

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th June, 2014
at 7.30 pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Keith Middlebrough; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

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

17. (14/15) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann and Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council.

18. (14/15) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

19. (14/15) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 1 May, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. (14/15) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks to the meeting who gave an update on police activities in the area. PC Banks informed the Parish Council that Fulwood Police Station had now closed and that the Police Officer and PCSO from Sharoe Green were now based at Broughton. With regard to the police helping with local festivals and fetes it was noted that they would have minimum involvement but with regard to Grimsargh Field Day police vehicles would be present and follow the parade to make sure that participants were kept safe.

PC Banks also referred to the possibility of the Parish Council supporting the provision of CCTV in the village, he said that PCSO David Reid had been involved with CCTV in other areas and there was a need to better protect villages. Councillor Dan Dewhurst asked who was responsible for the CCTV in Goosnargh and Whittingham. PC Banks said that Goosnargh and Whittingham Parish Councils had partly funded a police officer who was based at Goosnargh Village Hall. Preston City Council had funded the CCTV around the village hall only and

the police had direct access to this. PC Banks said it was important that any CCTV system was all linked together across a village and also that dummy cameras sometimes provided an effective deterrent. Councillor Dan Dewhurst said that the Parish Council would be discussing CCTV later on in the meeting and he would keep PCSO David Reid informed of developments.

With regard to speeding on Whittingham Lane, PC Banks said he had referred this to the Road Policing Unit. Councillor Tom Davies said he was seeing the Chief Superintendent next week and he would mention the problems of speeding in Grimsargh.

Councillor David Hindle mentioned his concerns about possible poachers on Elston Lane. PC Banks confirmed that wildlife crime and poaching was an issue in rural areas.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton reminded Parish Councillors that he had brought along the latest newsletter for distribution at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell mentioned the hedge near Lindale Avenue and the encroachment onto the pavements and the need for strimming near the substation. The Clerk said she would ask Adam the Lengthsman to look at this.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

21. (14/15) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2014/0369 - The Plough Inn 187 Preston Road, Grimsargh. 1 no externally illuminated fascia sign, 1 no externally illuminated hanging sign, 2 no non-illuminated amenity boards and 3 no lanterns.

The Parish Council was also aware of the following Planning Application that is in Houghton Parish Council area but was on the Grimsargh boundary.

06/2014/0310 - New House Farm, Cow Hill, Preston PR2 5SE. Change of use from private dwelling to residential care home (Class 2) for up to 6 people and associated external alterations to outbuilding.

We had also received notification of a Certificate of Lawfulness Application:-

06/2014/0359 - 329 Preston Road, Preston PR2 5JT. Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of a home office and guest accommodation building.

The Parish Council had also received notification from Ribble Valley Borough Council regarding their Core Strategy 2008 – 2028 proposed Main Modifications to

submitted Core Strategy. It was noted that closing date for comments was 5.00pm 7 July 2014.

There was a brief discussion about handling of Planning Appeals by the Parish Council as some criticism had been received relating to the Wainhomes appeal. It was felt that we had learned a lot from the handling of the Hallam appeals, and it was further felt that when dealing with planning appeals we should try and facilitate a group of residents who would be able to be involved and fight the appeal. They would have the full support of the Parish Council. It was noted that the Wainhomes decision was expected shortly.

Resolved

1) With regard to planning application 06/2014/0369 in relation to The Plough at Grimsargh, the Parish Council was happy with this application and that the Plough was going to be refurbished.

2) With regard to planning application 06/2014/0310 in relation to New House Farm, it was noted that this was in Houghton Parish Council's area and that they had raised no objection to the application. Grimsargh Parish Council were aware of some local concerns but had not been officially consulted on this application. Taking into account the information that was available, Grimsargh Parish Council could find no grounds for concern or objection to this planning application.

3) With regard to the consultation by Ribbles Valley Borough Council on their Core Strategy modifications, the Parish Council had no comments to make.

22. (14/15) Report of the Community Safety Working Group

Councillor Dan Dewhurst presented the report of the Community Safety Working Group from their meeting held on 28 May 2014 together with quotes for CCTV from Snape Security Systems, Vuetek Systems Ltd and Visiontec. The Community Safety Working Group were recommending using Steven Snape at a cost of £1,700 + VAT as this was the most cost-effective and offered a discounted installation rate to the Parish Council. This was also the same provider for the Goosnargh/Whittingham CCTV.

The Parish Council welcomed the work done by the Community Safety Working Group so far and agreed in principle to the following proposals as recommended by the Working Group.

That the Parish Council agrees in principle to the implementation of CCTV within the confinements of the village to further aid local agencies reduce crime in and around Grimsargh and to aid in apprehending criminals, providing that the following conditions are met and brought before the Parish Council for discussion:

- An accurate account of funding; what organisations will be funding the CCTV?
- Further clarification on confidentiality, privacy and access to information; who will be in control of the CCTV?
- Where will the base unit be kept?

The Parish Council further agreed in principle to accept the quote provided by Snape Security Systems for the implementation of CCTV in Grimsargh.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell suggested that Councillor Dan Dewhurst should approach Rosie Green with regard to funding and also that local businesses and residents may be willing to contribute.

It was also suggested that when the public consultation on the wetlands was held in September then this may be an opportunity to consult with residents on CCTV in the village.

Resolved

1) That the Parish Council agrees in principle to the implementation of CCTV within the confinements of the village to further aid local agencies reduce crime in and around Grimsargh and to aid in apprehending criminals, providing that the following conditions are met and brought before the Parish Council for discussion:

- An accurate account of funding; what organisations will be funding the CCTV?
- Further clarification on confidentiality, privacy and access to information; who will be in control of the CCTV?
- Where will the base unit be kept?

2) That the Parish Council further agree in principle to accept the quote provided by Snape Security Systems for the implementation of CCTV in Grimsargh.

3) That the report is received and noted.

23. (14/15) Report of the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray presented the report from the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group held on 28 April 2014. The Working Group was recommending that the following draft terms of reference should be agreed:-

- That the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group fully explores options for a local group to acquire the Wetlands with the condition of some level of development taking place on the land fronting Preston Road, to include costs and feasibility of options.
- To plan and implement a communication strategy for the village and proactively engage with those residents directly affected by the proposals before consulting the whole village.
- To work with other agencies such as Groundwork Trust, United Utilities, Preston City Council and others to secure the future preservation of the wetlands.
- To explore the long term protection and management of the wetlands by the establishment of a not for profit/charitable trust.
- That the current Working Group consists of Councillor Eileen Murray, Councillor David Hindle and the Clerk but in addition to this the Working

Group can appoint experts either individuals or representatives from organisations onto the Working Group as appropriate.

- To provide a written report back to the Parish Council with recommendations in line with the above.

In addition the Working Group was also seeking approval to the draft Communication Plan and authorisation for the use of the Village Hall for two meetings to discuss the wetland proposals.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray also informed the Parish Council that a meeting had now been held with Groundwork Trust and they had indicated their wish to be involved with the project. They were going to consider the ideas put forward by the Working Group and the results of these discussions would hopefully be presented to the July meeting of the Parish Council.

With regard to the Communication Plan it was agreed that those properties directly affected should be consulted with first and this would likely be at the end of June or early July and that the whole village should then be consulted in September. The September consultation could combine with the CCTV consultation. The Parish Council agreed to the Communication Plan and looked forward to receiving further updates at the July meeting.

Resolved

1) That the Terms of Reference for the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group are agreed as follows:-

- That the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group fully explores options for a local group to acquire the Wetlands with the condition of some level of development taking place on the land fronting Preston Road, to include costs and feasibility of options.
- To plan and implement a communication strategy for the village and proactively engage with those residents directly affected by the proposals before consulting the whole village.
- To work with other agencies such as Groundwork Trust, United Utilities, Preston City Council and others to secure the future preservation of the wetlands.
- To explore the long term protection and management of the wetlands by the establishment of a not for profit/charitable trust.
- That the current Working Group consists of Councillor Eileen Murray, Councillor David Hindle and the Clerk but in addition to this the Working Group can appoint experts either individuals or representatives from organisations onto the Working Group as appropriate.
- To provide a written report back to the Parish Council with recommendations in line with the above.

2) That approval is given to the Communication Plan as now presented and that authorisation is given to the cost of using the Village Hall for two meetings.

3) That the report is received and noted.

24. (14/154) Website and Facebook Administration

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had circulated information on the website and Facebook administration for consideration by the Parish Council. It was noted that when the website page and Facebook page had been set up there was involvement from other members of the Parish Council but these people had now left the Parish Council. This meant that Councillor Mrs Murray was the only person as the administrator and this was not a sustainable position.

It was therefore agreed that Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson and the Clerk would also be given administration permissions to the Facebook page and training as required.

With regard to the website Councillor Dan Dewhurst and the Clerk would also be given comprehensive training at an estimated cost of £100. It was agreed that this training should be carried out by Sally Gorton who had refreshed the website and was based locally. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said she would sit in on the training sessions if available.

With regard to the setting up of a domain hosting account and transfer of the website domain to it - it was agreed that this should be deferred at the moment. It was further agreed that the Community Engagement Working Group should consider developing a communications strategy to look at what should be done and when on both the website and Facebook page.

Resolved

1) That Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson and the Clerk should be given administration permissions to the Facebook page and training as required.

2) That with regard to the website Councillor Dan Dewhurst and the Clerk would also be given comprehensive training at an estimated cost of £100. It was agreed that this training should be carried out by Sally Gorton who had refreshed the website and was based locally. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said she would sit in on the training sessions if available.

3) That the setting up of a domain hosting account and transfer of the website domain to it should be deferred at the moment.

4) That the Community Engagement Working Group should consider developing a communications strategy to look at what should be done and when, on both the website and Facebook page.

25. (14/15) Village Pub

The Parish Council had received a number of e mails and comments about the closure of the village pub. However as a Planning Application had been submitted by the brewery to Preston City Council it appeared that the Plough was going to be

refurbished. Councillor David Hindle said he had been told that it would re-open at the end of July. The Parish Council agreed that the loss of the Plough would be a great loss to the village but they were happy that it was being refurbished and given a new lease of life.

Councillor Dan Dewhurst asked about the path running down the side of the Plough that was now overgrown and unsightly. The Clerk confirmed that this was a public rights of way and she would ask the Lengthsman, Adam Cooper to strim the path and tidy it up.

26. (14/15) Best Kept Village Competition

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that they had agreed to the production of a flyer to remind people about the Best Kept Village Competition and judging. However, as the newsletters would be distributed after the meeting, and there was an item in the newsletter on this then it did not seem necessary to produce an additional flyer. It was therefore agreed that the leaflet should only be produced if we got through to the final few villages in the Best Kept Village Competition.

27. (14/15) British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - Membership

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Annual Subscription to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers was now due at a cost of £38. It was agreed that the Parish Council should renew their membership.

Resolved

That the Parish Council renew their membership to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers at a cost of £38.

28. (14/15) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update on the work of FoGG. This had been circulated by e mail to the Parish Council.

It was noted that the bed on the green would be tidied and FoGG were buying the top soil after having been promised some by Preston City Council. The G's were being delivered this Friday all being well and they had arranged for the other work to be carried out before Field Day and the judging schedules. The race night was to be arranged for the Autumn in collaboration with the Field Day Committee.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

29. (14/15) Financial Matters, banking and approval of annual accounts for 31 March 2014

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £45,495.57 in the bank as at 1May 2014. (We were still awaiting the June bank statement). This included the precept of

£24,500 and the contribution to the public rights of way work from Lancashire County Council of £200.

Resolved

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

a) Sue Whittam – Clerk – 5, 12, 19 and 26 May 2014 = 4 weeks at £96.80 per week = £387.20 (Cheque no 684).

b) Adam Cooper – 78.5 hours at £12.25 per hour = £961.63 and materials stain and paint £153 + VAT at 20% = total amount £1,339.95 (Cheque no 685).

c) British Trust for Conservation Membership renewal - £38 (Cheque no 686).

d) AVJ Design for newsletter production and printing - £347.50 (Cheque no 687).

2) That, the annual accounts as now presented together with the completed audit form and governance statement is approved and signed by the Chairman, and that the audit date of 30 June, 2014 is noted.

30. (14/15) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

Name badges/business cards

It was noted that as we had now filled the two vacancies on the Parish Council the Clerk would order the name badges for all of us as previously agreed.

The business cards for Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Lindsay Philipson would also be ordered.

Links to website

It was noted that we had received a request from a company that provides travel updates to consider providing a link on our website. It was further noted that we did not usually endorse any services, products or links on our website unless it was a partnership approach such as the police, and there was no reason to change this.

31. (14/15) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3 July 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.