

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6 April, 2023 following the Annual Parish Meeting held at Grimsargh Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Trevor Haines; Councillor Simon Rusling and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council.

141. (22/23) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

142 . (22/23) Declarations of Interest

None.

143. (22/23) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

144. (22/23) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

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|--------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 06/2023/0156 | - | 42 Lindale Avenue, Grimsargh
Link extension between dwelling and garage, alterations to garage including new roof and rear canopy, and single storey rear extension, following removal of existing sunroom and greenhouse. |
| 06/2023/0113 | - | Church House Barn, Preston Road, Grimsargh
1.5 storey garage and office building, following removal of shipping container. |

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2023/0156 and 06/2023/0113 the Parish Council had no comments to make on the applications.

There were no further planning matters for discussion at the meeting.

Resolved

That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2023/0156 and 06/2023/0113 the Parish Council had no comments to make on the applications.

145. (22/23) Grant Applications

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following grant applications: -

i) Grimsargh St Michaels PTFA – hire of toilets for school circus event.
The Parish Council considered the grant application and supporting documentation and agreed to award a grant of £200 to cover the hire of the toilets for the event.

ii) Grimsargh Juniors Football Club – support for setting up the Club.
The Parish Council considered the grant application and supporting documentation and although they were very supportive of setting up a Juniors Football Club in the village, they felt that the grant was a little premature and they needed further information and assurance of the support, including the setting up of a bank account and the relevant signatories before they could award a grant. They asked if the applicant could provide further information when available and also to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to update them on progress.

Resolved

- i) That a grant of £200 is awarded to Grimsargh St Michaels PTFS for the hire of toilets for the school circus event.
- ii) That with regard to Grimsargh Juniors Football Club, that the applicant is informed that although the Parish Council are very supportive of setting up a Juniors Football club in the village, they would need to see further information and also assurance regarding the Club and the setting up of a bank account with the relevant signatories before they could award a grant. They agreed to ask the applicant for further information when available and to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to update them on progress.

146. (22/23) Recycling Lives

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had circulated to the Parish Council some notes outlining her concerns regarding the latest fire at Recycling Lives on 12th March. The Parish Council were aware of a number of fires at this site over the last few years, but this recent fire had been particular fierce and omitted smoke and odour covering the whole village. This was particular bad for residents who had long term health conditions such as COPD. The Clerk had also received an update from the Environment Agency who regulated the site and they had advised that a thorough investigation into the fire was being carried out in conjunction with the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and that a joint inspection had been carried out on 21 March 2023. They were unable to comment further until the investigation had concluded.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said he had looked into the background of the site and they did not deal with electric car batteries, which were known to be a potential fire risk, so the Parish Council would have to wait until we had all the details of the investigation which would determine the cause. A number of Parish Councillors raised concerns about the site and the impact of the fire on the traffic and roads which caused issues for a number of hours.

The Parish Council agreed to ask the Clerk to write to Sir Mark Hendrick MP who was the Member of Parliament for the area covering the location of the site, detailing the concerns of the Parish Council and to ask what was being put in place to reduce any further fires at the site. It was also agreed to ask the Environment Agency to keep the Parish Council informed of outcome of the investigation.

Resolved

- i) That the Clerk writes to Sir Mark Hendrick MP regarding Recycling Lives, outlining the concerns of the Parish Council and asks what is being put in place to reduce any further fires at the site.
- ii) That the Clerk writes to the Environment Agency to ask that the Parish Council is kept informed of the outcome of the investigation into the recent fire at Recycling Lives.

147. (22/23) King Charles III Coronation Working Group

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam and Councillor Simon Rusling gave an update on the event being held at the Village Hall on Sunday 7th May. The free tickets and flyer were being produced and would be advertised on social media. Councillor Simon Rusling said he would forward the invoice from the band to the Clerk for payment. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that a large Coronation cake had been arranged and she would look to see if she could purchase any bunting within the budget allocated.

Resolved

That the update on the event to be held on 7th May is received and noted.

148. (22/23) Best Kept Village Competition

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that she would contact the planter “parents” to make sure they were still happy to look after their planters and see if they needed any additional help. It was noted that the Cricket Club planter and the planter looked after by Brenda Croft needed topping up with soil and compost, so the Lengthsman would be asked to do this. Likewise, the Lengthsman would be asked to ensure all the seats were clean and moss free. Councillor Trevor Haines had also volunteered to help with preparing the village for the Best Kept Village Competition and would liaise with Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam to make sure the village was looking its best in time for the first round of judging in June.

The Clerk would also arrange for the bus shelters to be cleaned at the end of May.

Resolved

That the update on the preparations for the Best Kept Village Competition is received and noted.

149. (22/23) Road Safety Working Group

Councillor Trevor Haines reported that the Working Group had been analysing the data provided by Rennie Pinder but some of it had been corrupted. Rennie had offered to repeat the data collection on Whittingham Lane, free of charge and it was noted that this would be carried out at the end of May.

150. (22/23) Parish Council Newsletter

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the newsletter items would need to be signed off at the May meeting and asked for items to be submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible.

151. (22/23) Biodiversity Grant

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received £300 from Lancashire County Council for biodiversity projects and it was noted that the Parish Council had agreed to purchase bat, owl and bird boxes with the grant. These had now been purchased from Dig In but there was still £50 remaining of the grant which needed to be spent. The Parish Council agreed to spend this on flowers for the planters which would encourage bees and other insects.

Resolved

That the remaining £50 from the Biodiversity Grant from Lancashire County Council is spent on flowers for the planters to encourage bees and other insects.

152. (22/23) Purchase of additional Land at Grimsargh Wetlands

The Clerk reported that the purchase of the additional land was now complete, but it would be a number of months before the Parish Council received the completed paperwork due to the backlog at the land registry. However, all the legal paper work had been completed by our Solicitors.

The Parish Council would need to decide what to do with the land going forward and it was agreed to have a quick site visit before the next meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00 pm.

Resolved

That the update on the purchase of the additional land is received and noted.

153. (22/23) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £184,415.60 in the Nat West bank as at 3 March 2023.

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

Grimsargh Village Hall hire £112.50 (Cheque no 1194).

Grimsargh Village Hall grant for outside renovations £38,000 (Cheque no 1195 – CiL monies).

Farleys Solicitors – Cricket Club Solicitors fees and Lease costs - £4,948.60 (Cheque no 1196 – CiL monies).

Farleys Solicitors – purchase of additional land and Solicitors fees - £36,913.62 (Cheque no 1197) – CiL monies).

Preston City Council – leaflet design £180.00 and Christmas Tree £3,253.87 = total £3,433.87 (Cheque no 1198).

Clerk's Salary 15 March £1,265.30 + £250 for bird boxes (biodiversity grant) = total £1,515.30. (Cheque no 1299).

Adam Cooper Contractor – 2 invoices, January £472.50 and February £442.50 = total £915.00 (Cheque no 1200).

HMRC Q4 Tax and NI - £587.51. (Cheque no 1201).

It was noted that we had been advised that the bank charges 4 February to 4 March 2023 were £3.15. We had also paid renewal of data protection to ICO £35.00 on 16 February 2023; Water bill for Nellie Carbis £11.37 on 17 February 2023; NEST pension (Clerk) £48.88 on 3 March (All Direct Debits).

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

- i) Sue Whittam Clerk April – to be confirmed at the next meeting due to new financial year.
- ii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed.

154. (22/23) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she had received an email regarding Jasper the dog who had lived in Grimsargh and had been a therapy dog at the NHS. The resident asked about having a small statue in memory of Jasper who had recently died. The Parish Council had no issue with this and would be supportive if the resident could find a suitable place for a small statue and have the relevant permissions and funding in place. The Clerk would also advise the resident to apply to the small Grants Scheme provided by the Parish Council if the project was going ahead.

The Parish Council had also received an email regarding Trainline and asking if a link could be placed on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council had a policy not to put links to other organisations on our website, and there was no reason to change this policy. The Clerk would advise the administrator of Trainline accordingly.

Eileen Murray had also contacted the Parish Council regarding a lady who wanted to start bee keeping in the village and Eileen had asked if the lady who had contacted the Wetlands was going ahead with her plans. It was noted that bee keeping was not going ahead on the Wetlands at present.

It was noted that all Parish Councillors had been elected uncontested onto Grimsargh Parish Council and therefore the composition of the Parish Council remained the same.

155. (22/23) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.