

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 December, 2012 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Andy Ellis (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann; Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Ron Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
PC Chris Banks
PCSO David Reid
1 member of the public present

100. (12/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Halliwell and Alf Clempson.

101. (12/13) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal interest in Item 11 – Grimsargh Toddlers – Grant Request as a member of the Village Hall Committee where the toddlers held their play sessions.

102. (12/13) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 November, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103. (12/13) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks and David Reid to the meeting. The Chairman thanked Chris for the opportunity for the Parish Council to meet PCSO Lawton at the last meeting. PC Banks referred to recent conferences being held on rural crime, the latest one being held at Hutton Police Headquarters. PC Banks also explained to the Parish Council that scrap dealers could no longer deal in cash and that transactions had to be auditable. Police Officers had undertaken a recent exercise stopping wagons to see if they were licensed to check they were not carrying out illegal dumping.

Operation Firecrest was still continuing with officers and special constables working together late at night to target crime. It was noted that the Old Railway line and the Guild Wheel were bringing crime into the area as criminals were using these routes.

It was further noted that a recent person who was accused of carrying out several burglaries in the area had been charged but was out on bail.

The police had set up a Neighbourhood Watch Association website that included PACT priorities and it was agreed it would be a good idea to put a link on the Grimsargh Parish website to this.

PC Reid reported there had been five recent crimes which involved stolen metal gates on Cow Hill and stone troughs taken from a garden. Thefts of bicycles still continued to be a problem with a recent incident on Ribblesdale Drive. Councillor Neil Cartwright asked for further details about criminals using the Guild Wheel and asked PC Banks to make sure that the County Council was aware of all the issues.

Councillor Peter Burton asked if there had been any further progress with the problem of speeding buses in the village and PC Banks confirmed that the police had spoken to the bus company on a couple of occasions but had to make sure they knew the bus registration and the time to ensure they had the right driver.

It was noted that shed alarms were still available for those who needed them.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked PC Banks and PCSO Reid for attending the meeting and then with the approval of the Parish Council brought forward item 13 Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG), as Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had to leave the meeting early.

Councillor David Nicholson informed the Parish Council that Redrow Residents Association had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Green Partnership Awards for £500 towards improvement of the school ponds. The Chairman congratulated the Group on securing this grant.

The Chairman Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then reconvened the meeting.

104. (12/13) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG) – for information only

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. She explained that Matt Kelly was preparing a quote for a football pitch; the benches had been ordered and would be kept by Preston City Council until Adam could put them in place; and that FoGG were looking for ideas for an event to be held on the Village Green to celebrate receiving Queen Elizabeth II status. One of the ideas that had been suggested was to have old fashioned games and to hold this when the weather was better maybe in April. It was agreed that this would be put on the Agenda early in the New Year so it could be discussed further by the Parish Council.

Councillor David Nicholson asked for an update on the height restriction barrier and the car park. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said the car park was closed until the barrier is put in place which should be shortly but she would ask Matt Kelly for an update on this.

Councillor David Hindle asked about the recent tree removal on the village green and Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell confirmed that these had been removed due to disease and old age on the advice of a tree specialist.

It was noted and appreciated that the village green had received level 5 – outstanding in the recent North West In Bloom competition and the certificate had been passed to the Parish Council from FoGG. It was agreed that the certificate should be displayed in the Parish Council notice board outside the Post Office.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and FoGG for their continued good work.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

105. (12/13) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2012/0837 - 240 Longridge Road, Grimsargh PR2 5AQ. Provision of new and replacement hardstanding to front of dwelling. (As this was received straight after our last meeting this was circulated by e mail to all Parish Councillors and no adverse comments were received).

- 06/2012/0903 - 27 Lindale Avenue, Grimsargh, Preston PR2 5LL. Erection of dormer extension to front and pitched roofs over existing dormer extension to rear and porch to side of dwelling.

It was noted that Preston City Council had launched a four week consultation on the Future development of Preston City Centre. It was agreed that those Parish Councillors who wished to reply to the consultation should do as individuals and it was noted that the closing date for comments was 19 December 2012.

With regard to the Hallam Land Management Appeal hearing it was noted that the Chairman and Clerk would be meeting with Officers from Preston City Council to discuss the process of the appeal only. Councillor Neil Cartwright confirmed that Preston City Council was committed to fighting this appeal but it was important to keep the Preston City Council case separate from the Parish Council. However the officers were happy to explain how an inquiry worked and the process/procedures involved. It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray would put on the website an invitation to all residents who wished to attend the public inquiry either to speak or just observe to get in touch with the Parish Council. It was further agreed that a meeting would be held at 6.30pm on 3 January 2013 before the Parish Council meeting to discuss the appeal and finalise any last minute details. All interested residents/speakers would be invited to attend this meeting.

It was noted that the Parish Council had not heard anything further about the vicarage Planning Application and the Chairman asked Councillor Tom Davies if he could provide an update to the Parish Council on this.

Resolved

1) That the Parish Council had no observations to make in respect of Planning Applications 06/2012/0837 and 06/2012/0903.

2) That with regard to the appeal by Hallam Land Management that a meeting would be held at 6.30pm on 3 January 2013 before the Parish Council meeting to discuss the appeal and finalise any last minute details. All interested residents/speakers would be invited to attend this meeting.

106. (12/13) Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland

The Clerk reported that David Atkinson from Preston City Council had looked at the trees in Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland and although there was not any immediate works required on the trees there were a few that needed attention, and, in particular a silver birch that needed looking at. He had advised that the trees should be inspected on an 18 month basis but also to keep an eye on any changes.

Councillor Ron Woollam explained that he still needed to arrange a meeting with the volunteers who helped with the woodland but he was not sure if he had the time to drive this project forward. Due to Health and Safety considerations it was important to get it right. It was agreed that the Clerk together with the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray look at what is needed to be done and draw up a project plan.

Councillor David Hindle said he had brought along the documents relating to the woodland and he would hand them over to the Clerk at the end of the meeting so she could go through them and archive them as necessary.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

107. (12/13) Report of the Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Andy Ellis gave a brief update on the Community Engagement Working Group. It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Engagement Working Group would be arranged shortly.

The Group were hoping to produce a paper that would cover the establishment and terms of reference of a Community Co-Ordination Council and this would be presented to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

108. (12/13) Report from the Conservation Area Status Working Group

Councillor David Nicholson presented the report from the Conservation Area Status Working Group from their meeting held on 19 November 2012. A draft copy of the flyer was also presented to the Parish Council and this was agreed. It was further agreed that 400 copies of the flyer should be produced and the Parish Council would pay for the cost of these to be printed by Preston City Council. It was noted that the flyers would be hand delivered to those properties directly affected and adjacent to the proposed conservation area.

Councillor David Nicholson explained to the Parish Council that the simple questionnaire still needed to be produced but would be designed shortly. The Working Group wanted someone totally independent to collate the questionnaires and it was agreed that this should be the Clerk. The Working Group had agreed that the mandate to go ahead would be 100 questionnaires returned to make this democratic. It was noted that the village hall had been booked for 27 February 2013 at 7.30pm for a public meeting where residents could come along and find out about conservation areas.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked the Working Group for their continued hard work and commitment to this project.

Resolved

- 1) That the report is received and noted.
- 2) That the Working Group is given approval to go ahead and produce 400 copies of the flyer as now presented for distribution in early January 2013, the cost of which is to be paid for by the Parish Council.

109. (12/13) Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2013/14 to 2015/16

The Parish Council noted the draft Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2013/14 to 2015/16.

110. (12/13) Report from 3 Tier Forum/PAC

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray presented the report from the 3 Tier Forum held on 3 December 2012. The notes had been circulated to the Parish Council, but Councillor Mrs Murray drew attention to the forthcoming consultation on the Highways Master Plan and it was noted that the Parish Council would have the opportunity to comment on this. There would also be an update given to the three tier forum on how the 20 mph zones were working throughout the Borough. It was noted that a couple of future interesting items had been suggested for consideration by the forum, these had included a report on care for the elderly both private and County Council run services; and, the report on school performance at key stages.

An update was also given to the Parish Council on the meeting of the Preston Area Committee (PAC) held on 5 December 2012. It was noted that an Officer at Preston City Council, namely Peter Bargh, had been given the responsibility for Parishes and

this was welcomed. It was understood that Preston City Council had a Customer Charter and this was one of the issues that the Parish Council and PAC hoped could be strengthened especially with regard to e mails to the City Council.

Councillor David Nicholson took the opportunity to applaud the authorities who worked together to solve the recent culvert problems and it showed what could be done with a little co-operation and good will.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

111. (12/13) Grimsargh Toddlers – Grant request

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray left the room for consideration in this item and took no part in the decision. Councillor Andy Ellis, Vice-Chairman took the Chair for this item.

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Grimsargh Toddlers for a grant to support their Christmas Party. It was proposed that £60 is given to the Grimsargh Toddlers to support their Christmas Party and this was unanimously agreed.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray returned to the meeting.

Resolved

That Grimsargh Toddlers are awarded £60 towards their Christmas Party.

112. (12/13) Financial Matters, Budget, Banking and approval of Precept requirements for 2013/2014

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £21,265.49 in the bank as at 1 November 2012. We were still awaiting the December bank statement.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment:-

- Sue Whittam – Clerk –5 November, 12 November, 19 November and 26 November = 4 weeks at £92 per week = £368 (cheque no 616).
- Adam Cooper – 37 hours @ £11.50 = £425.50 + timber for bus shelter repair £16.00 and VAT @ 20% = £88.30 – Total £529.80 (Cheque no 617).

It was noted that Adam's pay for last month was 32 hours @ £11.50 = £368 + VAT at 20% = £73.60 – Total £441.60. (Cheque 615).

It was also noted that the United Utilities water -Direct Debit for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland – for period 8 August – 5 November 2012 = £13.81.

It was further noted that Councillor David Nicholson gave a cheque for £25.00 to the Clerk for the recent training course that he had been unable to attend, so he had reimbursed the Parish Council.

2) The Parish Council approved the budget as now presented and it was noted that £1,000 had been included for the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland.

3) The Parish Council gave consideration to their annual precept requirements for 2013/2014, taking into account the budget as presented above and agreed to keep the precept at the same level as last year at a cost of £24,500.

113. (12/13) Feedback from Councillors – for information only

Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer gave feedback to the Parish Council on the recent Parish & Town Council Conference held on 10 November at County Hall, Preston. She informed the Parish Council that she had found the Conference very interesting. There had been a presentation on One Connect the County Council's procurement portal and also on the 20 mph zones.

Councillor Andy Ellis gave feedback on the recent Chairman's training course and referred to the Grievance procedure and annual appraisal.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

114. (12/13) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

To note the report from the Best Kept Village Competition. This would be considered as an agenda item next year when we could formulate our plans for improvement.

The Chairman and guest have been invited to the Lancashire Civic County Carol Service to be held at Blackburn Cathedral on Sunday 3 February at 6.30pm. It was noted that Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann would accompany the Chairman.

115. (12/13) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 3 January, 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. However there would be a meeting for all those interested in the Hallam Land Management appeal before the Parish Council meeting starting at 6.30pm, also in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.