

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 June, 2012 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor P Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs L Cryer; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs L McCann; Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Ron Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
Reverend Chris Halliwell – St Michael’s Church

18. (12/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Ellis.

19. (12/13) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 with reference to Planning Application 06/2012/0439 – Grimsargh Village Hall as a person involved in the Planning Application/Village Hall Committee.

20. (12/13) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10 May, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. (12/13) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Reverend Halliwell to the meeting. Reverend Halliwell explained that he had just come along to the meeting but had no particular issues to raise with the Parish Council.

As the police were not present at the meeting there was no crime report. The Chairman then referred to this evening’s Parish Council surgery and it was noted that yet again no one had attended. It was therefore agreed not to hold any further surgeries at the moment.

With regard to the internet sessions the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained that two ladies had turned up for the last session but thought the sessions were being held on the Preston City bus and had left when the bus was not on the village hall car park. She had therefore arranged a separate session with the ladies and they had enjoyed the lesson and learned the basics. They had indicated they would be attending the next planned session.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received two lovely letters – one from Mrs Siddle thanking the Parish Council for the help with the bench that had been installed on Old Railway Walk in memory of her husband, and also a letter from Mrs Sellers who thanked the Parish Council for the lovely bench in memory of Sam Sellers a former Parish Councillor. Councillor David Hindle also informed the Parish Council that he had received compliments from people about the quality and professionalism of the newsletter. There had also been many thanks from local residents with regard to the work done by the Parish Council in opposing the Hallam Land Management Planning Application.

Councillor David Hindle informed the Parish Council that he had given some information to Longridge news about the Preston Guild events and Field Day and the reporter had promised some good publicity.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Preston City Council about Guild Civic Events. It was agreed that the Clerk should e mail the details to all the Parish Councillors for them to decide if they wished to attend.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann informed the Parish Council that The Hills play equipment had been removed. Councillor Peter Burton also raised his concern about a coach using The Hills car park as a coach park.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Murray also welcomed Councillor Neil Cartwright and Councillor Tom Davies to the meeting. Councillor Cartwright said he would be attending Grimsargh Field Day. Councillor Tom Davies thanked all who voted for him as he had been successful in the local elections. He also gave his apologies for the next meeting as he was due to have a knee operation.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then reconvened the meeting.

22. (12/13) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

(Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray left the room for consideration of Planning Application 06/2012/0439 as she was involved in the Planning Application/ village hall Committee).

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

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| 06/2012/0364 | - | 35 Waingate, Grimsargh, Preston. Erection of single storey extension to rear and porch to front of dwelling, extension to existing dormer to front and alterations to pitch roof to form first floor extension to rear. |
| 06/2012/0378 | - | 329 Preston Road Grimsargh, PR2 5JT. Erection of porch canopy to side of dwelling and rendering of external elevations. |
| 06/2012/0441 | - | 225 Preston Road, Grimsargh, Preston. Erection of detached outbuilding to rear of dwelling (following demolition of existing outbuilding). |

06/2012/0439 - Grimsargh Village Hall, Preston Road, Grimsargh.
Installation of 40no. solar panels to south facing roof
Slope.

It was noted that the appeal by Fox Strategic Land & Property Limited against the decision by Preston City Council to refuse the Planning Application relating to the former Ridings Depot would take place on 27 June 2012 at 10.00 am at the Town Hall, Preston.

With regard to the Sites for Preston Preferred Options Consultation and in particular sites bordering Grimsargh, there was a general discussion on P20 – Land off Preston Road (Community use/extra care housing) – Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell stated that this was objected to by the village in the past and that the Parish Plan still stands. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that there was a need for extra care housing. Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer said that a medical centre may reduce traffic as it may encourage people to walk to the medical centre rather than going by car. It was noted that there would be serious highways issues in relation to entering and exiting the medical centre if it was built. Councillor David Hindle said that there were perfectly adequate medical facilities nearby in Longridge and the Ribbleton.

It was agreed to keep an open view on this proposed site and comment that the Parish Council are aware of a need for extra care housing rather than primarily a medical centre.

With regard to P004 – Preston East, Junction 31A M6 (employment), and P049 Roman Road Farm/Cow Hill – the Parish Council objected to both these sites due to their proximity to the SSSI and the effect on local wildlife.

With regard to Policy AD2 Development within Existing Villages, and Policy EN2 Areas of Separation, the Parish Council was broadly in support of these policies but hoped that the City Council would take the wishes of the residents into account when considering planning applications.

With regard to traffic/highways/sustainable transport – the Parish Council felt that the consultation appeared to lack anything substantial with regard these issues. It was noted that the closing date for comments on this consultation was 2 July at 5.00 pm.

The Parish Council also gave consideration to the Ribble Valley Core Strategy Consultation. The Parish Council were concerned about the proposals to build additional houses in the Ribble Valley and their effect on the already congested roads in Grimsargh. Their Core Strategy appeared to lack anything substantial with regard to sustainable transport, traffic and highways and it was felt that Ribble Valley Borough Council needed to address these issues before any further houses were built. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to Ribble Valley Borough Council with these comments by the closing date of 15 June.

Resolved

1) That the Parish Council had no observations to make in respect of Planning Applications 06/2012/0364, 06/2012/0378, and 06/2012/0439.

2) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2012/0441 – 225 Preston Road, Grimsargh, the Parish Councillors should look at the application on the Preston City Council website and if they have they have any concerns to let the Clerk know so extra time can be granted from Preston City Council to enable the Parish Council to discuss at their next meeting.

3) That with regard to the Preferred Options – Sites for Preston Consultation – that the Clerk responds to the consultation with the comments as presented above.

4) That with regard to the Ribble Valley Core Strategy Consultation – that the Clerk responds to the consultation with the comments as presented above.

23. (12/13) Code of Conduct

Resolved

That the Parish Council reaffirms its adoption of the Code of Conduct 2007 until further guidance notes are published by NALC on the new proposed Code.

24. (12/13) Lengthsman Contract and Lengthsman's Scheme

The Clerk presented the draft contract for the Lengthsman for comment and approval. It was noted that the Lengthsman had asked for an extra clause to be included in the contract which stated “that if any large scale equipment is needed to be hired to carry out works in the village then the Parish Council will pay for the hire of this equipment, subject to prior agreement with the Clerk”. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

With regard to the Lengthsman's Scheme, the Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Lancashire County Council that meant Parish Council's had to “opt in” to deliver public rights of way maintenance. A copy of the information and costings had been circulated with the agenda. The Parish Council would be paid for the work it carried out. It was noted that the County Council had given the hourly cost of £10 when it was currently recommended that the Lengthsman was paid between £12.00 and £12.50. It was agreed that the Clerk should check the rationale behind this.

Resolved

1) That, subject to the additional clause as outlined above, the Lengthsman contract is approved for sign off by the Clerk.

2) That, the Parish Council agrees to “opt in” to deliver public rights of way maintenance for Lancashire County Council.

25. (12/13) Hill Side School, Ribchester Road, Longridge

The Clerk reported that a consultation document had been received from Lancashire County Council on the proposals to expand Hill Side School in Longridge from 60 to 90 places and to change the age range from 2-16 years to 3-19 years. An open event to discuss the proposals would be held at the school on 12 June at 2.00pm.

There was a discussion about the traffic near to the school and the concerns that this would increase if the numbers of pupils increased. However the Parish Council felt that it was beneficial for the pupils to travel nearer to home rather than to go out of the County to school.

Resolved

That, the Parish Council has no objection to the proposals by Hill Side School to increase their pupil number and alter the age range, but the Clerk should ask the school to give consideration to better traffic management when the pupils are dropped off and collected from school.

26. (12/13) Preston Area Committee (PAC) and 3 Tier Forum

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray reported that Martin Putsey had given a presentation to the recent PAC meeting and he had outlined the process for responding to the Sites for Preston Consultation. It was noted that two members of the recently formed Ingol and Tanterton Neighbourhood Council had attended the meeting. The Chairman asked for any items for the next 3 Tier Forum and the Parish Council had no new issues to raise.

27. (12/13) Financial Matters, Budget and Banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £28,136.63 in the bank as at 1 May 2012. It was noted that the Parish Council was still awaiting the June bank statement. The VAT reimbursement of £1,514.58 had now been received.

It was noted that the water bill for Nellie Carbis for 18 Feb – 15 May was £8.13 and this has been collected by Direct Debit on 30 May 2012.

It was also noted that the Audit Commission were currently carrying out a consultation on our satisfaction with our current external auditor BDO Ltd. The Parish Council could see no reason to raise any issues or concerns with the Audit Commission about BDO Ltd.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Annual Insurance premium Zurich Municipal – 3 year agreement £465.48. (cheque no 000593).
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 7 May, 14 May, 21 May, and 28 May = 4 weeks at £92 per week = total £368 (cheque no 000594).

- Adam Cooper Lengthsman – 50 hours for May 2012 @ £11.50 = £575.00 + Materials £65 (for fixing benches) & repairs to Douglas Lane dog bin – total £640 + VAT @ 20% = £768.00 (cheque no 000595).
- Cllr Mrs Eileen Murray – reimbursement for plants/compost – as agreed at the last meeting £112 (cheque no 000596).
- Donna Kidd Internal Audit fee - £50 (Cheque number 000597).

2) It was noted that the internal auditor had now completed her audit of the accounts and had found no issues.

3) The Parish Council approved the accounts and asset register for the year end 31 March 2012 as now presented and the Chairman signed three copies of the bank reconciliation. It was noted that the external audit date for the Parish Council was 18 June. The Annual Governance statement was approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

28. (12/13) Training

The Parish Council was asked to nominate members to attend the Chairmanship Training course being run by LALC on 21 November 2012. It was noted that this was a provisional date for the course and it would cost £25.00 per person.

Councillor David Nicholson expressed an interest in attending this course and the Clerk agreed to contact Councillor Andy Ellis, who was unable to attend the meeting, to see if he also wished to attend. The Clerk would then book the places with LALC.

29. (12/13) Parish Council Insurance

The Parish Council approved the three year agreement with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £465.48 per annum as this provided the best value for money cover for the Parish Council's requirements.

30. (12/13) Correspondence/e mails and information

The Clerk explained to the Parish Council that she was aware that the amount of information that was being circulated to the Parish Councillors was increasing. She asked the Parish Council if the amount of information being received was too much and if people had preferences for the type of information they would wish to receive.

The Parish Council felt that the Clerk should filter the information as appropriate and if she was unsure send it to all for information.

31. (12/13) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG) – for information only

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell informed the Parish Council that the wall had now been put up for the mosaic on the village green. Councillor Geoff Swarbrick who had given a lot of service and commitment to the village would unveil the completed mosaic on 17 June at 1.30pm.

Councillor Mrs Chessell also informed the meeting that she had received an update from Matt Kelly with regard to Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust – Jubilee status for the village green, and they had confirmed that the village green should be formally designated in the next two weeks.

With regard to the height restriction barrier a drawing showing an ornamental type barrier was circulated to the Parish Council. It was felt that the more ornamental barriers using the “Grimsargh Plough” metalwork would look better than the basic barrier.

With regard to the heritage walk board that had been agreed at the last meeting, Councillor Mrs Chessell said that she could see no issue with the board being placed on the car park next to the village green.

Councillor Mrs Chessell also referred to the lighting issue raised at the last meeting by Councillor Andy Ellis. She explained that the solar lights do not come on during the summer months and as far as she was aware no lights had been moved on the village green.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

32. (12/13) Redrow Resident’s Association – for information only

Councillor David Nicholson gave an update on the Redrow Resident’s Association. He explained that unfortunately due to the bad weather the Jubilee Lunch due to be held on 3 June had been cancelled.

He also informed the Parish Council that talks were progressing well between Redrow and Preston City Council and it was likely that the official handover of the estate could be transferred shortly.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

33. (12/13) Clerk’s Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

The bench for Mrs Siddle for the Old Railway Walk had now been installed by Adam and it looks lovely.

With regard to arranging a talk on Neighbourhood Planning/Parish Plans. The Clerk had spoken to Marion Gelder at LALC and she had informed me that the “expert” on Neighbourhood Planning will be giving a presentation to the LALC Annual Conference to be held on 22 September at the Leyland Hotel. By then they are hoping that it will be clearer about the role of the plans. The advice is at the moment to wait until then before looking at producing either a Neighbourhood Plan or

updating Parish Plans. It was noted that we should receive further information about the LALC Annual Conference shortly.

A reminder was given that County Councillor Otter would be attending the next meeting to present the cheque towards the Guild leaflet.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 5 July, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

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