

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9 January, 2014 at
7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chair); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
Reverend Halliwell
PC Chris Banks
3 members of the public

117. (13/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Dewhurst, Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council.

118. (13/14) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

119. (13/14) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 December, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

120. (13/14) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks to the meeting. PC Banks gave an update on police activities in the area. He confirmed that crime had returned back to its low level and that there had been no reported crimes for 30 days. Two or three people had been questioned about the recent crimes in the village that had been happening on a frequent basis but no one had been charged. However crime had now reduced but he was still asking people to be vigilant and to make sure their property was secure. It was noted that New Years Eve had also been quiet in the village.

PC Banks informed the Parish Council that the day of action held at the village hall in December had been a huge success. Over 50 dogs had been chipped and the police had given away quite a few security items for free. PC Banks also referred to the responsible dog owners leaflet that they had produced in conjunction with the dog wardens from Preston City Council which would be distributed.

With regard to potential funding for CCTV PC Banks explained that PCSO Reid had been speaking to Councillor Dan Dewhurst about this. However at the moment funding was not available but it was likely that some funding may become available in April 2014. The police had been offered some used CCTV cameras that were now surplus to requirements but it was difficult to match up old cameras with new equipment.

PC Banks referred to changes that were currently being discussed in the police and it was likely that Preston would merge with Skelmersdale. It was not yet clear about the impact on local community policing but it was felt that there should not be any further reduction in rural policing that had already been drastically reduced over the last few years. PC Banks explained that the police would be using Goosnargh Village Hall as an office.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray asked if anyone had any questions for PC Banks. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell asked PC Banks if he was aware of the damage to the barrier on the village green car park. PC Banks said he was unaware but if it was an accident then this would have been reported to Preston City Council as landowners and it was not a police matter.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also raised her concerns with PC Banks about speeding cars on Haighton Green Lane. She had received a copy of a letter that a local resident had sent to Lancashire County Council regarding speeding and safety issues outside his property. The resident concerned was present at the meeting and he gave PC Banks details of the problems he had encountered. PC Banks said he would pass on the details to the speed enforcement team and the Clerk agreed to send PC Banks a copy of the letter that the resident had sent to Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Lancashire County Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then asked if the Parish Councillors had anything they wished to raise for information and Councillor Peter Burton asked if anything further had been heard about the odour problems near to The Hills. Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer said she understood it was a chicken factory but was unsure about who owned the site. Councillor Tom Davies said he would look into this on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray referred to the length of the Parish Council meetings and asked the Clerk to put an item on next month's agenda to discuss ways of reducing the length of the meetings.

She then asked if there were any matters that people would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. A local resident explained that he had originally objected to the proposed Whitefriars development but after considering the facts had decided to withdraw his objection. He congratulated the Parish Council on the work they did in the village and their professional attitude and commitment.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and bringing their concerns to the Parish Council. She then reconvened the meeting.

121. (13/14) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray confirmed that there were no planning applications for the Parish Council to consider at this meeting. With regard to the proposed Whitefriars development this would be considered next Monday by Preston City Council's Planning Committee.

It was noted that the Parish Council were still waiting for the decision from the Hallam appeal which was expected shortly. With regard to Wainhomes, the Parish Council were still awaiting the date of the appeal but it was likely to be in April 2014.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

122. (13/14) Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council currently had two vacancies created by Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Andy Ellis moving away from the village. In accordance with normal procedure the Clerk had contacted Preston City Council and they had produced the official notice giving people the opportunity to call an election. The closing date for this was today 9 January and the Clerk would contact Preston City Council tomorrow to find out if the Parish Council could now go ahead and co-opt two members onto the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray read out the information that had been posted onto our website last time there had been a vacancy. It was agreed that this would be sufficient to advertise the two vacancies if approval to go ahead was given by Preston City Council.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

123. (13/14) Report of the Community Safety Working Group

As Councillor Dan Dewhurst was not at the meeting there was no report from the Community Safety Working Group. This would be deferred until the February meeting of the Parish Council.

124. (13/14) Drainage issues

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had asked for drainage issues to be placed on the agenda as she realised this issue was causing more and more problems in the village. In particular she highlighted the number of farms in the village that had drainage responsibility and she raised concerns that most of the planning applications looked at what was proposed above ground but did not seem to deal with the issues that were below the ground. It was accepted that United Utilities had responsibility for the main sewers in the village but it was the smaller drainage

systems and concerns about their ownership and responsibilities when flooding happened which was the issue. There was a brief discussion about the planning process and it was felt that it was difficult to understand who was responsible for ensuring that developers install or connect to the proper drainage. It was felt that a drainage engineer from Preston City Council should be asked to come along to a Parish Council meeting to help the Parish Council understand the issues. The Clerk agreed to arrange this.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said this was a particularly important issue especially as a lady in the village had highlighted her horrendous problems with drainage following the development at Silver Birches. It was still unclear who was responsible for this particular drainage problem and the resident was liaising with all concerned to reach a solution.

Councillor Tom Davies asked if he could have a copy of the e mail trail from the resident to see if he could help. The Chairman agreed to send this to him.

Resolved

That the Clerk asks if a drainage engineer can attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss drainage issues in the village, and to help the Parish Council understand the ownership and responsibilities relating to small drainage systems.

125. (13/14) Boylton, Houghton and Farrington Charity

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell explained that she had recently been appointed as the Parish Council representative to the Boylton, Houghton and Farrington Charity and this Christmas had been the first time she had been involved in the work of the Charity. She wanted to let the Parish Council know that the Chairman of the Charity had asked her to review some of the procedures and she would update the Parish Council as appropriate.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

126. (13/14) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update on the work of FoGG. She explained that the lottery bid for drainage funding on the village green had been turned down. Matt Kelly at Preston City Council was still exploring other avenues for funding including the Lancashire Football Association. FoGG was still holding onto the donation from the Parish Council for £1,000 towards the drainage system until the situation was clear. FoGG were still hopeful that the remaining funding for the drainage could be found.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she had also been e mailed by a man that had recently moved into the village who had offered his help. He appeared to have a background in lawn turf and maybe a useful contact.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also informed the Parish Council that FoGG had organised a race night at the club on 28 February everyone was welcome to attend.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

127. (13/14) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £26,552.62 in the bank as at 1 January 2014.

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

Sue Whittam – Clerk – 2 December, 9 December, 16 December, 23 December and 30 November = 5 weeks at £92 per week = £460 (Cheque no 667).

It was further noted that the Clerk was still waiting for Adam Cooper's paperwork so a cheque would be issued when this was received.

A cheque was given to Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann for the grant to the Over 60's party for £150 as agreed at the last meeting. The cheque was made payable to GVCA.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

128. (13/14) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk had received a letter from Preston City Council advising of a vacancy on the Standards Committee for a Parish Council representative. If any member of the Parish Council wished to be considered for the vacancy they had to e mail Julie Grundy at Preston City Council by 12 noon on 17 January 2014. The Clerk agreed to email the Parish Councillors with Julie's details.

129. (13/14) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 6 January 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.