single storey extension to south elevation.
- 06/2011/0520 - 9 Maple Grove, Grimsargh, PR2 5LP – Erection of dormer extension to front and first floor and single storey extensions to rear of dwelling.
- 06/2011/0508 - St Michaels C of E Primary School, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5SD – cladding of nursery building, creation of new soft play area and erection of associated fencing.
- 06/2011/0480 - Silver Birches, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LH – Conversion of and extension to existing outbuilding to form 1 no dwelling.
- 06/2011/0481 - Silver Birches, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LH – erection of 5no detached dwellings and construction of new access to Whittingham Lane following demolition of existing dwelling.

Resolved

- 1) That no observations be offered in respect of planning applications 06/2011/0449 and 06/2011/0520.
- 2) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2011/0508 that the Parish Council have no objection to the works being carried out but object to the blue cladding as this is not in keeping with the environment and does not blend in with the remainder of the school buildings that are painted in a soft cream. It was noted that the cladding does come in a variety of colours so a muted cream would not increase the costs of the project for the school.
- 3) With regard to Planning Applications 06/2011/0480 and 06/2011/0481 that the Parish Council objects to these Planning Applications on the grounds of increased traffic and health and safety especially with regard to the lack

of lighting on Whittingham Lane which would make the new access to the road dangerous for pedestrians and vehicles.

It was further noted that Preston City Council had approved the following Planning Applications:-

- 06/2011/0308 - Chapel House Farm Barn, Elston Lane, Grimsargh, PR2 5LE – Alterations to external elevations.
- 06/2011/0407 - 208 Preston Road, Grimsargh – Change of use from showroom with ancillary police office (Sui Generis) to residential dwelling (Class C3).
- 06/2011/0405 - Erection of attached garage to side of dwelling (following demolition of existing garage).

The Parish Council also supported the suggestion from Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council re the e mail circulated to the Parish Council on Planning Applications.

42. (11/12) Adoption of Updated Terms of Reference for the Preston Guild Working Group and discussion regarding the appointment of a Co-Ordinator for the Group

The Chairman, Councillor Eileen Murray thanked Councillor Joyce Chessell for drafting out the revised Terms of Reference for the Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group.

The Terms of Reference for the Group were agreed as follows:-

The group shall be known as the Grimsargh Parish Council Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group.

Membership shall consist of 2 members of the parish council and any individual or group interested in holding an event to celebrate Preston Guild during 2012 and /or specifically during Grimsargh Guild week from the 16th to the 23rd of June. All parish Councillors are welcome to attend meetings.

It is acknowledged that some groups have been established for some time, hold annual events and will therefore probably need less support than others, but will be included in the programme of events.

The Parish Council will not be liable for individual events held throughout the year. The group will meet every (to be confirmed).

Specific Objectives

The working group will -

- Identify a calendar of events for 2012
- Produce a programme of events for Grimsargh Guild week
- Clarify the individual / groups responsible for each event

- Discuss the requirements for Health and Safety procedures
- Discuss those events requiring Public indemnity Insurance
- Identify funding sources
- Identify suitable sites for publicity.
- Discuss issues and concerns raised by individuals during the meetings

The Chairman explained that Pat Tucker had kindly agreed to Chair the meetings at the moment but a Co-Ordinator was needed to take over this role. It was agreed that the vacancy for the Co-Ordinators position would be advertised on the website.

Resolved

That the terms of reference for the Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group are agreed as set out in the report now presented and that the vacancy for a Co-Ordinator for the group is advertised on the Parish Council website.

43. (11/12) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. It was noted that litter picking would be held on 14 July at 2pm on the village green. Also the Britain in Bloom judging would take place on 21 July at 4pm on the village green. The AGM would be held on 19 July at 7.30pm in the Plough Inn.

With regard to the play area a local resident had raised his concerns about the lack of play equipment for the over 12 age. This is something that needed looking at for the village in the near future. Councillor Mrs Chessell also informed the meeting that the hedge laying training days would take place between 24-30 October and she asked everyone interested to let her have their preferred dates.

It was noted that a grant had been received from Green Partnership of £500 towards the hedge laying workshops. A further grant from Small Sparks was awaiting approval from Lancashire County Council.

It was further noted that the problem with the car park was still unresolved. Pye's have suggested tarmac the affected area at a cost of £2,300 approximately or re doing the affected surface as before. FoGG were still awaiting the comments from Preston City Council on this.

Councillor Mrs Chessell also raised FoGG's concern about the tipping of grass cuttings yet again in the area of the cricket pitch and alongside the hedge which will be the focus of the workshops in October. It was felt that this should be mentioned to the cricket club and also the Clerk could ask Adam to build a composter for the grass cuttings on the field.

There was a general discussion about the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. It was agreed that Councillor Ron Woollam would look at this through the Conservation Area Working Group.

There was a further discussion about the provision of toilets on the village green. Councillor Andy Ellis said it was better to leave this at the moment until the playground is finished then to carry out a survey about toilet provision.

It was noted that at the last meeting Councillor Tom Davies had agreed to look at providing a map of who owned what land in the village as it thought this would be useful when moving surplus play equipment. However Councillor Davies had now provided the Clerk with an application for Land Registry information. This seemed the only way to obtain information and details of who owned what land, but would appear to be costly as separate applications were needed for each piece of land.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

44. (11/12) Sponsorship of Planters

Councillor Ron Woollam informed the Parish Council that he had met with Signs Express with regard to small sponsorship signs for the planters. With regard to the sign on the pre-school planter it was noted that complaints had been received about the size of the sign and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the pre-school group to ask them to reduce the size of the sign as it had been agreed that only a small sign should go on the planters.

With regard to the judging of the planters all agreed that judging along the lines of "Come dine with me" with each scoring the others planters might be fun.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

45. (11/12) Clerk's Training for Quality Status

The Clerk reported that the training course for Clerks was due to start in September for 6 months. The cost of the course would be £150 to LALC for the course and £150 to SLCC for registration. It was noted that Grimsargh Parish Council would qualify for a bursary towards the cost of the course of around £100. Farington Parish Council would pay the registration to SLCC as the Clerk worked for both Councils and the course would be beneficial to both. This was agreed.

46. (11/12) Draft Complaints Procedure

It was noted that it was good practice for a Parish Council to have a Complaints Procedure in place. A draft procedure had been circulated by the Clerk for comments and approval at the meeting.

Resolved

That the draft Complaints Procedure as now presented is approved by the Parish Council.

47. (11/12) Financial Matters, Update on Audit Arrangements and Banking

It was noted that we currently had around £17,230.14 in the bank – bank statement up to 1 June 2011.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Preston City Council - £100 fee for uncontested election.
- Preston City Council – Newsletter printing - £416.73.
- Councillor Mrs E Murray – reimbursement for purchase of Barrels and Compost - £105.55.
- Donna Kidd – Internal audit fee - £50.00.
- Adam Cooper – Purchase of materials including timber, compost, paint and weedkiller £110.00 + £22.00 VAT – total £132.00
- Adam Cooper 57 hours at £11.50 - £655.50 + VAT @20% - £131.10 – total £786.60. Note one cheque covering no 5 & no 6 = total to Adam Cooper - £918.60.
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 6 June 13 June, 20 June and 27 June – 4 weeks = £320.00

2) It was noted that the internal audit had now been completed and the financial documents had now been submitted to BDO who are the external auditors.

3) The Parish Council approved the authorisation of four cheques for the Clerk to use during the summer break in order to pay any urgent accounts and also to ensure that the Lengthsman and Clerk were paid on time.

48. (11/12) Clerk's Report – for information

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

Lengthsman's duties

Adam Cooper asked to cut the hedge at Nellie Carbis and empty the bin – should be done this week.

Also to trim the tree overhanging the bus stop near Lindale Drive – also should be done this week. (Raised by Cllr Mrs Chessell).

Photographs and Councillor information for website

The Clerk asked for all Councillors to send her a small paragraph about them to put on the website. And also a photograph of each of you – taken in the last couple of years to be e mailed to the Clerk for our website.

Flag and Flagpole for village green

Approached Preston City Parks Dept and Councillor Tom Davies re flag and flagpole for the village green. Councillor Davies has informed me verbally that we can go ahead – and that we will not need Planning Permission. An item will appear on Sept agenda to approve purchase and location on village green of flagpole. It was noted at the meeting that FoGG were being consulted on this.

Preston Road – Overhanging tree over speed limit sign

This has been reported to LCC who are dealing with this. (Raised by Cllr Andy Ellis).

Missing Boundary Sign

Chased Paula Dunne – Public Realm Manager regarding our boundary sign and he has asked Eric Melling to contact me about replacing the sign. I will now chase Eric for further information.

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported that she was working on both of these and they will be presented to the Parish Council at the Sept/Oct meetings. Budget will also be drafted out for consideration at the September meeting – so if anyone has any expenditure that they want to be included please e mail me in the first instance so we can include it for approval by the full Parish Council.

General

It was noted that the September Agenda would be distributed a week earlier than normal due to the Clerk being on holiday.

Councillor Tom Davies has advised the Clerk that the bin on Railway Walk should be in place shortly and also the dog bins were being replaced with larger dual purpose dog/litter bins but he was unsure when these will be in place.

49. (11/12) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 1 September, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.