

## **Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 2 July, 2020 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:-** Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Terry Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mark Bell; Councillor Lynda Cryer and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council  
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council  
1 member of the public present

Please note that the Parish Council agreed not to hold their Annual Parish Council Meeting until this could be held face to face in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Coronavirus Regulations. Consequently, the numbering of the Minutes will continue with the 19/20 sequence of numbering until the Annual Parish Council Meeting is held.

### **167. (19/20) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees**

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray "hosted" the meeting and Councillor Mark Bell agreed to co-host the meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson welcomed everyone to this month's remote Parish Council meeting.

### **168. (19/20) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Ian Liptrot.

### **169. (19/20) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 13 Village Hall Project as a member of the Village Hall Committee. Councillor Mark Bell also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 13, Village Hall Project as his wife is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

### **170. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the remote Parish Council Meeting held on 4 June 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the next face to face Council meeting in accordance with LGA 1972 sch. 12 Part VI para 41 (1).

### **171. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed the member of the public to the meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that although the Police

were unable to be present at the meeting this evening there had been an increased presence in the village over the last few days including the mounted police due to the recent spate of crime in Grimsargh. The member of the public present said that he had joined the meeting to talk about the issues of crime in Grimsargh and in particular his son had been targeted by a group of young lads earlier in the year, and it was apparent that the same group of lads were threatening other young people in the village and stealing their bikes etc. The member of the public had contacted the Clerk asking about CCTV and what could be done and that is why he had attended the meeting this evening. He had also contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner but had yet to receive a reply. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson understood the issues and concerns of a number of residents in the village with regard to this latest crime spike. With regard to the CCTV, the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson explained that the location of the cameras and equipment was not for public consumption but the police were aware of the locations. In addition to this, the Parish Council were aware that a number of residential houses had CCTV on their property but this was unlikely to help with any crimes taking place on the main streets or parks as residents were only permitted to direct CCTV on the curtilage of their property due to data protection requirements.

However, the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson did emphasise that the police were taking these matters extremely seriously which had resulted in an excellent increased police presence, with the use of the mounted police and unmarked police cars on a daily basis this week. She also understood that those involved in the crimes had been identified by the police and were being dealt with. Some of those involved were from outside Grimsargh village and had been told by the police that they were not allowed to enter the village. It was felt that the actions taken by the police had been excellent and hopefully the issues would now be resolved. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It was noted that a member of the public who had been at a previous Parish Council meeting had indicated that he was willing to get involved with Neighbourhood Watch and the Parish Council would support and help with this wherever possible. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked the member of the public for joining the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under the public participation item. Councillor Ron Woollam asked about the Lengthsman and if he litter picked the main road through Grimsargh and also if there was an organised group of volunteers doing this. The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman and his assistant litter picked the village but were not currently litter picking the main road through Grimsargh. With regard to organised volunteers, the Parish Council was not aware of this but had previously been aware that residents sometimes work together to clean up a specific area in the village but this was not necessarily organised by the Parish Council.

Councillor Mark Bell gave an update to the Parish Council on the provision of broadband at The Hills. He had previously approached a company for a quote but in his opinion, it was quite expensive. Councillor Terry Cryer also said that he had seen a broadband company carrying out some cabling works on the estate. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson emphasised the importance of



## **Resolved**

That the item on Neighbourhood Planning be deferred until the September meeting of the Parish Council.

### **174. (19/20) Parish Council Website**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that the Parish Council website had been up and running for a number of years now, and maybe it was now the opportunity to have a refresh. It was agreed that Councillor Mark Bell would have a look at the website from a technical basis and that Cllr Mrs Lynda Cryer would look at it from a content point of view such as up to date and correct information. This would be reported back to the September meeting of the Parish Council.

## **Resolved**

That Councillor Mark Bell and Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer have a look at the Parish Council website in line with the above and report back to the Parish Council in September.

### **175. (19/20) Planters**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that we had already agreed not to hold this year's planter competition due to Covid 19 which was the correct approach in the circumstances. However, the planter parents had still carried on looking after their planters and making Grimsargh bright and beautiful. In addition to this Mrs Coulston and the Art Club from St Michaels School had decorated the GGs for Easter and subsequently planted them up for summer.

The Parish Council agreed to award a gift token of £10 to each planter parent and £20 to the Art Group in recognition of their continued hard work in looking after the planters and the GG's on the village green.

## **Resolved**

That approval be given to award a gift token of £10 to each planter parent and £20 to the Art Group in recognition of their continued hard work in looking after the planters and the GG's on the village green.

### **176. (19/20) Football Pitch on the Village Green**

The Clerk reported that she had been chasing the licence for the new football pitch on the village green and this had not been progressing at all, in spite of the Parish Council appointing a Solicitor to deal with this on our behalf, who incidentally had also been chasing Preston City Council. However, the Parish Council had at last received an initial draft Heads of Terms and this had been circulated to the Parish Council for comments.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had raised a number of issues and the Clerk clarified that with regard to the licence fee, this would be a "peppercorn" rent so in essence no fee would be charged. With regard to assignment which was an important issue, the Parish Council had been approached by the football teams at Myerscough

College and they were our team of choice. The Parish Council was in receipt of a "Pitch Improvement Document" which outlined the works required on the pitch. These works would be carried out in conjunction with Myerscough College Football Club once agreement was reached. The Parish Council agreed the draft Heads of Terms as presented and the Clerk was authorised to inform our Solicitor accordingly. A copy of the draft Heads of Terms is presented in the Minute Book.

### **Resolved**

That the draft Heads of Terms is approved by the Parish Council and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

### **177. (19/20) NALC Consultation Code of Conduct**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the revised draft Code of Conduct which had been published by NALC in consultation with the Local Government Association (LGA). The closing date for comments was 17 August 2020. It was reported that the current Code of Conduct was far too toothless, and that when Councillors did not behave appropriately there was nothing much that could be done. However, it was noted that the revised Code was proposing that for serious breaches then any Councillor could be suspended for up to six months. This was welcomed by the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to support the revised draft Code of Conduct as presented.

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council supports the revised draft Code of Conduct as presented and that the Clerk responds to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **178. (19/20) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £102,045.19 in the Nat West bank as at 5 June 2020. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that they had a substantial amount of money in the Parish Council bank accounts and that the auditors would be looking at how this money would be allocated on suitable projects in the village. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson took the opportunity to raise her concerns about the amount of CiL monies that the Parish Council was due to receive from the new developments in the village and the need to look at projects that supported the village and the responses received to our Neighbourhood Planning questionnaire.

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

15/06/20 – Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary £901.04 (Cheque no 1031).

15/06/20 – JRB Enterprise for dog bags £119.46 (Cheque no 1032).

It was also noted that we had paid £48.48 Nest Pension for Clerk direct debit on 7 May 2020.

### **Resolved**

The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

- i) Sue Whittam 15/07/20 - £901.24.
- ii) Adam Cooper Contractor June to be confirmed at the next meeting.
- iii) HMRC Q1 for tax and NI - £1,069.01

### **179. (19/20) Village Hall Project**

(Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as a member of the Village Hall Committee and left the meeting. Councillor Mark Bell also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as his wife was a member of the Village Hall Committee and also left the meeting.)

The Clerk had circulated to the Parish Council a request from the Village Hall Committee to support their project for a new roof for the Village Hall. It was noted that this was a major project and the roof had been in place for the last 38 years since the hall was built. It had developed a series of leaks that had been repeatedly patched and the insulation used in the original installation was considerably lower than what would now be used today in a modern building. This was impacting on the gas use for the Village Hall, although the solar panels had reduced the electricity consumption. As the Village Hall was currently closed due to Covid 19 restrictions, it appeared to be the ideal opportunity to look at replacing the roof, so that once the Village Hall was back up and running it would be in a better place to survive financially and would hopefully attract more business as it would no longer leak and would be a more attractive and sustainable building. A very rough estimate of replacing the roof was between £70k-£100k. It was stressed that this was not an actual quote but was an estimation for information purposes. The Village Hall Committee were not in a position financially to commit to such a large project without some backing, commitment and support from the Parish Council. The Village Hall Committee intended to contribute around £30k to the project and they were going to apply for a grant to the Lancashire Environmental Fund, however, it could not be guaranteed that the grant application would be successful. It was noted that following the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and the analysis of the questionnaire circulated to all residents in the village, the Village Hall was identified as the major asset in the village and was appreciated by most of the residents.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson explained that the Parish Council was in receipt of CiL monies which was a Community Infrastructure Levy given to the Parish Council after housing development was granted in the village. It was important that this money was put to good use and so far, the Parish Council had used this towards the drainage of a new football pitch on the village green, noticeboards and the provision of a Christmas tree. However, the Story Homes site would provide a significant amount of CiL monies and if this was not spent by the Parish Council within five years then they would have to return it to Preston City Council. Currently the Parish Council had received £45,000 from this development in April 2020 with another £45,000 expected in October 2020 and again in April 2021. This was in addition to the solar powered farm monies. The Parish Council had indicated earlier at the meeting that they would be willing to support broadband measures on The Hills subject to final costings, but it was important that residents benefited from this money as the Parish Council totally understood the impact of development on residents, and the need for services/infrastructure in the village. Another possible project was new footpaths on the Village Green and although these

were very important projects for the village, it was important to commit to a larger project to ensure that the CiL monies were used correctly and benefited the village. The Parish Council recognised that this was a huge commitment, but all agreed that the Village Hall was indeed an important asset to the village. Without the support of the Parish Council the project was in danger of failing and no one wished to see the loss of the Village Hall. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that originally Councillor Geoff Swarbrick, former Mayor of Preston and local Parish Councillor had been instrumental in setting up the Village Hall. A lot of hard work had gone into establishing the Village Hall.

The Parish Council agreed that this was a very worthy project and one that should receive the wholehearted support of the Parish Council. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support the Village Hall project to a maximum of £70,000. However, they would need to be kept informed of the progress, including the grant application to LEF and the outcome of the tender procedures.

It was noted that this application was not a grant application and therefore the committed expenditure could be given in instalments as appropriate to progress, and subject to the Parish Council's satisfaction that the project would be completed.

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council agrees to support the replacement of the roof at the Village Hall to a maximum of £70,000 (from Parish Council CiL monies) and asks to be kept informed of progress including the grant application to LEF and the outcome of the tender procedures.

### **180. (19/20) Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council was due to be held on Thursday 3 September 2020 and the venue and process would be confirmed nearer the time of the meeting.