

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 December 2017 at 7.30pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Ian Liptrot; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
Bruce Westwood – Environment Agency
Andy Evason – Environment Agency
5 members of the public

99. (17/18) Apologies for Absence/ Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Councillor David Hindle. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

100. (17/18) Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensation

The Clerk confirmed that written requests for dispensation had been received from all present in order for them to consider the precept up to the 31 March 2019 in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011. There were no further declarations of interest.

101. (17/18) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102. (17/18) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Bruce Westwood and Andy Evason from the Environment Agency to the meeting. Bruce confirmed that they had come along to the meeting in response to concerns raised by the Parish Council and local residents about KT Recycling Ltd that was located close to The Hills, Grimsargh. Bruce explained that he had been the Officer regulating the site on behalf of the Environment Agency for the last 12 months, however Andy would now be taking over this role. Bruce explained about the history of the site and that currently the site was

licensed for the importation of commercial waste where it was screened, shredded and then sold on for processing or disposal. He said that there had been a number of complaints about the site over the last 12 months and these mainly concerned issues about odours and noise generating from the site. These complaints had been investigated by the Environment Agency and the site owners had been asked to produce an Odour Management Plan (OMP) and the draft plan was currently being considered by the Environment Agency before being implemented by the site. The plan was likely to be approved in the next 6-8 weeks but a definite timescale could not be given as this was being assessed by the Environment Agency's National Team.

Andy explained that the odour problems generating from the site were emanating from the large pile of waste material that was waiting to be processed on the site. He had spoken to the Site Manager and they had made efforts to reduce the pile of waste on site but this was not reducing as quickly as he would have liked. Both Andy and Bruce would visit the site that evening to see how things were progressing. Andy also explained that the waste material was shredded into small pellets which were then sold on to mainly Europe to be used as fuel.

One member of the public raised concerns about the odour from the site and explained that the smell had been really bad during the last week and had lasted all day from 5am until 10pm at night. She asked about the Company working all hours of the day and night and that something should be done about this. Andy explained that the waste licence was granted by the Environment Agency, however Lancashire County Council (LCC) granted the planning permission and the site was currently allowed to operate under the conditions of the planning permission on a 24 hour basis.

One member of the public also said that the noise from the site was terrible and this was caused by large machinery. It was explained that the machinery was from Recycling Lives and not KT Recycling but all waste sites had a permit and must adhere to the conditions imposed by their licences.

One member of the public said that they had lived on The Hills for the last 10 years and they had never known the odour so bad – they had reported this at least 12 times and had received log numbers but no further information had been received from the Environment Agency. Andy apologised that no further replies had been received to logged complaints but reassured everyone that all complaints are investigated. He also explained that the site operator at KT Recycling was relatively new and he was working with the Company to make improvements to the site. If things did not improve then the Environment Agency had a number of options that included increased fines/fees and enforcement action.

One member of the public explained that they had an 8 year old child who was suffering from asthma and this had been worse since the odour problem. He asked about the odour and what people were actually breathing in and if residents could be confident that there was no danger from the odour. Bruce explained that the site was licenced for non-hazardous waste only and therefore it was unlikely that the odour would be dangerous. However any issues regarding health would fall under the responsibility of Public Health England.

Andy explained that it was important for residents to keep reporting any issues then these could be investigated. He agreed to let the Clerk have details on how to report issues including by email, online, telephone and post etc. He also said that odours were judged on a numerical scale of 1-6 and he also agreed to let the Clerk have details of the odour scale so that residents were aware of the criteria for odour. In addition to this Andy explained that a site visit would be arranged in the New Year and that residents and the Parish Council would be invited. He further agreed to update the Clerk every six weeks or so, on progress with the site. The Clerk agreed to send an email to Andy to remind him of the agreed actions.

With regard to the machinery at Recycling Lives it was noted that their licence was currently being reviewed and a decision about this would be issued in the next few weeks.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked Bruce and Andy from the Environment Agency and the members of the public for coming along and participating in a frank and detailed discussion. She looked forward to further updates from the Environment Agency about this site and also the proposed site visit early in the New Year.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then asked if anyone had anything further to raise with the Parish Council. One lady raised her concerns about traffic issues in the village including speeding vehicles and HGV's travelling through the village. It was noted that the Parish Council had contacted LCC Highways to raise concerns about this but were still waiting for a reply.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then reconvened the meeting.

103. (17/18) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

It was noted that there were no Planning Applications for consideration at tonight's meeting.

It was further noted that the Planning Application for the Older Person's Village was now likely to go to the January 2018 meeting of Preston City Council's Planning Committee.

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

104. (17/18) Grimsargh Wetlands – update

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave an update to the Parish Council on progress with the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust. She said that the volunteer days were going well and a further volunteer day would be held on Saturday. The Trustees had also arranged some training with Community Futures and this would be held on Thursday 11 January 2018. The date of the Annual General Meeting had also been set and this would be held on 27 June 2018. Likewise the membership costs had also been agreed by the Trustees and it would be £20 for Individual

Membership; £30 for Family Membership; £50 for Corporate Membership and £100 for Lifetime Membership.

With regard to the lease it was noted that the Trust was currently considering the latest draft and deciding if they should consult a Solicitor to act on their behalf.

Resolved

That the progress with the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust is noted.

105. (17/18) Green Spaces - update

The Clerk reported that she had now received a response from Mark Taylor at Preston City Council regarding the Green Spaces maintenance. Mark Taylor had confirmed that the S106 maintenance agreement was for a 10 year period as the Parish Council had originally stated. However, Mark Taylor had informed the Parish Council that the S106 contribution had already been taken into account within the budget provision for the service. Therefore the £50,000 (18%) contribution from the Parishes was a new savings from this budget provision. He had therefore confirmed that irrespective of any contributions the Parish Council would have to pay £3,190 in order to maintain the current standard of maintenance.

The Parish Council therefore agreed to pay the maintenance charge of £3,190 as stated for 2018/2019 and this would be on condition that Preston City Council, as part of the City Deal would undertake the drainage works on the Village Green as soon as possible.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to pay the green spaces maintenance charge of £3,190 for 2018/2019 on condition that Preston City Council as part of the City Deal would undertake the drainage works on the Village Green as soon as possible.

106. (17/18) Traffic issues – draft flyer

As agreed at the last meeting Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had prepared a draft flyer to place on cars in the village that had been inconsiderately or illegally parked. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson asked if this flyer should be placed on “repeat offenders” with a less formal leaflet being placed on them initially. The Clerk said that she had sent a copy of the flyer to PC Chris Banks to ask him for his comments. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray clarified that she had put the contact details as the Clerk so that the Parish Council could keep a record of inconsiderate parking in the village. It was suggested that a member of the Parish Council may be a more appropriate contact.

All agreed that parking needed addressing in the village but it was agreed that we would await the comments of the police. The Clerk suggested contacting Parkwise at Lancashire County Council to see if they could advise/help with parking issues in the village.

107. (17/18) Training

The Parish Council gave consideration to the training courses provided by LALC. Councillor Keith Middlebrough said that he would like to attend the Community Engagement Course to be held in September 2018. It was therefore agreed that Councillor Keith Middlebrough is authorised to attend the LALC Community Engagement Course on 6 September 2018 at a cost of £25.

Resolved

That approval is given to Councillor Keith Middlebrough attending the LALC Community Engagement Course on 6 September 2017 at a cost of £25.

108. (17/18) Feedback from LALC AGM

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson gave feedback from the LALC AGM that she had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. She explained that there had been a presentation from CPRE about Neighbourhood Planning and that LALC had agreed to forward a copy of the presentation to Parish Councils. She also reported that the LALC Membership fees would be reduced in 2018/19.

With regard to the resolution put forward by Preston PAC, there had been a quite a bit of discussion about this at the AGM with advice being given that it was the Parish Council that were the members and not individually Councillors, therefore it was not appropriate for individual Councillors to have on log in details for the LALC website. It had also been affirmed that all information should go through the Clerk. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson was advised to withdraw the resolution and did so.

Resolved

That the feedback from the LALC AGM is received and noted.

109. (17/18) Financial Matters, budget and precept requirements for 2018/2019 and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £234,291.99 in the bank as at 3 November 2017. It was further noted that we were still awaiting the December bank statement. This included the latest CiL installment of £21,458.29 and reimbursement of £122.58 from Zurich insurance for cancelling the Wetlands element of our insurance.

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

RCU for Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire – 50% deposit (including VAT) £1,236 (from NP grant). (Cheque no 879).

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment:-

i) The Clerk, Sue Whittam, 6,13,20 & 27 November four weeks at £278.80 per week = £1,115.20 - tax and NI and employee pension contribution = £835.26 (note pension contribution for Clerk is £5.74 and Employer is £7.18) + reimbursement for dog poop dispenser bags £90.24 = total £925.50 . (Cheque no 880).

ii) HMRC Q3 Tax and NI = £1,106.63 (Cheque no 881).

iii) Grimsargh Village Community Association – GVCA use of village hall for meetings May – Nov 2017 = total £270.00 (Cheque no 882).

iv) B and D printing for newsletter £343.00. (Cheque no 883).

v) Adam Cooper (Contractor) – 51 hours @ £13.75 per hour = £701.25. (Cheque no 884).

vi) Lancashire County Training Partnership for LALC Community Engagement Course as agreed earlier at the meeting £25. (Cheque no 885).

In addition a number of cheques were signed at the meeting to cover invoices over the Christmas period including the new bins and salary cheques for December for the Clerk and the Contractor.

2) The Parish Council then gave consideration to the budget for 2018/2019. A draft budget had been circulated at the last meeting for comments. Some additional items had been included which were £5,000 potential fees for the Planner for the Neighbourhood Plan, which had been included in case a further grant application was unsuccessful; and, the Parish Council also needed to budget for the green space maintenance which had been agreed earlier at the meeting at a cost of £3,190. The final budget was therefore agreed by the Parish Council and a copy of the budget is presented in the Minute Book.

3) The Parish Council then gave consideration to the precept requirements for 2018/2019. Taking into account the budget as previously discussed it was proposed to increase the precept for 2018/2019 to £39,000 (thirty nine thousand pounds). This was unanimously agreed.

110. (17/18) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported that Preston City Council had said that a bin could not be provided on The Hills as they did not have the resources to empty any more bins. The Clerk confirmed that she would be looking at the provision of bins in the village in particular with regard to Adam, the Lengthsman emptying the bins. In addition to this the Parish Council also had two brown bins near to the Parish store and we needed to check if these were required and if so pay the appropriate fee to Preston City Council.

The Clerk also reported that she was still awaiting a response from Highways and County Councillor George Wilkins and she would contact County Councillor Wilkins to ask him to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss highways issues in the village.

Finally, the Clerk reported that there was potentially an issue with the annual CiL report and the 5% administrative fee. She was currently speaking to Mike Molyneux at Preston City Council about this and was waiting clarification from him.

111. (17/18) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 11 January 2018 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.