

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2 February 2017 starting at 7.30pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

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

120. (16/17) Apologies for Absence/ Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Burton; 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.

121. (16/17) Declarations of Interest

None.

122. (16/17) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

123. (16/17) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

As there were no members of the public or the police present there was nothing to be discussed under this item.

124. (16/17) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Parish Council considered the following Planning Applications:-

06/2017/0088 - Grimsargh Reservoirs, Preston Road, Grimsargh. Reserved matters application (namely appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline planning permission (06/2016/0234) for 12 no residential dwellings (pursuant to 06/2016/1017) to seek variation of condition no 1 "Approved Plans").

06/2017/0109 - 1 Ploughman's Court, Grimsargh.
Single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2017/0088 it was reported that the application was to substitute two Whittington style houses for an Eccleston Homes design known as the Parkgate. The Parish Council had no issue with this change as the Parkgate appeared to be more in keeping with the neighbouring properties.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2017/0109 the Parish Council had no issue with the proposed extension to the property.

The Parish Council also gave consideration to the consultation on the draft Central Lancashire Employment Skills SPD that has been prepared jointly by Preston, Chorley and South Ribble Councils and introduced Employment Skills Plans. It was noted that an Employment and Skills Statement would need to be submitted with a planning application which exceeded the thresholds of commercial floorspace (1000sqm) and housing developments (30 units). Criteria set out in the statement could be individually tailored to ensure the right skills and employment opportunities were provided at the right time to benefit both the developer and local population.

It was further noted that this SPD did not introduce any new policies but provided clarity on how the requirements of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and the Preston Local Plan would be applied. The Parish Council welcomed the introduction of this proposed SDP.

There were no further planning issues to be discussed.

Resolved

1) That, with regard to Planning Applications 06/2017/0088 and 06/2017/0109, the Parish Council had no issues with either Planning Application.

2) That, with regard to the consultation on the draft Central Lancashire Employment Skills SPD, the Parish Council welcomed the introduction of this proposed SDP.

125. (16/17) Report from the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that she felt disappointed with the turnout at the Neighbourhood Forum on 18 January but the Parish Council had received some good feedback on the consultation forms. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she had hoped that the person interested in using the village green for football might have attended the event but in the meantime discussions about this were ongoing with Matt Kelly.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said the Steering Group would concentrate on engaging with the different groups in the village, and Councillor Peter Burton was going along to Cubs this evening to engage with them. It was felt that a closing date of 1 March should be set for the initial responses.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also informed the Parish Council that a Business Breakfast had been organised for 15 February at 8.00 am to encourage businesses in the village to become involved with the Neighbourhood Plan. Damien who was leading this group had arranged for the invites to be sent out to the local businesses and bacon sandwiches/muffins would be available at the event.

It was felt that a bit more publicity was needed to push the Neighbourhood Plan and that the Steering Group should make the most of Longridge News in particular the village voice section and also local radio stations. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she had done an initial brief analysis of the forms that had been returned and the top “wants” in the village were more facilities for youths/teenagers; a café and more shops and sports facilities. The top things that people wanted to see less of included traffic; speeding; commercial vehicles; dog fouling; litter and poor drainage. It was noted that copies of all the forms received so far were on dropbox. It was further noted that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group would be held on Wednesday 15 March at 6.30pm in the village hall.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

126. (16/17) Grimsargh Wetlands – update

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that we were hoping to have the wetlands in our ownership by tomorrow or early next week. The Clerk had contacted our insurance company – Zurich Insurance about cover for the wetlands and was proposing that the insurance cover should commence from Friday 3 February 2017. A final cost for the insurance had not yet been received but the Parish Council agreed to delegate the insurance cover to the Clerk to deal with Zurich Insurance directly on behalf of the Parish Council, and further agreed that the cover should start from 3 February 2017.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that work had started on the new houses and that Eccleston Homes were already using the land that the Parish Council were proposing to lease to them. A meeting had been held with Eccleston Homes and they had emailed the Clerk to offer the sum of £2,000 to cover use of the land up to 18 months but likely to be around 12 months. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson had taken some advice about the amount offered and had been advised that the Parish Council may wish to consider letting Eccleston Homes use the land by way of a Licence rather than a lease and that the amount to be asked for should be £100 per week for the duration of the occupation of the land. In addition to this the Licence should cover the possible reinstatement of the land giving the Parish Council the opportunity to leave it either tarmacked or returned to its original state. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should contact Eccleston Homes and state that the Parish Council would wish to receive £100 per week for use of the land (shown on the plan provided by Eccleston Homes) at the Wetlands for the duration of the occupation of the land and that a Licence should be drawn up to protect both parties.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also informed the Parish Council that a meeting had been held with potential Trustees for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). So far the potential Trustees included Ken Maylor, Andy Small, David Hindle, Paul Locker and Phil Atkinson. The potential Trustees had decided to make Paul the potential Treasurer as he was a Chartered Accountant by profession and David Hindle as potential Chairman of the CIO. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she was hopeful that other people would come forward to offer themselves as potential Trustees.

It was noted that the next steps would be for Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray together with the Chairman and Clerk to look at the CIO constitution in detail and also start work on the proposed lease agreement.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would speak to Mark Fillingham at United Utilities and look at promoting some positive joint publicity about the transfer of the wetlands to the Parish Council.

Resolved

- 1) That, authority is given to the Clerk to negotiate the insurance cover for the wetlands with our current insurers Zurich Insurance and that this cover should commence from 3 February 2017.
- 2) That, the Clerk contacts Eccleston Homes to confirm that the Parish Council wish to receive the sum of £100 per week for the use of the land shown on the plan provided by Eccleston Homes (a copy is presented in the Minute Book), for the duration of the occupation of the land, and that the agreement is drawn up by way of a Licence to protect both parties.
- 3) That, the information provided on the potential Trustees for the CIO and the progress made is noted.
- 4) That, the Clerk contacts Mark Fillingham at United Utilities to look at promoting some positive joint publicity about the transfer of the wetlands to the Parish Council.

127. (16/17) CCTV Project – Update

Councillor Terry Cryer gave an update on the CCTV project and explained that we were still struggling to come to some agreement with the IT Department at Hutton Police. Councillor Terry Cryer said that although he could understand some of the concerns expressed by the police it was still frustrating that this project could not be finally sorted and the signage put in place, especially as there had recently been a number of crimes in the village.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she had spoken to her neighbour who was in the police and he had said that if the problem could be solved it would be and he had promised to speak again to the Chairman at the weekend.

Resolved

That the update on the CCTV project is received and noted.

128. (16/17) Training

i) Code of Conduct Training

The Clerk had forwarded information from Preston City Council (PCC) about the Code of Conduct Training that the Standards Committee at PCC were advising that all Councillors and Parish Councillors should undertake. Councillor Terry Cryer was a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee and he said that the course was relatively straight forward and it would help Parish Councillors understand their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

The Clerk explained that there had been some issues with people struggling to access the course so it was agreed that all Parish Councillors should try and undertake the course as soon as possible. However, if there were any problems then they should let the Clerk know and a training session would be arranged at 7pm in the village hall just before the next Parish Council meeting on 2 March 2017.

ii) New Councillors Training

It was noted that at a recent meeting of Preston Area Committee, training for new Councillors had been discussed and the representative from Broughton Parish Council had asked if a joint course for all parishes may be beneficial if places could not be obtained on the course arranged by LALC. This would be dependent on how many places each Parish Council would require and it was felt that this may work out more cost effective to hold the course at for example Grimsargh Village Hall. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact LALC to see if any places were available for the scheduled course to be held on 15 July and 5 August 2017. Councillor Terry Cryer said he would like to attend the course and the Clerk would check with Councillor Ian Liptrot to see if he wished to attend. It was noted that the cost of the training for each Councillor on the LALC course would be £63 each.

iii) First Aid Training

The Clerk reported that the First Aid Training had now been arranged for Friday 24 February at 2.00 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall. Three places would be allocated to people who had defibrillators on their premises and any remaining places would be advertised on our Facebook page. There was a maximum of 20 places on the course. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray confirmed that the three names from the village hall were Richard Foster, Eileen Parker and Eileen Heginbotham.

129. (16/17) Best Kept Village Competition - 2017

The Parish Council gave consideration to entering the Best Kept Village Competition for 2017 at a cost of £25.00. It was unanimously agreed to enter this year's competition.

Resolved

That, the Parish Council agrees to enter the Best Kept Village Competition for 2017 at a cost of £25.00.

130. (16/17) Dog Fouling in the Parish

The Parish Council gave consideration to the problems with dog fouling in the village which had been increasing over the last few months. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that Old Railway Walk was particularly bad. The Clerk also confirmed that the Parish Council had been contacted by a local resident about this issue. It was noted that when a similar issue had occurred in Farington in South Ribble then the use of fluorescent paint and stencils had seen a vast reduction in the amount of dog fouling. The paint washed away in the rain and was not toxic. The possibility of fastening a poo bag dispenser and bags was also discussed.

It was agreed that the Clerk would look at purchasing stencils and fluorescent paint for use against dog fouling in the Parish and a maximum budget of £60 was allocated to this.

Resolved

That the Parish Council authorises the Clerk to purchase stencils and fluorescent paint for use against dog fouling in the Parish and a maximum budget of £60 was allocated to this.

131. (16/17) Bench for Redrow Estate

The Clerk reported that she had now received the final costing for the bench and plaque in memory of Councillor Tom Davies. The total cost was £444.99 including delivery and VAT. It was unanimously agreed to fund the cost of the bench from CiL monies.

Resolved

That approval is given to the purchase of a bench and plaque in memory of Councillor Tom Davies at a cost of £444.99 and this is to be funded from the Parish Council's CiL monies.

132. (16/17) Greenspace – meeting with Preston City Council

It was noted that the Parish Council had received an invitation to a meeting at Preston City Council to discuss green spaces and the reduction in the Preston City Council budget for parks and green spaces in 2018/2019. It was noted that the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson together with Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and the Clerk would attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. The outcome of the meeting would be reported back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

133. (16/17) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we had an estimated £83,145.69 in the bank as at 5 January 2017. We were still awaiting the February bank statement.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment at the meeting:-

i) Clerk, Sue Whittam, Salary 1, 8, 15 and 22 and 29 January 2017 = 5 weeks at £189 per week £945 + 25 hours for Neighbourhood Planning at £13.50 per hour = £337.50 total £1,282.50 – tax and NI = £958.60 (Cheque no 822).

ii) Zurich insurance for insurance cover for Wetlands to be confirmed at the next meeting. (Cheque no 830).

iii) Preston City Council for bin(s) – the Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invoiced for the total cost of two new bins even though one of them had been previously used. However Yvonne Deadman from the City Council had asked the Parish Council to consider paying 50% of the cost of the used bin. As each bin cost £350 it was agreed to pay the full cost of the new bin and 50% of the used bin at a total cost of £525 for the two bins plus VAT. (Cheque no 824).

iv) Sally Gorton for Website Administration £202.50 (Cheque no 825).

v) Jati Limited (Cyan) for teak bench in memory of Councillor Tom Davies £444.99 – to be used from CiL monies. (Cheque no 826).

vi) Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Eileen Murray for the renewal of our website domain name at a cost of £28.78 for two years. (Cheque no 827).

vii) Best Kept Village Competition as agreed at the meeting £25.00 (Cheque no 828).

viii) Adam Cooper (Contractor) – 50 hours @ £13 per hour total £650 (Cheque no 829).

It was noted that on completion of the Wetlands transfer that the Solicitors final bill of £1,243.00 would be deducted from the dowry.

134. (16/17) Clerk's Report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

135. (16/17) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2 March 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Grimsargh.