

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 5 April, 2018 in the Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh at 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson – Chairman

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Ian Liptrot and City Councillor Neil Cartwright.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 April 2017

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 6 April, 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman

3. Chairman's Report 2017/2018

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave her report on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months. She said that her third year as Chairman had been another very busy one, and fortunately we had not lost any members so continue to field a full team. In May we were very pleased to welcome Ron Woollam as our new City Councillor.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that disappointingly after our success in 2016, we didn't feature anywhere in the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition last year – so we must do better!

She said that in June the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust was established as a Charitable Trust. We have continued to offer advice and support through the early stages – thanks must go in particular to Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray for an enormous amount of hands on time – and they will fly on 4th July with their first AGM. The amount of remedial work already undertaken on the Wetlands, led by the Trustees with a regular group of volunteers, is already astounding.

The Chairman reported that in September we had another very enjoyable afternoon tea and presentation for our Best Planter Competition, hosted at Little Town Dairy. Prizes were presented by our independent judge Michelle Unsworth of So Plants. The winner's trophy this year went to Nellie and Philip Cowell with second prize to Eileen Murray and third to Peter Croft. It was pleasing to note that our last unloved planter, on old Railway Walk, has now been adopted by the Ashmore family and had already been perked up

no end. Thanks go to all those who put so much effort into keeping the planters around the village looking delightful.

The Chairman reported that once again, planning issues had featured during the year; many smaller applications, but one large one.

In February, despite our strong objections and representations made to the Planning Committee, Applethwaite Homes were given permission for an 'Older Persons Village' – a development of bungalows, apartments, a care home and GP surgery on a greenfield site next to the Nellie Carbis Garden.

The Chairman also said that we continue to wrangle with the complexities of Neighbourhood Planning. The results of our whole village questionnaire were analysed independently over Xmas and we were complimented both by the Analysts and by our planning consultant on the quality of the document; however, there remains a huge amount of work yet to do, both on the policy writing side and the Parish Action plan side, some of which has tentatively begun.

It was noted that work had also been done to make general improvements around the village using our small share of the Community Infrastructure Levy or money from the Solar Farm donation; new larger bins and a doggie bag dispenser along Old Railway Walk, were being well used.

The Chairman said that two grants had been awarded; one to Grimsargh Preschool for four new playmats, which were well used, and also to the Longridge Cluster schools as a contribution towards the cost of The Great War Remembrance Project.

The Chairman reported that as a Parish Council we aim for continuous improvement in our communications with residents; we have our twice yearly newsletter, our Website is kept up to date, and our Facebook page has increased in following from 342 to 460 over this year, and is well used, as is the messenger facility. In September David Hindle and I appeared in a short film on YouTube made by United Utilities telling the story of the transfer of Grimsargh Wetlands to the community and more recently we also took part in a live Radio Lancashire interview on the same topic. In June we had our own float and marquee at Field Day to help spread the word about our Neighbourhood Plan.

She also said that we continue to be active in regular Preston Area Committee meetings and had attended LALC conferences and Annual general meetings – keeping us up to date with local and national issues.

Finally, the Chairman said that she would like to say a huge thankyou to all those without whose support our job would be so much more difficult. Our City Councillors Neil Cartwright and Ron Woollam, always there to offer help. The local policeman, PC Chris Banks, who despite enormous pressure attends our meetings as often as he is able to share vital information. The members of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering group – both Councillors and residents – who continue to give up their time to progress this vital piece of work.

My fellow Councillors, always ready to step up to the mark, fight our corner, and help with last minute tasks; and last but by no means least, our Clerk Sue Whittam. Once again she has provided me personally and the Council with so much support and advice. The Chairman said we really are fortunate to have such a strong team.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for her hard work and commitment to the Parish Council and doing such a stoic job. This was unanimously agreed.

4. Matters raised by the Electors

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson welcomed Bob Wallbank to the meeting who had come along to give an update on the Planning Application submitted by the Cricket Club and to also submit a grant application form to the Parish Council to support the improvement works.

Mr Wallbank gave a quick resume of the background to the Planning Application and said that due to the Cricket Club being promoted it meant that improvement works needed to be carried out including a separate umpires changing room to fulfil the obligations of playing in Division 1A. Mr Wallbank was pleased to report that the Planning Application had now been agreed by Preston City Council and he submitted to the Parish Council the costs of the improvement works together with the grant application form.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked Mr Wallbank for attending the meeting and advised that the Parish Council would consider the grant application at their Ordinary Meeting that immediately followed this Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also informed the Parish Council that a resident had been in touch regarding the state of the footpaths from the bridge to the old vicarage. Councillor Ron Woollam said that he would contact Lancashire County Council about this to see what could be done.

In addition to this the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also reported that a resident had contacted the Parish Council about the temporary fence around the pond on Douglas Lane and had asked when the permanent fence would be replaced as it was unsightly and possibly dangerous. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that she would be attending a meeting together with the Clerk and Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell with the Head of Parks and Neighbourhood Services on 17 April 2018 and she would raise the issue of the temporary fence at the meeting and ask when it would be replaced.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20 pm.

Chairman Grimsargh Parish Council