

## **Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8 January, 2015 at 7.30 pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

**Present:-** Councillor Keith Middlebrough (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council  
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council  
PC Chris Banks  
PCSO Sarah Catterall  
Alf Clemson – Researcher to Ben Wallace MP  
13 members of the public

### **100. (14/15) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council.

### **101. (14/15) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

### **102. (14/15) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

#### **Resolved**

That, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 December, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **103. (14/15) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues**

The Chairman, Councillor Keith Middlebrough adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed members of the public to the meeting who had come along to talk about the Planning Application submitted by Gladman Developments Ltd for land off Preston Road, Grimsargh. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had been working with Councillor Peter Burton and Councillor David Hindle together with local residents to draft out the Parish Council's case for objecting to the planning application. It was noted that fliers had been printed and circulated to local residents and updates provided both on our Face book and website.

A member of the public gave an update from the resident's point of view. He explained that a number of meetings had been held with the Parish Council representatives and local people to formulate objections to the planning application. He had engaged a planning expert and felt that a formidable team had been assembled which pulled together a number of important factors

covering concerns over traffic, ecology, landscape and visual amenity. Members of the public were advised to look at the Parish Council website for guidelines on objecting and it was confirmed that a copy of our objection would be posted on to the website when this had been submitted to Preston City Council on Monday 12 January 2015.

Alf Clempson who was representing Ben Wallace MP at the meeting asked for a copy of the Parish Council's objection to be sent to him and Zoe who was Ben's Office Manager at the Houses of Parliament. In addition he advised the Parish Council to speak to the Lancashire County Council Highway's Engineer and to meet them on site to discuss the issues. The Clerk agreed to contact the Highways Engineer to arrange a meeting.

PC Chris Banks said that it was usually the ALO who answered Planning Applications on behalf of the Police and as there were already concerns about the volume of traffic then it may be beneficial for the Parish Council to contact the ALO based at Hutton. The Chairman, Councillor Keith Middlebrough agreed to contact the ALO about this planning application.

The Chairman, Councillor Keith Middlebrough then asked PC Banks and PCSO Catterall to give an update on police activities in the area. PC Banks said that there had been a couple of burglaries on Douglas Lane and that the police had arrested two people for these who were not local but were known to the police. He said that in general crime was on the increase and he advised people to sign up to the "in the know" alerts and people could do this easily on line at [www.stayintheknow.co.uk](http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk) Alternatively they could contact PC Banks by e mail and he would arrange for them to receive updates. He also advised people to report any non urgent crimes or issues to the Broughton Police Station – telephone 863390. The police were currently using a folding cardboard policeman to warn people about speeding on Whittingham Lane. He advised the Parish Council to contact the Partnership for Road Safety about speeding issues in the village. Councillor Tom Davies said he had reported recently an incident near to the Crematorium and was disappointed that he had not received any feedback. PC Banks said that it was important that everyone received a log number when they reported an incident then this could be traced and feedback obtained. He agreed to speak to Councillor Davies about this issue outside the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Keith Middlebrough also mentioned to PC Banks some concerns raised by a member of the public by e mail about car parking on Lindale Avenue and Yew Tree Avenue. PC Banks agreed to look at these issues, but he explained that as a general rule the police look at parking issues and see if it is possible for a pram or wheelchair to pass the parked vehicles.

PC Banks also asked if there had been any progress on the CCTV for the village. It was noted that this was still under consideration but there had not been a recent meeting of the Safety Working Group as Councillor Dan Dewhurst was currently away.

The Chairman, Councillor Keith Middlebrough thanked all for attending the meeting and then reconvened the meeting.

#### **104. (14/15) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**

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

- 06/2014/0902 - Land off Preston Road Grimsargh PR2 5JT. Application by Gladman Developments Ltd – outline planning application for up to 150 no dwellings with associated open space and landscaping with all matters reserved except for access.
- 06/2014/0929 - Wainhomes Developments Ltd – Erection of 64no dwellings (42 detached houses, 10 semi-detached houses and 12 apartments) with associated garages, infrastructure, roads, open space, play area and landscaping (reserved matters application pursuant to outline permission 06/2013/0533) resubmission of planning application 06/2014/0752. Land of Ribblesdale Drive Grimsargh.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2014/0902, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray read out a draft objection to this application. She explained there was still further work to do on this as we were awaiting various reports but the Parish Council's objection would included the following issues:-

- Contrary to National, Regional and Local Planning Policies.
- Traffic Implications and Cumulative Impact of Developments in the Area.
- Visual Impact.
- Landscape and Heritage.
- Ecology.
- An Assessment of the GDL "Statement of Community Engagement".
- Schools Places.
- Sustainability.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to Planning Application 06/2014/0902 in line with the above and it was further agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray would prepare the final draft of the objection that would be circulated to the Parish Council in advance of its submission to Preston City Council on 12 January 2015. A copy of the final objection would also be placed on the Parish Council website and as requested a copy would be sent to Ben Wallace MP.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2014/0929 – it was noted that this was a resubmission of Planning Application 06/2014/0752 which had recently been refused by the Planning Committee due to the layout of the affordable housing. As with the previous suggested layout it was felt that this was fine but it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit their previous comments with regard to landscaping, fencing and road materials/colour as it was not clear from the latest application if our original concerns had been taken into account.

It was noted that we had received notification that Ribble Valley Borough Council formally adopted their Core Strategy at their Council meeting on 16 December, 2014.

### **Resolved**

1) That with regard to the Planning Application 06/2014/0902 by Gladman Developments Limited for land off Preston Road, Grimsargh that the Parish Council unanimously agrees to object to this Planning Application in line with the above, and it was further agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray would prepare the final draft of the objection that would be circulated to the Parish Council in advance of its submission to Preston City Council on 12 January 2015. A copy of the final objection would also be placed on the Parish Council website and as requested a copy would be sent to Ben Wallace MP.

2) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2014/0929 – it was noted that this was a resubmission of Planning Application 06/2014/0752 which had recently been refused by the Planning Committee due to the layout of the affordable housing. As with the previous suggested layout it was felt that this was fine but it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit their previous comments with regard to landscaping, fencing and road materials/colour as it was not clear from the latest application if our original concerns had been taken into account.

3) That the adoption of the Ribble Valley Core Strategy on 16 December 2014 is noted.

### **105. (14/15) Update from the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group**

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a verbal update to the Parish Council on the progress made by the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group. It was noted that the Parish Council had dispensed with the land agent as he was not really adding value to the project and we were managing to negotiate with United Utilities without him. This would save the Parish Council around £2k.

However, it was becoming increasingly obvious that the Parish Council would need to proceed with a full engineers report to ensure that we had covered all the issues with regard to for example missing stone sets, damaged fencing and other liabilities. This had been referred to at the last Parish Council meeting and the Working Group were now formally asking the Parish Council to agree the cost of an engineer's report which would be around £2k. This was unanimously agreed. It was noted that the Working Group had been given a contact of a man who used to work for United Utilities dealing with reservoirs and he had a wealth of experience.

### **Resolved**

1) That the verbal report by the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group is approved and noted.

2) That approval is given to the engineers report being undertaken on the wetlands at an estimated cost of £2k.

### **106. (14/15) Planning and Optimising Cross Community Events**

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had asked for this item to be included on the agenda as she explained there were at least three occasions such as Field Day, Carols around the Crib and Remembrance Sunday when the local community, local groups and the Parish Council came together to promote/celebrate the village and its people. It was felt that more could be done to make the most of these events and the Parish Council should take an active role. This was agreed and it was also felt that the Community Engagement Working Group may also wish to consider how these types of events could be improved.

#### **Resolved**

That the Community Engagement Working Group is asked to consider how joint events in the village can be improved and suggest ideas on how the Parish Council can become more involved in the planning and organising of these events.

### **107. (14/15) Christmas Tree/Crib – Christmas 2015**

The Clerk explained that there had been a couple of issues this year with both the crib and the Christmas Tree. With regard to the crib, unfortunately the Club had replaced their electric sockets and they now did not have an outside socket to provide the lighting in the crib. In addition the crib lighting was quite dull and it was maybe time to look at this. It was agreed that the Clerk could liaise with the Club to see if they were happy for the Parish Council to pay for the cost of providing an external socket to be used to light the crib. The Clerk would also ask Adam, the Lengthsman if the lighting inside the crib could be improved.

With regard to the Christmas Tree, this had been kindly provided by Coar's but had only been put up in the village around four days before Christmas. It was felt that maybe the tree should be displayed earlier in the village and perhaps the village green would be more suitable. This could be discussed again later in the year. However, the Chairman Councillor Keith Middlebrough agreed to find out the cost of a reasonably sized tree.

#### **Resolved**

- 1) That the cost of an external socket outside the club is funded by the Parish Council and in addition improved lighting inside the crib is also looked in to.
- 2) That Councillor Keith Middlebrough obtains costs for a reasonably sized tree and that the Parish Council will consider the issue of the Christmas tree later in the year.

### **108. (14/15) Preston City Council Budget Consultation 2015/2016**

The Clerk had circulated an e mail from Preston City Council consulting on their budget for 2015/2016. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson raised concerns about the reduction in the grass and hedge cutting regime from once a year to once every two

years. It was felt that this cutting regime was too infrequent especially on safety issues where sight lines could be affected at highway junctions. It was also disappointing that there would be no bedding plants and baskets in the town centre when the City Council was trying to encourage more people to visit Preston and it should be made attractive to visitors.

### **Resolved**

That, the comments as outlined above are forwarded to Preston City Council in response to their budget consultation for 2015/2016.

### **109. (14/15) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we had an estimated £32,984.82 in the bank as at 1 January 2015.

### **Resolved**

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

i) Sue Whittam – Clerk – 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 December = 5 weeks at £169.40 per week = £847 (Cheque no 711 ).

ii) Adam Cooper – 66 hours @ £12.25 per hour = £808.50 + materials £40.00 + VAT @ 20% = £169.70 = total £1018.20 (Cheque no 712).

### **110. (14/15) Report from Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)**

As Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell was not present at the meeting there was no update from FoGG. However, it was agreed that a regular update was not necessary, as in line with other local groups, unless FoGG were making a specific request such as for help, funding or advice that needed a resolution.

### **111. (14/15) Clerk's Report – for information only**

The Clerk reported on the following issues:-

#### **Newsletters**

It was noted that we had received some very positive feedback on the latest newsletter with a number of residents ringing to say they thought it was best newsletter they had seen. A couple of concerns though, some newsletters were delivered after the Carols around the Crib – so for our June newsletter if anyone is struggling with getting their newsletters out then please let your fellow colleagues know and we can all help. Also it was important that the newsletters were placed entirely through the letterboxes so they can't be seen poking out of letterboxes and indicating that people were out/away. The Chairman, Councillor Keith Middlebrough suggested that we include an item in the next Newsletter on veterans in the village echoing the 100 years since the outbreak of WWI theme.

## **Parking issues**

It was noted that the Parish Council had received an e mail from a local resident raising concerns about parking on Lindale Avenue and Yew Tree Avenue, both of these issues had been raised before. It was further noted that this was raised earlier in the meeting with the police.

## **Working Groups/Sub-Committees**

The Clerk reported that she was looking at the Terms of Reference for all our Working Groups/Sub-Committees and would be suggesting improvements/changes which would be presented to the Parish Council following the elections. If anyone had any suggestions on how things could be improved please let the Clerk know before end of March 2015.

## **Presentation by JWS**

It was noted that JWS would be attending our February meeting to tell us about changes they would like to make to their operating permit. The Company had recently gone through some further management changes and a number of residents as well as the Parish Council would be interested in what they have to say. When full details are known details will be added to our Face book Page and website.

## **112. (14/15) Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 5 February 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.