

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4 December, 2025 at
Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Charlotte Hamer; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Simon Rusling.

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

78. (25/26) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements

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.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle and PCSO Ellie Burke.

79. (25/26) Declarations of Interest & 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 2027 in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no further declarations of interest.

80. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

81. (25/26) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

A member of the public had come along to the meeting to raise his concerns about the amount of litter around Douglas Lane/Redrow Estate and asked if the Parish Council could do anything to raise awareness about this problem. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that the Parish Council had a Facebook page and we would post some messages to remind people not to drop litter. The Clerk said that she would ask our Lengthsman to keep an eye on this and would provide additional litter picking as appropriate.

Councillor Stephen Whittam said that the issues with the Skew Bridge were still causing problems, especially for residents who lived closest to the temporary traffic lights. Lancashire County Council (LCC) had proposed to put a bus stop outside 96-97 Preston Road, Councillor Stephen Whittam had approached the Officer at LCC to ask them to reconsider this, he was currently awaiting a response.

Councillor Charlotte Hamer asked about the proposed path through the village green as she had been asked by a resident. The Clerk explained that the tree and land surveys had now been carried out, which had highlighted a number of issues and these would now be discussed with North West Design Collective who were helping the Parish Council devise the Hoggin path, and Preston City Council as owners of the land. The Parish Council remained committed to installing the path to enable residents to walk safely through the village green and into Grimsargh.

The Clerk also reported that the sign warning drivers to slow down should be installed on Whittingham Lane by the end of January 2026, and that the invoice had been paid.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked everyone for attending, he then reconvened the meeting.

82. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2025/1129 - Land to the west of Preston Road, Grimsargh. (Applethwaite Ltd). Use of property as show home, erection of cabin as sales suite, construction of tarmac car parking for 4 no vehicles, installation of generator, effluent tank, planting area, railings and fencing. (retrospective).

With regard to Planning Application 06/2025/1129 the Parish Council had no objection to the application but concerns were raised regarding the generator. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to contact the Planning Officer to ask that suitable sound proofing was provided for the generator to reduce the noise impact, as it was noted that the generator would be constantly running on site.

The Parish Council are noted that a further application 06/2025/1130 for the same site, for 1no. 'V' non-illuminated stack sales sign and 3no. non-illuminated sales flagpoles (retrospective), had been submitted to Preston City Council but was not subject to consultation.

The Parish Council further noted that the hearings for the Central Lancashire Local Plan were currently taking place and would be held at Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Council offices until 21st January 2026. The hearings were not open to the public and only those who registered to speak/observe could attend.

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

Resolved

- i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2025/1129, the Parish Council had no objection to the application but concerns were raised regarding the generator. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to contact the Planning Officer to ask that suitable sound proofing was provided for the generator to reduce the noise impact, as it was noted that the generator would be constantly running on site.
- ii) That Planning Application 06/2025/1130 which was not for consultation is noted.
- iii) That the update with regard to the hearings for the Central Lancashire Local Plan are received and noted.

83. (25/26) Christmas Events 2025

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton confirmed that all arrangements were in place for the Christmas events to be held tomorrow evening. Reverend Andy Williams and Canon Doyle had sorted the programme and choirs from both Grimsargh St Michael's and Alston Lane Primary Schools would be singing. The PA system had been purchased and was used on Remembrance Sunday, and worked fine. Field Day Committee had purchased the refreshments which would be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk confirmed that the Crib was in place and that she had purchased some small camping lamps to light up the inside of the Crib.

Resolved

That, the update on the Christmas Events 2025 is received and noted.

84. (25/26) New Email addresses - update

The Clerk reported that the new individual email addresses had been applied for, and the cost would be £100 per year for ten licenses. Once confirmation had been received the Parish Council would move to using individual .gov emails for Parish Council business.

Resolved

That, the update on the new email addresses is received and noted.

85. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £164,119.65 in the Nat West bank as at 5 November 2025. It was further noted that the CiL payment of £12,289.43 had been credited to our bank account.

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

Cllr Peter Burton – reimbursement for PA system £164.98 and selection boxes £307.07 total £472.05 (Cheque no 1345).

David Steele Contactor inv5 100 hours @ £19.00 per hour = total £1,900. (Cheque no 1346).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary 15 November £1,067.54. (Cheque no 1347).

Preston City Council – Green Spaces £3,190. (Cheque no 1348).

We had also paid Directs bank charges up to 3 October £6.40; nest pension £67.71.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

- i) North West Design Collective Ltd for work between 30 September – 21 November Hoggin Path project £264.00 (Cil monies)
- ii) Treestyle for tree survey Grimsargh Green £575.00 + VAT (CiL monies). Awaiting invoice.
- iii) Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary 15 December £1,067.54 + expenses £311.80 zoom April 2024 - November 2025; £23.55 paper; £8.75 postage; £27.54 camping lights for crib; £189.07 stationery and ink = £560.71 total £1,628.25.
- iv) Reimbursement to Cllr Trevor Haines for Santa's sack £11.19.
- vi) HMRC Q3 tax and NI £1976.73.

2) The Parish Council considered the draft budget for 2026/2027, which had been previously circulated for any further additional items to be added. There were no further additional items suggested, but it was noted that the draft budget was showing that the Parish Council would need £59,331 for projected expenditure for 2026/27. The Parish Council unanimously approved the budget for 2026/27 as presented.

3) The Parish Council considered the precept for 2026/27 taking into account the budget as approved above. There was a general discussion about this and the Parish Council were mindful that for the previous year they had used some reserves to cover the shortfall. Councillor Charlotte Hamer proposed that the precept was increased to £60,000, this was seconded by Councillor Trevor Haines and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

86. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the newsletter was currently being printed and that the distributor would deliver the newsletters to all homes in Grimsargh before Christmas.

The Clerk also reported that the bus shelter insurance claim had now been settled.

87. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.