

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 2 April, 2015 in the Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton – Chairman

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Damian Perkins – Managing Director JWS Lancashire Ltd
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 April 2014

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 3 April, 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman

3. Chairman's Report 2014/2015

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton gave his report on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months.

He welcomed the addition of Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson on to the Parish Council and said they had settled well in their roles. The Parish Council had concentrated on two main issues during the last 12 months these were planning and the wetlands project. With regard to planning, the Chairman said that unfortunately Wainhomes had won their appeal and we were currently fighting the proposed development by Gladman's for land off Preston Road. We would shortly be preparing our case against their appeal but we had won round one. The wetlands was an ongoing project and we were looking forward to acquiring the wetlands hopefully within the next year.

The Chairman said we were currently looking at providing CCTV in the village; the newsletters were well received; the take up on the hub was not great but we would keep this going; our website and Facebook pages received regular viewings and we had a great result in the Best Kept Village Competition. He also said that the planters had been well supported and the Parish Council was well represented on the Preston Area Committee (PAC) and the Three Tier Forum. With regard to our grant scheme, we had not received a huge amount of applications but those we did receive were well thought out and the Parish Council had been happy to support these.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Neil Cartwright and Councillor Tom Davies as the City Councillors who regularly attended our meetings and gave us valuable support. The Chairman also thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work.

4. Matters raised by the Electors

The Chairman then welcomed Damian Perkins to the meeting who had come along to discuss the Planning Application for JWS Lancashire Ltd and to allay any fears and concerns about the proposal for extended working hours at the site. Damian explained that he had just been appointed Managing Director of the site and he had lived in Grimsargh for nine years. It was likely that the Planning Application would be considered by Lancashire County Council in May. As far as he was aware there was around nine objection letters that had been submitted to the County Council. The noise survey had been done and this had been carried out over a 24 hour period for three days and not only in the day time as some residents had thought. Damian explained that odour had been an issue in the past but there had been no further incidents in the last 12 months. The site was not receiving any contaminated plastics such as milk bottles as these had caused odour issues previously. Damian explained that there would not be any traffic movements after 9pm and the amended licence would in reality mean less traffic movements overall. The site would need to run on a 24 hour basis to make it more commercially viable as a great deal of money was being invested in the new machinery. It was expected that around 45 people would be working at the site. With regard to concerns about lighting, Damian explained that there would not be any additional lighting and the current lighting was the only lighting that would be in use. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell asked if some improvements could be made to the front of the building with regard to landscaping and to make it look better for local residents. Damian said that he would have a look at this. It was noted that the Parish Council had received one email raising concerns about the Planning Application and that these points had been covered in Damian's explanation. The Chairman said that unfortunately every time there was a problem on the industrial site, people automatically blamed the JWS site and it was not factually correct as there had been problems with other businesses on the site. Damian said that everyone was welcome to come and look at the site and he gave his contact details so that people could arrange a visit to the site if they wished. It was agreed that an item should be put in our newsletter about the site and we could also use our Facebook page to keep residents up to date with developments at the site. The Chairman thanked Damian for coming along to the meeting and giving an update to the Parish Council.

Councillor David Hindle referred to the wetlands and people trespassing on the wetlands and disturbing breeding birds. The Clerk would contact United Utilities to see what they could do about this.

Councillor David Hindle also referred to a letter he had received from a local resident about parking on grass verges in the village. Councillor Hindle felt that the police should monitor the situation and was concerned about the police taking the approach that as long as a pram/wheelchair could pass the parked cars then this was acceptable. There was also the damage to the grass verges that needed to be considered. It was agreed that an item should be placed in the next newsletter reminding people about considerate parking in the village.

There being no further business raised the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 pm.