

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 July, 2012 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor Andy Ellis (Vice-Chairman in the Chair); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann; Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Ron Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
County Councillor Mike Otter
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
PCSO David Reid
1 member of the public

34. (12/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell, Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer, Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council and Reverend Chris Halliwell – St Michael's Church.

35. (12/13) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

36. (12/13) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 June, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. (12/13) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed County Councillor Mike Otter to the meeting. County Councillor Otter had come along to present a cheque to the Parish Council for £200 towards the Guild Programme leaflet produced by the Parish Council to celebrate their 2012 Guild events. County Councillor Otter said he had received a copy of the Guild programme and he thought it was excellent. The small grants given by him were to help parishes carry out projects such as these and to recognise the important work that Parish Councils do. County Councillor Otter had been and looked at the bench in the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland which had received a previous contribution from him. He had also looked at the excellent mosaic on the village green whilst on the way to the meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Andy Ellis thanked County Councillor Otter for his support and for attending the meeting.

The Chairman then welcomed PCSO David Reid to the meeting. PCSO Reid apologised for not attending the last meeting of the Parish Council. He explained that crimes in the parish had reduced and there had only been three crimes over the last two months. These crimes involved a passport going missing in the post; some copper pipe stolen from Whittingham Lane sub-station and criminal damage to a gate post on Preston Road. PCSO Reid explained that a gang from Manchester had been caught for the robberies carried out on Ribblesdale Drive.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann asked if the shed alarms were still available and PCSO Reid said there were still a few left. Councillor Mrs McCann said she would collect them from Broughton Police Station.

It was noted that the field day had been well policed and the Parish Council thanked the police for their support on that day.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Reid for attending the meeting.

With regard to the internet sessions Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann said that her husband and Councillor Lynda Cryer had attended the last session but no members of the public had turned up. It was felt that there was no benefit in continuing to offer the training unless approached at a future date by members of the public.

The Clerk reported that a suggestion had been placed in the box at the Post Office. The person had asked if the large Grimsargh signs on the entrance to the village could be cleaned. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked the Lengthsman to carry out this work.

The Chairman, Councillor Andy Ellis then reconvened the meeting.

38. (12/13) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2012/0496 - 35 Waingate, Grimsargh, Preston. Erection of single storey extension to rear and porch to front of dwelling, extension to existing dormer to front of dwelling. Amendment to 06/2012/0364 which was considered at our last meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had received an e mail from Anthony Cowell just before the meeting advising that a significantly revised Planning Application for the footpath for St Michael's Church had been submitted by the Parochial Church Council to Lancashire County Council. As this item had not been included in the agenda and the Parish Council was only due to meet again in September, the Clerk advised that a special meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee would need to be arranged. As the current Chairman Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had a personal and prejudicial interest in this Planning Application together with Councillors Ron Woollam and Councillor David Hindle it was agreed that the current Vice-Chairman, Councillor Andy Ellis should chair the Planning Sub-Committee meeting. It was also agreed that Councillor David Nicholson would be co-opted onto the Planning Sub-

Committee together with Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann if Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell was unavailable.

In the meantime the Clerk would clarify the procedure and timescales with Rob Hope at Lancashire County Council and would then convene a meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee to discuss the application. Anthony Cowell had offered to attend the meeting to explain the proposals in person and this was agreed. The Clerk would also contact the local resident who had objected to the original planning application to canvass their views on the revised plans.

It was noted that all Parish Councillors would be kept informed of the details regarding the Planning Sub-Committee meeting.

Resolved

1) That the Parish Council had no observations to make in respect of Planning Application 06/2012/0496.

2) That with regard to the revised planning application (06/11/0867) for the construction of a footway behind St Michaels Church car park to St Michael's School, that the Clerk contact Rob Hope at Lancashire County Council to clarify the procedure; that a meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee is arranged to consider this application as soon as possible and that Anthony Cowell is asked to attend the meeting to explain the proposals in detail.

39. (12/13) Lancashire Minerals And Waste Local Plan: Consultation On Major Modification – New Policy From National Planning Policy Framework To Be Inserted In The Site Allocations And Development Management Policies Document.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been consulted on this consultation and that comments had to be forwarded to Lancashire County Council by 13 July 2012. After general discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no comments to make on this consultation.

40. (12/13) Grimsargh Reservoirs

Councillor David Hindle explained that he had asked for Grimsargh Reservoirs to be discussed this evening as he was concerned that it was almost a year since United Utilities and Lancashire Wildlife Trust had attended the Parish Council meeting and that it appeared that no progress was being made. Councillor Hindle explained that RSPB were also interested in the site but the issue appeared to be funding.

Councillor Hindle was concerned that an excellent wildlife site was beginning to suffer. In particular essential maintenance was not being carried out by United Utilities and this was necessary to prevent the encroachment of will and the diminishing of habitat for breeding wading birds.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann was also concerned about people swimming in the reservoirs and the lack of signage warning of the dangers.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact United Utilities to find out what progress was being made and to ask about maintenance and signage. It was felt that Ben Wallace MP should be copied into the letter as he had taken a keen interest in developments.

41. (12/13) Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland

Councillor Ron Woollam explained to the Parish Council that he had asked this item to be put on the agenda to discuss what work was needed on the woodland and also to look at possible funding. An action plan for 2012 had been drawn up and this was circulated to the Parish Council. Steve Hutson who worked on the woodland had recently carried out some pruning and shredding and Councillor Ron Woollam agreed to pay the outstanding bills for the hire of a shredder and the improvements to the sign.

It was agreed that an item should be put on the September agenda to discuss the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland further. In particular, the possibility of a joint notice board for the woodland/Parish Council and, to look at funding streams. Councillor Ron Woollam said that with regard to the notice board he would speak to Steve Hutson and David Leech and ask them for their opinion. Councillor Woollam said that Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had given him some good contacts for possible funding.

County Councillor Otter said that it may be useful to approach the Princes Trust or use the Community Payback Scheme via Preston City Council.

42. (12/13) Grant for Over 60's Group

The Clerk reported that a request had been received for a grant towards the Over 60's Group for their event to be held at Christmas in the village hall.

Resolved

That a grant of £150 is awarded to the Over 60's Group for their event to be held at Christmas in the village hall.

43. (12/13) Conservation Area Status Working Group

A copy of the notes from the Conservation Area Status Working Group held on 26 June was circulated to the Parish Council. Councillor Ron Woollam gave a presentation to the Parish Council. He explained the background to their consideration of Grimsargh being a conservation area. He said that Grimsargh had many examples of historic importance and that these could disappear in the future. The overall area needed to be protected and not just specific properties.

Councillor Woollam gave an example of estate agents throughout the UK being consulted by English Heritage on their perceptions of a conservation area. 65% of these said that original period features added value and subsequently the properties sold more quickly.

He explained that a conservation area would mean that the Parish Council and Preston City Council would have some control over future development in the village and would offer a degree of protection. The disadvantages were that local control could be seen as quite severe with regard to planning applications.

A map was presented to the Parish Council outlining the proposed properties/land for inclusion in a conservation area. This was by no means set in stone and this was a starting point for discussion with the Parish Council and local residents. Properties/land could be removed or added. The next stage was for the Parish Council to accept the findings and then consultation with the wider public. It was important that Grimsargh still retained its charm and distinctive character.

The Chairman, Councillor Andy Ellis thanked Councillor Ron Woollam for his presentation and asked for questions/comments.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann said it was good to see a map as it gave a clear picture and understanding of the proposals. She asked if Three Mile Cross Farm should be included as it was not at the moment. Both Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and Councillor Peter Burton said that they were happy for this to go to the next stage. However other members of the Parish Council who were unable to attend to nights meeting should be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Councillor Ron Woollam said that everyone would have the opportunity to comment and amend or change the proposals.

Councillor David Hindle agreed to approach Nigel Roberts at Preston City Council to find out more about the procedure. Councillor David Nicholson said that the elections for the Police Commissioner would be held in November and asked if it was possible for the public consultation on conservation status to be run at the same time. It was unsure if this would be allowed due to strict control over elections. But it was agreed that the first step was for Councillor David Hindle to discuss this further with Nigel Roberts. Councillor Neil Cartwright offered to help and come along to the meeting and this was agreed.

A further report would be presented to the September meeting of the Parish Council. The Chairman Councillor Andy Ellis welcomed the positive feedback received and looked forward to this matter progressing further. It was agreed that Councillor Ron Woollam would circulate the presentation to all members of the Parish Council.

44. (12/13) Preston Guild 2012/Strawberry Afternoon “Thank you” Tea

The Clerk explained that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had suggested a “Thank you” Strawberry tea should be held in recognition of all the hard work undertaken by the various groups in the village. The events for the Preston Guild 2012 had been particularly well received and there was obviously a real community spirit that should be rewarded.

It was agreed that the strawberry tea should be arranged and a provisional date of 12 August was agreed as the village hall was available, and this would be held

between 3.00pm and 4.30pm. The Clerk agreed to circulate a draft invite list and a budget of up to £250 was agreed for this event.

Resolved

That a "Thank you" Strawberry tea is arranged for Sunday 12 August between 3.00pm and 4.30pm to be held at the village hall and a budget of up to £250 is allocated to this event.

45. (12/13) LALC Autumn Conference 2012

The Parish Council was asked to nominate representatives to attend the LALC Autumn Conference to be held on Saturday September 22 between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm at the Leyland Hotel, Leyland at a cost of £35 per delegate.

Resolved

That Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray is nominated to attend the LALC Autumn Conference to be held on Saturday 22 September 2012.

46. (12/13) Application to designate a Neighbourhood Forum: Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 – Friends of Fishwick and St Matthew's (FOFS)

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been consulted on this application to designate a Neighbourhood Forum. It was noted that comments had to be submitted by 1 August 2012.

The Parish Council had no comments to make but welcomed the application and looked forward to seeing how this developed in the future.

47. (12/13) Financial Matters, Budget and Banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £28,061.45 in the bank as at 1 June 2012. We were still awaiting the July bank statement.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Lancashire County Training Partnership – Chairman Training for Cllrs Andy Ellis and David Nicholson £25.00 each total cost £50. Cheque no 000598.
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 4 June, 11 June, 18 June and 25 June = 4 weeks at £92 per week = £368 + postage, stationary and ink £67.19. Total = £435.19. Cheque no 000599.
- Adam Cooper Lengthsman – 50 hours for June 2012 = £575 + VAT @ 20% (£115) total = £690.00. Cheque no 000600.
- Cheques no 000601 – 000605 to be signed to enable the Clerk to pay invoices over the summer break including wages for the Lengthsman and Clerk.

48. (12/13) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG) – for information only

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell was not present at the meeting but a copy of the FoGG report for June/July had been circulated to the Parish Council, the comments of which were noted.

Members of the Parish Council commented that the village green was well used and an excellent asset to the community. The mosaic was outstanding and all had received positive comments on how delighted they were with the mosaic. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell as Chairman of FoGG congratulating her on the wonderful mosaic and a letter should also be sent to the artist Patricia Lee thanking her for her lovely work with the school children.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

49. (12/13) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

It was noted that Adam Cooper, the Lengthsman had signed his contract so this action was now complete.

It was further noted that details had been received about the Guild Mayor's Ball to be held on Wednesday 5 September. Tickets £60 each dress code is black tie/ball gown or cocktail dress. Tickets needed to be ordered by 16 July so if anyone wished to attend then the Clerk would forward the pro forma to them.

50. (12/13) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 6 September, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.