**Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 April 2018 following the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.00 pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

**Present:-** Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council

 Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council

**159. (17/18) Apologies for Absence/ Chairman’s Health & Safety Announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Ian Liptrot and Councillor Neil Cartwright (Preston City Council). The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening’s meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also said that the Grant Application for Grimsargh Cricket Club would be considered at the end of the meeting as an Item of Urgent Business. It was noted that any matters raised by Electors at the Annual Parish Meeting could legally be discussed at the following Ordinary Meeting.

**160. (17/18) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**161. (17/18) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 March 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**162. (17/18) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following Planning Application:-

06/2018/0244 - 339 Preston Road, Grimsargh.

Outline planning application for 4no dwellings and associated works (access applied for only).

With regard to Planning Application 06/2018/0244, it was noted that this was similar to a previous application for this site that the Parish Council did not at that time object to as it was on a brownfield site. However, we had recently carried out an extensive survey as part of our evidence for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh and the results from the consultation show that people do not want any more large four bedroom houses in the village and their preference was for bungalows and smaller properties that are affordable homes with a local connection. There was also very little interest in self-build properties.

Taking into account the above, the Parish Council agreed to object to this Planning Application.

It was also noted that there was an application to have five Lime trees removed at

Church House Farm reference 06/2018/0333. Although the Parish Council were not

consulted on tree works they agreed to make some comments for consideration by

the Planning Officer. The Parish Council were aware that the report from the

Arborist had stated that the trees were in poor condition and needed to be removed.

However he was recommending that replacement trees were planted and suggested

Oak trees rather than Lime trees. The Parish Council agreed with this suggested

way forward and asked the Clerk to reply on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk

also agreed to copy her email to Councillor Ron Woollam so he could also support

the replacement of the trees.

There were no further planning issues to be considered by the Parish Council.

 **Resolved**

1) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2018/0244, it was noted that this was similar to a previous application for this site that the Parish Council did not at that time object to as it was on a brownfield site. However, we had recently carried out an extensive survey as part of our evidence for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh and the results from the consultation show that people do not want any more large four bedroom houses in the village and their preference was for bungalows and smaller properties that are affordable homes with a local connection. There was also very little interest in self-build properties. Taking this into account the Parish Council agreed to object to this Planning Application.

2) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2018/0333 for the removal of five Lime trees at Church House Farm, it was agreed that the Clerk would ask for the trees to be replaced with Oak trees as suggested by the Arborist and that Councillor Ron Woollam would be copied into the email so that he could also support the replacement of the trees.

**163. (17/18) Grimsargh Wetlands - update**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that there had been fantastic changes to the Wetlands and that the Wetlands Trust and volunteers were doing a superb job. The Wetlands Trust was having a stall at the Farmers Market on 21 April and they would be selling books and DVD’s to raise money for the Wetlands. The membership would be launched soon and as previously agreed the Parish Council would become Corporate Members with Councillor Terry Cryer being the Parish Council representative at the Annual General Meeting. It was noted that the Wetlands Trust had agreed that the cost of Corporate Membership was £50 and it was agreed that this should be paid when membership was available.

With regards to the Lease, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray was working with the Secretary to the Trust Jayne Woollam and their Solicitor to finalise the details. It was also noted that the Wetlands Trust had submitted a bid to the Lancashire Environmental Fund and a decision was expected in July 2018.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson explained that with regard to the investment of “Wetlands” and Parish Council funds, when United Utilities handed over the dowry with the Wetlands it was not ring fenced. However, the Parish Council had agreed to ring fence the money for the Wetlands but needed to ensure that this money would last as long as possible. As previously agreed by the Parish Council £200,000 would be invested. This was made up of £100,000 from the Wetlands and £100,000 from the Parish Council. The additional Parish Council meeting to discuss how to invest the funds with Cheetham Jackson would be held on 18 April at 7pm at the Village Hall.

**Resolved**

1) That approval is given for the Clerk to pay the £50 to the Wetlands Trust for the Parish Council to become Corporate Members as soon as the membership is available.

2) That the report is received and noted.

**164. (17/18) Neighbourhood Planning - update**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that a meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group had been held on 21 March 2018, when the Steering Group discussed ideas for the vision, aims and objectives in line with the themed areas from our report. She said that Tim Brown our Planner had attended the meeting and had given a good clear steer on matters that needed to be policy and those that were community or Parish Action points. The next stage was for the Chairman and Clerk to meet with Chris Blackburn who was the new Head of Planning Policy to look at what evidence Preston City Council could supply and how they could support the development of our Neighbourhood Plan.

**Resolved**

That the update on the Neighbourhood Plan is received and noted.

**165. (17/18) Lancashire County Council – Consultations**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following Lancashire County Council Consultations:-

i) Consultation on Transport Information Centres. It was noted that the closing date for comments was 29 April 2018.

ii) Consultation on Proposed Changes to Disabled Persons NoWcard Scheme. It was noted that the closing date for comments was 21 May 2018.

The Parish Council agreed not to make any comments on both of the above consultations.

**Resolved**

That the Parish Council agrees not to make any comments on the Lancashire County Council Consultation on Transport information Centres and also on the Consultation on Proposed Changes to Disabled Person NoWcard Scheme.

**166. (17/18) Additional items of expenditure**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following items of expenditure:-

i) Purchase of trees for Douglas Lane/grass verges

This item had been put on the Agenda to look at a solution to prevent vehicles cutting across the kerb on the corner of Douglas Lane, and it was suggested that two or three trees planted on the corner may be a way forward as there were already trees planted in the vicinity. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should contact Preston City Council to advise that the Parish Council was willing to pay for additional trees and ask if the City Council could advise on the most suitable trees and possibly order and plant them and the Parish Council would reimburse the cost. As it was Preston City Council land they would also need to give their approval. It was further agreed that the Clerk would copy Councillor Ron Woollam into the email to Preston City Council so he could support this request.

ii) Donation to British Red Cross (for defibrillator training)

It was noted that Peter Bond was running the defibrillator training at the Village Hall on 20 April 2018 and he had previously run a session for the Parish Council free of charge. Peter did not want paying for any courses that he ran on our behalf but he asked that if the Parish Council did want to make a donation to the British Red Cross then this would be very much appreciated.

It was therefore agreed that a donation of £100 is given to the British Red Cross on behalf of the defibrillator training given by Peter Bond to the Parish Council.

iii) Purchase of dog waste bin bags

The Clerk reported that the supply of dog waste bin bags was running low and it was agreed that the Clerk should be able to order this as frequently as necessary to ensure that bags were available in the Parish Council dog bag dispenser.

iv) Repairs to Parish Council Store

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had previously approved £1,000 in the budget to cover the repairs to the Parish Council Store. However, Adam Cooper the Contractor for the Parish Council had now estimated the work and it was likely to be between £1,300 and £1,500. It was therefore agreed to authorise this expenditure to repair the Parish Council Store.

v) Clerk’s salary

The Clerk left the room for the discussion on her salary. On returning to the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Clerk that her salary would be increased by 2% from 1st April 2018 and that when the revised salary scales were received from NALC then the salary would be reviewed again as appropriate.

**Resolved**

i) That with regard to the purchase of trees for Douglas Lane, the Parish Council agrees to pay for the additional trees and that the Clerk contacts Preston City Council for advice on the most suitable trees to be planted, and permission for this to go ahead. In addition a copy of the email sent to Preston City Council is copied to Councillor Ron Woollam so he can support the Parish Council’s request.

ii) It was agreed that a donation of £100 would be given to the British Red Cross on behalf of the defibrillator training given by Peter Bond to the Parish Council.

iii) With regard to the purchase of dog waste bin bags it was agreed that the Clerk should be given permission to order replacement bags as frequently as necessary to ensure that bags were available in the Parish Council dog bag dispenser.

iv) The Parish Council agreed to authorise the expenditure of up to £1,500 to cover the repair works to the Parish Council Store.

v) The Parish Council agreed to increase the Clerk’s salary by 2% with effect from 1st April 2018 and this would be reviewed again as appropriate when the revised salary scales were received from NALC.

**167. (17/18) June Newsletter**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson confirmed that the following items would be included in the June newsletter and reminded everyone to have their items ready for sign off at the May meeting:-

Neighbourhood Planning and Wetlands item – Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray/Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson

Spotlight on the Post Office

Field Day – Councillor Keith Middlebrough

Grants (to include the Cricket Club) – the Clerk

Best Kept Village – Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson

Planning Update – Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray

Bins/dog fouling – Councillor Peter Burton

**168. (17/18) LALC Spring Conference – 28 April 2018**

The Parish Council gave consideration to attending the LALC Spring Conference on 28 April 2018 at a cost of £35 each. After discussion it was agreed that unfortunately that no one was able to attend on this occasion.

**169. (17/18) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £223,639.75 in the Nat West bank as at 5 March 2018. We were still awaiting the April bank statement.

It was also noted that since the last meeting the following invoice had been paid:-

Groundwork UK repayment of NP grant under spend - £1,369.71 (Cheque no 902).

**Resolved**

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment:-

i) LALC – annual subscription invoice - £331.65 (Cheque no 903).

ii) The Clerk, Sue Whittam 4,11,18 and 25 March = £1115.20 – tax and NI and pension contribution = £818.22 (Cheque no 904).

iii) Adam Cooper contractor – hours and materials to be confirmed at the May meeting. (Cheques 904/905).

iv) John Gornall for emergency tree works on Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland - £200. (Cheque 896).

2) Additional cheques were signed to cover expenditure incurred before the next Parish Council meeting on 10 May 2018 including the Clerk’s salary, Contractor payments and to cover the additional items of expenditure as agreed earlier at the meeting.

3) It was noted that that the cheque agreed at the last meeting for Glasdon’s for the bench on the village green still needs to be submitted to Glasdon’s.

4) It was further noted that an additional form needed signing for the N &SI account regarding the change of signatories and this was circulated for each person present to sign. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she would take the form to Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Councillor Ian Liptrot to obtain their signatures as they were not present at the meeting.

5) The Clerk reminded that those Councillors who needed to go to the Nat West bank with their ID so they could be included as the signatories on that account should do so as soon as possible.

**170. (17/18) Clerk’s Report – for information only**

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

**171. (17/18) Item of Urgent Business – Grant Application Grimsargh Cricket Club**

As agreed earlier the Parish Council gave consideration to an Item of Urgent Business which was a grant application from Grimsargh Cricket Club towards the new changing facilities for the umpires on the Village Green. The application was urgent as the new changing facilities needed to be in place before the new cricket season began at the end of the month.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson read out to the Parish Council the detailed costs of the project which came to a total of £5,784 including VAT. The Cricket Club Members had agreed to pay their subscriptions in advance to help fund the project and they had also applied to the Moore and Smalley Palace Shield Cricket Competition Development Fund.

It was proposed by Councillor Keith Middlebrough that £3,000 was given to the Cricket Club for this project and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and unanimously agreed by all present at the meeting. It was further agreed that this money would be funded from the solar power farm allocation.

**Resolved**

That a grant of £3,000, from the Parish Council’s solar power farm allocation, is given to Grimsargh Cricket Club towards the new changing facilities for the umpires on the Village Green.

**172. (17/18) Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the Annual Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 10 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.