

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2 June, 2011 at Grimsargh Village Hall, at 7.30 pm

Present:- Councillors Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Ron Woollam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors A R Ellis ; Mrs J Chessell; Mrs Lynn McCann.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Tim Mitcham – Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Councillor T Davies – Preston Rural East
4 Members of the public present

22. (11/12) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

23. (11/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle, Councillor N Cartwright – Preston Rural East, and PC Chris Banks – Community Beat Manager.

24. (11/12) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved:-

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 May, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. (11/12) Adjournment for Public Participation including discussion on Grimsargh Reservoirs, the proposed cycle way and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for discussion on Grimsargh Reservoirs, public participation and an update on policing issues in the area. She welcomed Tim Mitcham from Lancashire Wildlife Trust to the meeting who had come along to discuss the Trusts involvement with Grimsargh Reservoirs.

Tim gave a brief overview of the role of Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the importance of Grimsargh Reservoirs. He explained that there are 50 SSSI (Special Sites of Scientific Interest) in Lancashire that are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. There are also sites important at County level of which there were 1200 of these in the County and Grimsargh Reservoirs was one of these sites. He further explained that Grimsargh Reservoirs was an ex industrial site that meant it was very rich with a wide variety of breeding birds and grassland. The range of species on the site was fantastic and it was important to look after this site. Tim informed the Parish Council that the Lancashire Wildlife Trust had been approached by United Utilities about a year ago to see if they were interested on taking on a long term lease of the site.

Tim explained that the Lancashire Wildlife Trust is a small local charity and most of its members are volunteers. They receive no major funding from Government and have to rely on membership subscriptions to carry out any work. The Lancashire Wildlife Trust also looks after Brockholes in the area and Councillor Mrs Chessell informed Tim that a lot of work had been done by Julie Livesey from the Trust and FoGG.

Tim explained that the Wildlife Trust carries out a lot of educational type work and campaigning. They were very much of the opinion that Grimsargh Reservoirs should be maintained as a wildlife area and it was an important asset to the community. Tim further explained that United Utilities had a Duty of Care under the NERC Act to protect the natural environment. They could not just destroy the area.

A member of the public asked how many acres was Grimsargh Reservoirs and if there were any plans to put a visitor centre on the site, the same as the Brockholes reserve. Tim explained that the site was around 18 acres and they were not considering putting a visitors centre on site but were looking at how people could access and enjoy the site with minimum disturbance to the wildlife. Tim felt that local guided walks, school visits and local volunteers helping would be how the site would be used.

The Chairman, Councillor Eileen Murray stated that the reservoirs were an important asset to Grimsargh and it was important to keep them. Councillor Ron Woollam said that there was a lot of support in the village and asked Tim what the Parish Council could do to help. Tim explained that the ball was firmly in United Utilities court and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to Mark Fillingham at United Utilities to see if he could attend the September meeting of the Parish Council. The letter would be copied to Nigel Evans MP who was a supporter of the reservoirs and Ben Wallace MP the new local Member of Parliament. The Chairman said that Tim was also welcome to attend in September if he had the time and thanked him for his discussion with the Parish Council on this important issue.

The Chairman, Councillor Eileen Murray informed the Parish Council that the Parochial Church Council were unable to attend this evening's meeting and asked if Councillor Ron Woollam could find out the date of the next Parochial Church Council meeting with a request that the Parish Council could attend. The purpose of the request was to find out their plans for the proposed footpath behind the school as this was an important issue affecting a great deal of people.

The Chairman also confirmed that PC Banks was unable to attend the meeting but had given the latest crime information to the Clerk. It was noted that since the last meeting in Grimsargh there have been 3 crimes. On 15/04/2011-16/04/2011 - Burglary occurred on Cow Hill totalling £5000 2 quad bikes were taken. On 15/04/2011 - Male was assaulted in The Plough Public House offender has been charged and bailed for the offence and on 24/04/2011 - Male was stopped and searched in a vehicle on Elston Lane and cannabis was found male was issued a street warning and moved on from the area.

There had also been 4 crimes committed on The Hill's Estate: These were on 01/04/2011-02/04/2011 - Criminal Damage to a vehicle on The Hill's; 24/04/2011 -

High value burglary on the Hills - vehicle on the driveway was taken, along with a laptop, i-phone, nintendo games console, ipod nano, a number of computer games and an amount of cash totalling £7000. The vehicle has since been recovered and enquiries are still ongoing to track the offenders. There had also been two attempted shed burglaries on 18/19 May and 22/23 May.

The police had also asked the Clerk to mention the farm watch scheme which had been set up about 18 months ago and was currently up and running in the rural areas.. The Police had sent letters out to all farms to see if they would like to join the scheme. The idea is that emails are sent out regularly to the members on farm watch when crimes have been occurring, details of suspicious vehicles in the area and also crime prevention advice. The scheme is like a neighbourhood watch scheme but is specifically for farm properties. It was noted that the Police had currently got a funding application in for signage to be put outside the farms that are part of the scheme along with a crime prevention pack for each property part of the scheme. Hopefully this initiative would help to reduce crime in the rural areas.

With regard to an update on the adoption of planters in the village, the Chairman, Councillor Eileen Murray confirmed that we could re-use the compost from the barrels in the new planter outside the village hall. The Parish Council still needed to decide on where to place the half barrels – and it was agreed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should decide on the best place for these. The Chairman also reported that she had received a cost for replacing the rotten half barrels and this would be £80.00 for four new ones.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tom Davies and Councillor Neil Cartwright for helping with the distribution of the “Redrow drop in” leaflet.

Councillor Joyce Chessell raised the problem with overhanging trees at the bus stop near Lindale Avenue. The Clerk agreed to ask the Lengthsman to look at this. Councillor Andy Ellis also raised the issue of overgrown foliage on the speeding sign – Preston Road before The Hills. The Clerk would refer this to Lancashire County Council.

Councillor Tom Davies agreed to look at the provision of a dog/litter bin on the Railway Walk.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

26. (11/12) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

It was noted that there are no Planning Applications to be considered at tonight’s meeting. It was further noted that Preston City Council had approved the following Planning Application:-

06/2011/0255 - 5A Fell View, Grimsargh, Preston, PR2 5LN. Erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling.

27. (11/12) Report from the Preston Guild Working Group

The Chairman, Councillor Eileen Murray gave a brief overview of the Preston Guild Working Group held on 25 May and explained that the Parish Council needed someone to take over the running of the Group. She asked all members of the Parish Council to ask around to see if anyone wanted to take on this task.

Councillor Joyce Chessell felt that the terms of reference for the Group needed to reflect what was planned in Grimsargh and agreed to update the terms of reference and circulate the draft to the Parish Council.

With regard to the Guild Wheel, Councillor Tom Davies had forwarded an e mail about amendments to S17. He asked if anyone wished to comment on this that they should contact him.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

28. (11/12) Report from the Conservation Area Working Group and adoption of terms of reference.

Councillor Ron Woollam presented the report from the Conservation Area Working together with the draft newsletter item and terms of reference. He explained that all this information had been circulate to the Parish Council by e mail for comments.

The Chairman informed the Parish Council that she had mentioned Conservation Status at the recent LALC meeting and the Chairman of Broughton Parish Council confirmed that they were also looking at this. It was agreed that Councillor Ron Woollam would contact Councillor Pat Hastings at Broughton Parish Council to see what ideas and information on Conservation Status could be shared.

Resolved

That the draft newsletter item on Conservation Status as now presented is approved and that the Conservation Area Working Group is established as follows:-

The Group shall be known as-

“The Grimsargh Parish Council Conservation Area Working Group”

Terms of Reference

1. To identify areas/individual properties worthy of conservation.
2. To prioritise these areas.
3. To record the pros and cons of conservation status for the identified area/property.
4. To seek where appropriate, professional advice.
5. To agree before incurring any expenses for the work

6. To produce a report with recommendations for the Grimsargh Parish Councils consideration.

Members of the Working Group-

Councillor Ron Woollam
Councillor Andy Ellis
Councillor David Hindle
1 Vacancy

29. (11/12) Parish Council Newsletter and Annual Report

A draft Parish Council Newsletter and Annual Report had been circulated by e mail to the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to put the final touches to the document and include the Conservation Status document as discussed above and forward it to all for one final check before printing.

It was noted that a price of £416.73 had been received from Preston City Council for printing 1200 copies of the newsletter. This represented excellent value for money. The Chairman had also prepared an excel spreadsheet to help with deciding on distribution, this was discussed and all Councillors agreed to help distribute the newsletter.

30. (11/12) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. She explained that with regard to hedge laying and other activities carried out by the group it was necessary to carry out Risk Assessments to cover these. She had therefore asked Councillor Ron Woollam if he would like to come along to the next meeting of FoGG when Risk Assessments would be discussed as this may be beneficial to the work carried out on the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland.

Councillor Joyce Chessell also gave an update on the play area. She explained that the citizen zone bus had been in the area to show the draft plans for the playground and seek comments. She had taken out copies of the plans to the Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, Pre-School and School children but was disappointed that Preston City was not able to provide enough copies of the plans for circulation.

The Chairman, Councillor Eileen Murray was also concerned about the amount of comments being recorded on the bus and felt it was quite confusing with the use of two forms to record feedback on the plans. The Chairman also confirmed that she would continue to remind Preston City Council about their promised obligations to provide a full breakdown of costs on a monthly basis. Councillor Tom Davies assured the Parish Council that he was keeping a close eye on this.

If there was any further feedback on the proposed play area Councillor Joyce Chessell asked that she is copied in to the emails so she can keep an eye on comments made.

Councillor Andy Ellis asked what would happen to the old equipment as it would be ideal for The Hills estate. However it was noted that The Hills had still not been adopted by the City Council so it was unlikely that the surplus equipment could be used there.

Councillor Andy Ellis also asked if there was any advantage of having the village green listed as a green. Councillor Joyce Chessell confirmed that she had asked Peter Croft to look into this and to see what the advantages and disadvantages were.

It was noted that Councillor Tom Davies had promised a map of the area and details of who owned what land in the village as this would be useful when it came to moving surplus play area.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

31. (11/12) Grants/Donations

The Parish Council gave consideration to giving a grant to Help for Heroes instead of purchasing a flag and flagpole. However after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should find out from Preston City Council if a flag pole could be placed on the village green and if this was possible then the Parish Council would look at purchasing a flag pole and flags. It was further agreed not to give a donation at this time.

32. (11/12) Financial Matters, Update on Audit Arrangements and Banking

It was noted that we currently had around £17,023.94 in the bank, we were still awaiting May's bank statement.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- David Leech £360.00 for tree work at Nellie Carbis Millennium woodland carried out by John Gornall. To be reimbursed when signatories confirmed on Nellie Carbis/Santander account.
- BTCV Annual insurance premium £140.38 for Nellie Carbis Millennium woodland to be reimbursed to Parish Council as above.
- Sue Whittam – Clerk pay for 2 May, 9 May, 16 May, 23 May and 30 May - total £400.00.
- Adam Cooper – Lengthsman -39 hours @ £11.50 per hour including vat at £124.20 – total £538.20

- United Utilities water bill for Nellie Carbis - £12.79

2) That, the receipts and payments ledger and BDO Audit form for end of year accounts for 31 March 2011 as now presented is approved and signed by the Chairman.

33. (11/12) Clerk's Report – for information

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

New Councillor Training

This had been discussed with Marion Gelder at LALC and members who wished to attend the training were asked to put the 22 October in their diaries. The training will be a day course and will be held at Grimsargh Village hall. There would be places available for other Parish Councils if they wished to attend. It was noted that if we managed to get 12 people to attend it will work out at £40.00 per delegate for the day – a saving of £20.00 per person.

Lancashire County Council – delegated services –Lengthsman Scheme

The Clerk had received notification of the pilot Lengthsman Schemes from LCC. The successful pilots were Penwortham Town Council, Elswick Parish Council, Ellel Parish Council, Catterall Parish Council, Earby Town Council and Hilldale Parish Council. There were now 6 pilots instead of the proposed 3. It was noted that we will be given further details of the pilots shortly.

The Clerk had also chased the annual Lengthsman payment from LCC that had not been received as yet.

Missing Grimsargh Sign

The Clerk reported that this was now in the hands of Paul Dunne and Brian Eagle who are Public Realm Managers for Preston City and Ribble Valley Councils. It appeared that our original sign had been destroyed and that both Councils have a policy of reducing the amount of posts and signage. Obviously the post was moved when they carried out the works – so then the boundary sign was in the wrong place.

Use of Herbicide Preston Road

In answer to the query raised by Cllr Woollam – the Clerk had been informed that our Lengthsman, Preston City Council and LCC all use Roundup Pro- Biactive. An environmentally safe product.

Lindale Avenue – grass verge

Apparently this grass verge was cut by the chap who used to live nearby. It should be United Utilities so the Clerk was asking UU if they could cut this, but if they are not willing to cut this small verge then Adam will be able to do this.

Road Closure Notifications

The Clerk had now been added to the email list at Preston City Council that if there are road closures in our area or that will have an effect on the Parish then she will be informed.

34. (11/12) Preston Area Committee

The Chairman gave a quick overview of the Preston Area Committee meeting held on 1 June. She explained that Councillor Pat Hastings, Chairman of Broughton Parish Council had asked for support with regard to the Broughton By Pass latest plans. It was felt that the Parish Council would need to see the plans before making any comments.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Preston Area Committee would be on Wednesday 17 August 2011.

35. (11/12) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 7 July, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm